

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 12

Lanchester, December 2011

For contact information, see page 2

THE GREEN LIGHTS UP



A surprisingly large number of people turned up to watch this ceremony on the Village Green on Saturday, 26th November. The weather was wild and windy, but fortunately the rain stayed away for a while. The children were running round, Lanchester Brass Band was playing a lovely mixture of carols and traditional music, and as the church clock struck six, the countdown began - always an exciting moment. Then, suddenly, the green was transformed as the coloured lights on the Christmas Tree and the white lights on the other trees were illuminated.

The beautiful lights on the green shine out to welcome residents and visitors at Christmas time

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The children who switched on the Christmas Lights: Ellie Crowe and Liam Smith (EP School) and Joseph Massey-Allen and Rebecca Draper (All Saints School) with their selection boxes presented by Ossie Johnson at the buffet after the switch-on ceremony



Braving the strong wind, Friends of the Fort were the special guests at the switch-on ceremony



*A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all our readers*





*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
My parents John and Doreen Ballentine will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on 26th December (Boxing Day). My mother (84 years young) was the Post lady in Lanchester for 26 years and my father (88 years young) is the only living founder member of Lanchester CIU club. Immediate family are taking them out for a meal at the King's Head on Boxing Day and after the meal (about 5.45 pm) we would like to invite friends of my parents to pop in. We will also be having a few celebratory drinks in the Club from about 7.00 - 8.30 pm and again, friends are invited to join them.

Regards, John Ballentine

To contact the Village Voice

By email:

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

By post:

The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

To advertise:

Contact John Hurrin, Advertising Manager, by post at the above address. Telephone: (01207) 520288

Email: villagevoiceadverts@talktalk.net

General and news enquiries: (01207) 520559

GOODBYE BRIAR



Dave Donnelly's dog, Briar

Dave Donnelly, Witbank Garage, family and staff said goodbye to Black Labrador Retriever, Briar, who was suffering from cancer, on Thursday 24th November. Dave felt the need to announce this through The Village Voice as so many people call into the garage just to see Briar. Mothers with children called in after

school to make a fuss of this lovely natured dog on a regular basis, as well as customers. All this has been quite upsetting for Dave and his staff. For fourteen and half years Briar spent every single day at work with Dave - he was never ever left at home. One of the staff said, "It was just like losing a work mate".

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for November 2011 is 109. The draw was made by Amy Bell of the Playgroup.

LANCHESTER INFOLIST

Corrections to the Infolist printed in last month's edition

The Lanchester Committee for Macmillan Cancer Support has closed down and has not

been replaced, so Mrs Brenda Hall (Macmillan Nurses) should be deleted from the list. Red Cross - the contact should be Tracey Dobson, 529992.

*Merry Christmas
and a happy and healthy 2012
to everyone from members of
Lanchester Lions Club*

POLICE PRIORITIES FOR 2012/2013

Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary have undertaken a joint consultation in partnership with Darlington Community Safety Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership to seek the views of the public on what should be the Local Policing Priorities for 2012/2013 in County Durham.

A wide range of local people gave their views at various locations across County Durham. Residents were surveyed at shopping centres, supermarkets, through various Area Action Partnership public meetings and also online. The top three priorities resulting from the public consultation were:

- 1 Tackling anti-social behaviour in partnership.
- 2 Reducing the impact of alcohol abuse on people and communities.
- 3 Protecting vulnerable people from harm.

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PAM'S PARTY

Pam Bygate's party on the 26th of November is a firm fixture in the calendar of the Monday Night Theatre Group. It is always a lovely, happy evening but then Pam is a lovely happy person. It gives the theatre group a chance to thank Pam for all the work she puts into the organisation of this once a month outing. Everything always goes smoothly which is no mean feat when there are at least 50 people to organise. We have seen some excellent plays at the Little Theatre in Low Fell and there is great fellowship among us. There was an excellent buffet at the party

provided by Crinnion's and we had a quiz and one or two games before the highlight of the evening made an entrance. It was 'Pam's People'. They are a new group, considerably older than the original 'Pan's People' whom some of you will remember, but we enjoyed their performance immensely. They brought their own 'Zimmerframes' and were very smartly dressed for the occasion. The routine which they performed to the tune 'Big Spender' was very well done and it was so well received by the audience that they had to perform a second time.

They had practised hard for this performance and to very good effect. The audience were given a copy of the words to 'Big Spender' and were asked to sing. It took some encouragement for them to do this, despite not having to spend any money for the performance. Well Done 'Pam's People' alias Pam, Eileen, Jean, Jill and Mavis. We expect an even better performance next year, if that is possible!! Thank you Pam for once again organising a very happy and very enjoyable party. The gift we gave you was given with much love and affection. Brenda Craddock



Pam's People



The VIP of the evening, Pam Bygate

LITTLE FUNDRAISERS

Tracey Dobson, Manager of The Red Cross Shop would like to thank Eleanor and Abigail Reid aged 8 and 6 respectively, and their friend Ellen Scurrah aged 8, for their donation of money in the region of £5.00 to the East African Appeal. These three young girls called on neighbours at Cornsay Colliery and asked them to guess how many shells were in the pot.

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THE GREEN LIGHTS UP

continued from page 1

The magic button was pressed by our local MP, Mrs Pat Glass, assisted by Joe Massey-Allen and Rebecca Draper from the RC Primary School and Liam Smith and Ellie Crowe from the EP School. Afterwards there was the usual delicious buffet and

wine in the Chapter House, where Parish Council Chairman Ossie Johnson presented the four children with selection boxes and thanked Mrs Glass for attending; she said that she was very pleased to be here in Lanchester. Special guests this year

were the Friends of Longovicium, whom Cllr Johnson thanked for all the work they had done in the past to put the village 'on the map' but particularly this year, when they had produced the free booklet 'Longovicium - a Roman

town in Lanchester', which they launched very successfully in the summer. He also thanked the Church for the use of the room, the ladies who had prepared the food, and Sally Laverick, Lead Officer, for her organisation of the event.

There is always a lovely atmosphere at this ceremony, heralding Christmas, and the lights on the green always add to the warm welcome visitors and passers-by receive when they travel to Lanchester at this time of year.

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Lanchester Brass Band playing carols at the big switch-on and (below) almost blown away



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A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

December is the month for good news.

I have some good news to share on bus services following the public meeting last month. Go-Ahead Northern said at the meeting that they could resume some limited services on a 'not for profit and no contribution to overheads' basis and have followed up that promise with a breakdown of what this would cost. Now that we have those costs our local County Councillors, Ossie Johnson and Richie Young have agreed to use part of their Neighbourhood fund to pay to resume some evening services for the

coming year from 9.00 pm to 11.00 pm on Friday and Saturday evenings. Although this will not be the same level of services as before, it is a positive step forward. The reinstatement of this limited service that our County Councillors will now be funding will make a big difference to many of our older, younger and regular bus-using residents. I will continue to press the County on local transport issues. A big thank you to Peter Huntley from Go-Ahead North East and to our two County Councillors, Ossie Johnson and Richie Young.

I was honoured to be asked to switch on the

Christmas lights in Lanchester this year, along with Liam Smith and Ellie Crowe from Lanchester EP School and Joe Massey-Allen and Rebecca Draper from Lanchester All Saints School. The community

turned out in force to take part in the switch on, the Lanchester Brass Band played carols and the rain stayed away. The lights look lovely and festive and Lanchester Parish Council have done us proud.

Poinsettias, Christmas parties and presents are just around the corner.

Have a great festive break and please spare a thought for elderly neighbours who may be alone over the long holidays.

Best wishes, Pat

HOUSING ESTATE ON OLD MAIDEN LAW HOSPITAL SITE?

Arup (a firm of designers, planners, engineers, etc) acting on behalf of the Homes and Communities Agency, held a public consultation in the Community Centre on 8th December. They showed outline plans for a housing estate on all of the Maiden Law Hospital site that will not be occupied by Willow Burn Hospice. They have not made up their minds about the number or type of houses, but they have decided that there will be no affordable housing - they are assuming that affordable houses will be built in Lanchester village. Their drawing showed an exclusive estate of big houses. Their representative admitted that they had not discussed the plans with Greencroft or Lanchester parish councils but said that they had discussed them with the Lanchester

Partnership - which was not true. In reply to a comment that the public consultation had not been well advertised he said that it had been advertised in the Village Voice, which also was not true. They had not told people living in houses on Maiden Law Bank close to the site.

When asked whether he thought that the extra houses would benefit the shops in Lanchester the representative said it was easy to walk to the shops and back from the hospital site!

Apparently Arup had been discussing the proposal with the County Council planners, but the planners are still showing the site as unsuitable for housing on their "SHLAA" plans and said nothing about any possible change to this decision during the public meeting in the Social Club on 14th November. What is going on?



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CROFT VIEW HALLS OPEN DAY

The management committee of Croft View Halls would like to thank everyone who attended the Open Day which was a great success. Some stalls sold out early but the bouncy castle and refreshments were available and popular all day. A demonstration from the Street Dance group run by the Steps Project at Consett, Lanchester Brass Band and the Zumba experience all helped to make the day a success. A total of £450 has been raised so far and still counting.



Lanchester Brass Band entertaining at the Open Day



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PARISH CHURCH FAIR

Margaret Matthews, Acting Chair of the Parochial Church Council, introduced Maria Matthews, Head Teacher of St Bede's, with some amusing well chosen words. Maria made a wonderful speech. It was mainly light hearted with a self deprecating sense of humour as she compared herself with those personalities who spend their lives in the limelight opening 'occasions'. She felt honoured and humble to be asked.

Maria went on to praise the members of the church for their endeavour, warmth, support of charities, and encouraged people to spend generously. She said, "There is something quintessentially English about a Church Fair", which she associated with places, poets and poems. Maria continued by reading some moving verses from 'Verses Turned' by the late Sir John Betjeman, Poet Laureate from 1972 until his death in 1984.

With the fair officially opened, Maria was presented with a lovely basket of flowers by two Sunday School children, Lucy and Anna Eastwood aged 3 three and nearly two years respectively. The fair had a very busy start with the Bottle Tombola finished within about 15 minutes. There were the usual very good variety of stalls too numerous to catalogue. Suffice to say they represented months of hard work by church members to prepare. The atmosphere was warm, friendly with the hustle and bustle of Christmas shoppers. The refreshment room where there were some mouthwatering scones etc remained busy throughout. The result was a generous response from 'customers', which produced an excellent profit of £2156.22.



Maria Matthews, Head Teacher of St Bede's receives a lovely basket of flowers from Lucy and Anna Eastwood

WILLOW BURN FAIR

Crowds headed towards St Bede School on Saturday 19th November for the annual Willow Burn Fair with a long queue at the door before opening time. The Christmas atmosphere was evident as people hunted for some of the excellent items for sale. All stalls were busy, especially the cake stall which was in danger of selling out very quickly. Sugarfun from Consett provided a fabulously decorated Christmas cake which was raffled. In addition there were several tombolas and too many varying stalls to mention, as well as a children's activity area. Santa Claus found time to attend despite it being a busy season for him and the whole room was

enhanced by 'State Express 5', a very talented pop group who made the day a lively one. Thanks are given to: John Hutchinson, Caretaker of St Bede's; Elddis for providing transport; 'The Willow Burn Corgis' who provided entertainment; Terry the trusty compere and the fabulous Barclays staff who managed to get £1022.77 match funding for various activities on the day. The total raised was a massive £5072, 53% up on last year, so thanks also to all those who supported the Fair by spending their money so generously.



Chief Executive of Willow Burn, Helen Mills, sets a good example by purchasing raffle tickets for the magnificent Christmas cake by Sugarfun

Talking Heads



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**NEW WINDOWS FOR
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Thanks to grants from County Durham Community Foundation, Sherburn House and donations received from the 'Friends of Lanchester Community Centre' the £9000 required to replace windows in the Community Centre was raised. The cost was very high due to the building having a conservation order, which meant the

replacement windows had to be specially made. Lanchester Community Association, which manages the building on behalf of the residents of Lanchester, would like to thank all those who have made very generous donations towards the window replacements. Unfortunately the refurbishment programme does not stop and money is now being sought to

repair/replace the flat roof over the conservatory. The Community Association gets no financial help in running the centre and all costs must be borne via the users or grants. If you would like to support your local Community Centre by becoming a 'Friend' please contact John Wilson, Community Centre Manager, on 521275 or call at the centre and pick up a leaflet.



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Gardening - Caring for Christmas Plants

Many of us either buy or receive plant gifts for Christmas. Below are some of the popular ones and suggestions for their care. Poinsettias are popular at Christmas due to their red bracts and dark green leaves and, with the right treatment, can be kept blooming for 2 months. If you buy one take care in getting it home as it is very susceptible to cold. Take some fleece and wrap it up to get it into and out of the car. They suffer from hot dry air and variable temperatures which are common in central heated homes. So place them where they get bright but reflected light, not in a dark corner; they will even suffer direct sunlight. Keep them away from cold draughts. Water them with tepid

water when the soil feels dry and the pot light but don't leave the pot in water and feed every two or three weeks. If you have an Amaryllis it will likely come as a kit. Plant the bulb as soon as you get it. First stand the bulb in water to allow the roots to get any kinks out of them. Plant the bulb in the compost provided leaving the tip showing and firm gently firm the compost around the bulb. Place the pot in a bright position at room temperature, preferably on a windowsill. Keep the soil moist but do not overwater. The Amaryllis will flower 6-8 weeks after planting. Continue to water after flowering is over and allow the leaves to die down. Remove the bulb and store in a cool

dry place for planting next autumn. Cyclamen need to be kept in a cool room preferably at about 10oC - they go limp if the temperature is too warm. Stand them in a bright position and water them two or three times a week by standing the pot in a saucer of tepid water. Pick off all flowers when they droop. The berries of Christmas Cherry last well indoors providing the plants are kept cool at about 15oC. Keep the plants in a sunny position and water them once or twice a week by placing the pot in tepid water and then letting them drain. All, or any one, of these can be a joy at Christmas and provide beautiful decorations. Happy Christmas.

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THE FUTURE OF LANCHESTER - A PUBLIC MEETING

The public meeting held in Lanchester Social Club on November 14th was the opportunity for local people to hear the County Council's update on strategic development policies which may affect our environment.

A large audience packed into the concert room, evidence of the interest and concern felt by many Lanchester residents. Officers of the County Council's Planning Team were present, along with MP Pat Glass, local councillors and representatives from the Lanchester Partnership. The members of the Planning Team explained the County Durham Core Strategy document, and how its policies will guide development across towns and villages of the region over the next 20 years. Population forecasts suggest that 29,000 new houses will be needed across the area by 2030, and a housing survey will be made to confirm future requirements. Lanchester is part of the Central Durham Area, centred on Durham City, and the Area is a main focus of development, with a suggested 400 planned housing units. Lanchester and Burnhope are mentioned by name. The latest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, which underpins the Council's Core Strategy, identifies two main possible housing sites in Lanchester, although the word 'theoretical' was used several times by members of the Planning Team. The sites designated as 'green areas' on the Council's map, and therefore suitable for development lie north west of Cadger Bank, and north of

Newbiggen Lane, west of Ridgeway.

Local MP Pat Glass described Lanchester as being 'under siege' over the years, as little by little, the available land was encroached upon. As a living, vibrant village, the issue of more housing must be considered very carefully, as there would be important repercussions on the local infrastructure and facilities. If homes are to be built in the future, what kind of housing is needed? Young people have the right to settle in the village, and local needs may differ from plans of developers. Any new developments need careful discussion and planning, and limits should be decided.

When the audience were given the opportunity to debate the issues, important matters were addressed:

* Perhaps brown field sites in the vicinity could be considered first as a possibility for house building.

* If Lanchester was to remain a vibrant settlement, suitable, affordable dwellings were needed for young people and for older folk. Executive homes have been built recently, and lower cost housing may be desirable.

* Concern was expressed at vandalism occurring at the Green School, which has been empty since 2010. The future of this site needs urgent consideration before greater damage is done.

* We have problems of traffic congestion and parking within Lanchester, it is likely that residents of the new developments would drive into the village, worsening the situation. Parts of the village green

may be lost if roads are altered and widened.

* Local business people would welcome an increase in residents, but a lot of these people would commute to work, and not use local shops.

* Public transport has been drastically reduced, there are sometimes problems with the power supply and there may be an increased demand for places in local schools. The nature of the village would be greatly affected as greater demands are made on existing facilities.

* Access to the Cadger Bank, and to the Ridgeway site, is very poor, the thought of heavy construction traffic

in these narrow roads is worrying. During bad weather, cars have been left on the road at the bottom of Cadger Bank and Newbiggen Lane, causing hazardous conditions for motorists. More traffic would cause greater risk of accidents. * Both of the designated areas are situated near the bottom of hills, and considering problems Lanchester has experienced with flooding, this may be another problem for house building.

Summing up, Rob Latham, from the Lanchester Partnership concluded that many important issues and

concerns had been passed on to the Durham Planning Team. There was a complex network of economic, social and environmental factors to be considered before any decisions could be made. The recent Neighbourhood Planning legislation has introduced rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new developments by coming together to prepare their Neighbourhood Plans. Perhaps this could be a valuable way forward, enabling our local organisations to work in collaboration to help decide the future of our village.

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ETERNAL LIGHT

This fundraising concert in aid of the Mercy Ships Mission was organised by Mel and Sue Somersall. The programme consisted of music on the theme of light from the Renaissance to the present day, including the Requiem (1605) by Tomas Luis de Victoria, (1549-1611) who trained in church music and the priesthood and was ordained in Rome. The Requiem was Victoria's final work, written in memory of the Dowager Empress Maria of Austria. The ten sections are scored for six-part voicing

except the first, which was written for four parts. After a welcome from Andrew Fowler, the choir performed the mass, interspersed with readings of historical snippets. The beauty and passion of the music was fully conveyed, giving an insight into the depth of feeling Victoria must have had for the Empress Maria. The singers' talents for plainchant and polyphony were displayed magnificently. The second half of the concert was even more exciting. Charles Wood's Hail Gladdening Light (1919) sent a tangible thrill

through the audience. Two compositions by Thomas Tallis followed, Te Lucis Ante Terminum and O Nata Lux, both 1575. Morten Lauridsen's O Nata Lux (1990) was equally peaceful. A work by Eric Whitaker, Lux Aurumque (Light and Gold) gave pure pleasure, transporting the listeners to higher realms. Two pieces by Richard Lloyd, The Windows (1992) and Christ is the Morning Star (1983) preceded Gustav Holst's wonderful Nunc Dimittis, (1915) which rounded off a beautiful concert that was exquisitely performed. Peter Bridgewater



Palatinate Voices with director Andrew Fowler

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Pleasing an audience can be very hard work but M&M Productions had no trouble pleasing the children at the EP school on Monday, November 28th. The story of the Wizard of Oz is well known but this team of four, 2 males and 2 females brought a very fresh approach to it. They immediately captured the children's interest and involved them in the production by asking them to join in with the songs, which were well

known 'pop' songs. Music and singing is synonymous with this school of course, so there was no hesitation with this aspect of audience participation. The actors are all professional and very cleverly, each one played at least two characters and stage managed the scenery, which changed with each scene. Dorothy is the main character and she created an excellent rapport with the children. She is called Hannah

Dazelby, and along with her dog Toto, Craig, Bradley and Sally created for the children a magical production. Hannah is also the tour manager and she said afterwards that her team greatly enjoy going into schools and involving the children in their productions. She said that their audience today, which was the whole school, had been particularly attentive and receptive. It was certainly true that the children's attention was held throughout the performance. They were so pleased that in the end the scarecrow got a brain, the Tin Man got a heart and the Lion got a medal for courage and Dorothy was safely delivered back to her own house. A happy ending is always the best!
Brenda Craddock



A very attentive audience

'BLOOMS AND BUBBLY'

For our Christmas treat, 'Blooms and Bubbly' at Wynyard Hall seemed as though it would just 'hit the spot' and it sure did. The 17th November was like a summer's day. We arrived at the magnificent Wynyard Hall and were greeted with some lovely fizzy fizz which put us all in a good mood as we made our way into the conservatory where 16 tables were set out, of which we took 4.

The first part of our afternoon was a flower demonstration given by Adam Prest and it was fantastic - what displays - classic, contemporary and every range in between.

Next on the menu was afternoon tea in a setting that couldn't be bettered. There was a delightful selection of sandwiches, cakes and scones which left us all feeling full and contented as we listened to the only downside of the outing, the guest speaker, who had been a life style coach, a definite has-been - a good time to visit the Ladies (very posh indeed).

Our afternoon closed with a talk and facial demonstration from some of the girls who will be in attendance at the new Spa which will be opening its doors in January 2012. Evening was drawing in

and the candlelight reflecting in the huge windows gave a surreal, dreamy quality to the ambience of Wynyard which is totally pampering and lovely. It was all very grand - and did we enjoy it! 2012 will be off to a good start as we celebrate the New Year at the King's Head - if your name is not on the list you need to see Liz with a £5 deposit asap. All our latest photos and 2012 programme can be found on our website at www.communicate.co.uk/ne/lanchestercommunitycentre and the Thursday Club subscription for 2012 will remain the same as last year at £10.



All ready for the entertainment to commence

FLOWER CLUB DEMONSTRATION

Lanchester Flower Club held the second of their Open Demonstration Evenings in Lanchester Community Centre on Friday 25th November. Thankfully the weather this year was kind to us so the attendance was over 80. The Demonstrator was John Thexton from Armathwaite and his theme was the 'Holly and

the Ivy'. He is an area NAFAS demonstrator and is extremely well known in the flower arrangers' world.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful and most entertaining evening with some most fabulous arrangements and great ideas. All flower arrangements were raffled on the evening to the

delight of the winners. The evening ended with tea and coffee and a light supper.

The club would like to thank Gillian Harrison who provided a grand home produce stall and also Sue Marshall who provided a lovely gift stall. Thanks once again to all who supported and helped on the evening.

John Thexton from Armathwaite demonstrating on his theme the 'Holly and the Ivy' alongside some of his fabulous arrangements



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A VISUAL HISTORY OF THE WILDLIFE AND LANDSCAPE OF LANCHESTER PARISH

Well here we are a year into the Lanchester Locality Map Project and by, has it gone fast. An amazing amount of effort has gone into the project by many parish residents including; surveying the routes for the historic walks leaflets, practical conservation volunteering, botanical

surveying, compiling and writing the wildlife audit, training in countryside skills, and many more things.

In fact what I will always remember about this project is just how much pride there is in the community of Lanchester for the heritage and landscape of the parish

and how many people have been willing to give up their time to help record and protect it.

So here I go asking for your help again (I know, the cheek!). One of the Actions in the Locality Map was to undertake a visual survey of the wildlife and landscape of Lanchester. To help with this I would like to ask for any photographers out there to send me photographs that you

think will describe Lanchester's wildlife and its countryside. Photographs can be old or new, and can be from anywhere in the parish. We don't need professional quality photographs either, just pictures that you think show local species or describe the landscape past or present.

In the spring we will be holding an event to celebrate the publication

of "Lanchester Wildlife: An audit of the wildlife of Lanchester Parish" and we would like to display the photographs as part of this event. So if you have some dusty old photos that you think will fit the bill, or fancy taking that new Christmas camera out for a spin, please get in touch with Sue on 07585 001 355 or via email sue.charlton@lanchesterparish.info.

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CONSERVATION



Steve Bailey left, John Olly (Ranger) and Sue Charlton (Development Officer) of the Conservation Group, take a break from grafting on the Lanchester Valley Walk, removing scrub and improving the edges of the path. The going was tough for just three people and a dog, but fortunately some more volunteers joined in the afternoon session. More volunteers are needed by this group to achieve more and make life easier.

Phone Sue Charlton on 07585 001355.

POLICE REPORT

Reporting period: 26/10/11 to 22/11/11
No of calls for area: 62
Alcohol seizures 0,
Dwelling burglaries 2 (both Crow Hill), Other burglaries 1 (garages at public house), Bogus callers 0, Anti-social behaviour and motorcycle incidents 3 (nuisance gone prior to police arrival), Criminal damage 1 (pots damaged outside farm), Thefts of/ from vehicles 2 (vehicle stolen outside dwelling, bag snatched from car in layby).

Operation Livorno, tackling street drinking, continues.
Ford Road will be targeted by the Road Policing Unit from 15th November until 20th December.
Patrols have noted that when not wearing high visibility jackets and not easily seen in the dark, vehicles appear to be exceeding the speed limit on both sides of the road. The request for a pelican crossing outside St Bede's School (ie a crossing with traffic lights) has been thoroughly looked at. The

multi-agency decision was that this type of crossing does not meet the required criteria. The police would like to remind you to check your own security, both personal and property. Keep curtains closed and a light on during hours of darkness; invest in outside security lights and timers for lights. Make sure all doors and windows are secured when leaving property or when asleep. Please report any suspicious activity to the police.

70s/80s DISCO REUNION

'The Community Centre 70s/80s Disco Reunion' to give it the full title, was held at the Social Club on Saturday 19th November. It was a night of great nostalgia. The organiser was Susan Elsbury who thought that it would be a great idea for friends from that era to get together again to do what they used to do regularly and enjoy so much. After all many of the bands from those years are doing exactly the same. The enthusiasm and atmosphere on the night was tremendous and many old friendships were rekindled. DJ Ian Ledger

made a comeback having retired from his hobby many years ago. Ian did a fantastic job with his great choice of music. The shoulder pads, flares, long haired men and appropriate hairstyles created by the women were much in evidence from the 200 plus people who attended. The dancing was exuberant to the extent of dancing on chairs at the end. The whole night was a great success. Facebook comments certainly endorse this - "best ever night" "when's the next one". Do check on 'Lanchester Community

Centre Disco' Facebook page for all action shots. Thanks are due to all friends who helped and those businesses who donated raffle prizes. Thanks especially to Ian Ledger and Paul Raisbeck for the amazing disco using original 45s of the 70s and 80s, and Glenn Coxon for his massive help throughout. The aim was to raise money for Willow Burn and raise it they did with the sum of £1080 for the hospice. This included £65 from Castlebank Butchers of Esh Winning and £210 from Wendy & Peter Suddes from their Bonfire Night 'do'.



A large group of 70s/80s enthusiasts get together

ROTARY AWARD ALL SAINTS

A lovely service was held at All Saints Primary on Dec 5th. Ian Forster and Brian Stobbs, President of Consett Rotary Club, presented a cheque and Trophy to the Altar Servers. Each Server also received a Certificate. Head Teacher, Karen McKenna, began the service with questions to the children who were eager to respond and showed knowledge of Advent. She explained why the Altar Servers were to be given the Award this year - for their time and help given to Canon Spence. Brian Stobbs outlined some of the aims of Rotary and linked their motto, 'service above self', to the

recipients of the award. He then presented the Awards to the children and Ian Forster spoke briefly on how wonderful the Christmas tree was. The children then sang

'Awake' which they obviously enjoyed. Canon Spence thanked the children for all their help even above the call of duty and closed the service with a prayer.



The Altar Servers at All Saints Primary (not in order): Sophie Haddon; Rebecca Draper; Jack Lamb; Louis Lyonette; Jonathan Bunting; Rebecca Tiplady; Tristan Somersall. Eva Caden Lambert was unable to attend. Back row: Ian Forster (Rotary); Brian Stobbs (President Consett Rotary); Canon Spence.

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SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIRS

Two 'Heads', two schools, great minds - the result was two Christmas Fairs on the same afternoon. Did it matter? Not at all. Both Fairs were so well supported and many people just like the

Village Voice reporter were scuttling between them during the afternoon. The only puzzling thing was Santa Claus. How does he do it? There he was in the super Grotto in the EP School and before you know it there he was again entrenched in the lovely cosy Grotto at All Saints. What a man! He is either a miracle man or a very good Olympic standard runner. Now what about the two Fairs! Both were

unbelievably busy. The atmosphere was terrific with two hives of activity, happy children with parents, grandparents, childminders and friends all spending money like there was no tomorrow. Are we in recession - not likely by what went on today. It was good to see so many children involved in making things for stalls or actually manning them. As for the stalls themselves, they were of the highest quality with so much to choose from to buy those difficult Christmas presents that we are all looking for, rather than going to the Metro. Arts, crafts tombolas, sweet and cake stalls - they were all there as well as many more, too numerous to mention.



Dylan Wright happily chatting to Santa Claus at the EP Fair



Cakes and Christmas items made by children at the EP school

Refreshments as well were plentiful at both venues and most people at both schools were gasping for a nice cup of tea by half way through the afternoon. This was an ecumenical triumph! Members of every denomination in the village supported

both events. As a result, both schools made an excellent profit. At the EP School £1300 was raised on the day with matched funding from Barclays making the grand total £2000. At All Saints £2250 was raised at the Fair rising to £2650 with matched funding from Barclays.



Eva and Marnie Caden Lambert, smiling happily for Santa Claus at All Saints



The 'Big Bear Raffle' at All Saints

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CHRISTMAS FAIR - SATLEY

The final Christmas Fair of the season was a lovely event. Some of the stalls were that little bit different. Much evidence were crafted items for sale and excellent home produce all of which coupled with appetizing soup, and mince tarts attracted many supporters for the Sunflower Club. Inevitably there was a tombola. How can there

be a Fair without one? They are real money makers along with cake stalls and the one at this event was no exception - it looked extremely tasty. There were several other stalls which gave a good variation and the opportunity for people to make many Christmas purchases. The hall, though quite small, was full to capacity and it was good to see so many

people turn out to support the Sunflower Club. The people who run it work very hard with the children from Satley who make the village look so pretty when the tubs around the village are in full bloom. The profit on the day was an excellent £400.00 and St Cuthbert's Church, Satley, made £200 on the tombola for much needed roof repairs.



The inevitable Tombola, always popular with customers

HENRY DANCER DAYS - RICHER BY OVER £1400!!!

Lanchester resident, Susan Wilkinson, set herself a challenge: a 26 mile marathon on a cross trainer in aid of Henry Dancer Days. The £1459.70 she raised will mean 6 trips for disabled children and their families - not bad for a 152 minute marathon dressed as Minnie Mouse!

Henry Dancer Days was set up in memory of 12 year old Henry who lost his battle with cancer last year. The newly formed Trust is keen to help other children and families in a similar position by helping them with specialist transport costs and a trip out.

Children with Osteosarcoma are often isolated due to their physical incapacity. We want to give them a little more freedom and fun. The Charity's Collection boxes are in village shops and garages - if you have leftover pennies please do pop them in.



Susan Wilkinson on her challenge of a 26 mile marathon on a cross trainer in aid of Henry Dancer Days which raised £1,450.

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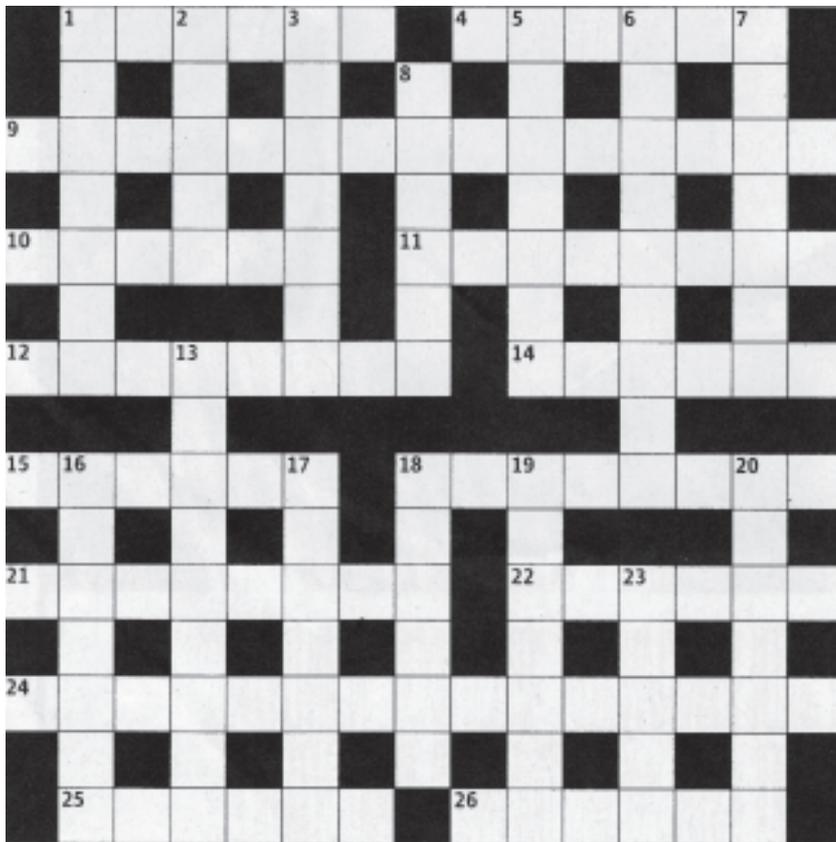
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CROSSWORD 68



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ACROSS

- 1,4 Curl a fang in a way of speaking (6,6)
4. See 1 across
9. Unenviable task (fig.)(8,7)
10. Column(6)
11. Chic shop (8)
12. Get back (8)
14. Expels(6)
15. Pulse(6)
18. Hasten (8)
21. Condemn study with little weight (8)
22. Up to scratch (2,4)
24. Add insult to injury (3,4,2,1,5)
25. Come out (6)
26. Uncover me as lying and pathetic (6)

DOWN

1. Healed lesion I celebrate (7)
2. Kind of sound from Havana's All Stars (5)
3. Upset a French bottle (7)
5. Accommodate once more (2-5)
6. Quashed (9)
7. Story (7)
8. Consumable (6)
13. Turned up with a bouquet of true roses (9)
16. Carry out (7)
17. Fielding position for tall cricketer? (4,3)
18. It makes you sick (6)
19. Sacrilegious (7)
20. Temporary occupation (7)
23. Swill (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 67

ACROSS

- 1, 6 across microwave oven
6. see 1 across
8. spoon-fed
9. afters
10. seldom
11. amicable
12. dearth
15. tattered
16. vegetate
19. dilate
21. agitator
22. bemuse
24. attune
25. no-go area
26. ache
27. suspected

DOWN

1. maple
2. chowder
3. Oxfam
4. add salt
5. emaciated
6. oatcake
7. enrolment
13. energetic
14. heartless
17. extrude
18. errands
20. lambast
22. bugle
23. speed

CROSSWORD 67

There was a much better response to last month's crossword competition - 17 entries were received.

Congratulations to Jill Ramsay of Percy Crescent who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize. Try John Wilson's latest challenge.

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

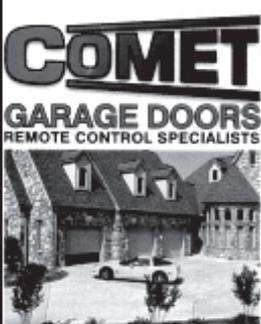
WI REPORT

Committee members arrived early to lay the tables and prepare the drinks for our Christmas party and as members arrived the food table filled with goodies for our faith supper. The paths were very treacherous but everyone arrived safely and at 7 o'clock our Christmas party began. President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed members and our guests from Satley WI who had

been invited to join us before introducing our speaker Norman Smith. Norman from Sano Adoreus the hand crafted candle shop in the In-shops at Chester-le-Street explained to us the history of candle making and brought along a lovely selection of candles he had made which members could buy. He and his wife started their business from a candle making kit and as requests came in

from family and friends, other orders followed and they now make candles full time. Jennifer gave the vote of thanks and invited Norman to join us for supper. We then all ate a delicious supper before going into the large hall where we enjoyed the singing and piano playing of the Male Voice Choir. As always the songs and music were lovely (we have already booked them for next year). Jennifer gave the

vote of thanks and invited them in to enjoy food and wine with the members. Whilst the choir were enjoying a social time with members, chairs were set up for the Chinese Raffle which is great fun. This was a lovely start to Christmas and as committee members cleared away we gave thanks for all fun, food and companionship we had again enjoyed together.



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Members and visitors admire the table laden with food for the faith supper

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Chocolate Cookies

Preparation 20-25 minutes, plus chilling
Cooking time about 14 minutes (Makes 25)
140g/5oz plain flour
50g/2oz cocoa powder
¼ tsp bicarbonate of soda
¼ tsp salt
50g/2oz plus 1 tbsp light soft brown sugar
50g/2oz plus 1 tbsp white granulated sugar
50g/2oz unsalted butter at room temperature
50g/2oz margarine
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 egg white

Method

1. Combine the flour, the cocoa powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt and mix well.

Combine the sugars, mixing well with your fingers to press out any lumps. If the lumps are stubborn, put in a food processor for a few seconds.

2. Beat the butter and margarine with an electric whisk or wooden spoon until creamy. Tip in the flour and sugar mixtures, the vanilla and egg white and beat to form a dough. Shape into a 25cm/10in long log. Wrap in cling film and chill for 45 minutes or until needed.

3. Preheat the oven to 180C/Gas 4/fan oven 160C. Line 2 heavy baking sheets with non-stick baking parchment or foil.

Slice off rounds of the dough, each about 5mm/1/4in thick. Lay 2.5cm/1in apart on the baking sheets. Bake for 14 minutes. If necessary swop the sheets halfway or bake the ones on the lower shelf a little longer. The cookies will puff and crackle on top and settle when done. Transfer to a wire rack with a spatula. Leave to cool.

Soft or crunchy finish? – Cookies baked for a little less time will be crisp outside and slightly soft within. Bake a little longer for dry, crisp, tender ones. The softer ones dry out after a day or so.

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

WHAT'S ON?

Paradiso Club

Refreshments, a Raffle and a Big Screen Film. The next Social will be on Sunday, January 8th in the Main Hall of the Community Centre 7pm-9.15pm. All are welcome. Membership of the Club is £5 pa. Entry to each Social is £2.50 for members and £3.50 for occasional visitors. The entry fee covers everything. Screening that night (please note change of programme!) will be the film 'IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT'. Directed by Frank Capra, starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert.

PACT meeting

Described as 'buoyant and elegant as bubbles in a glass of champagne', Frank Capra's sublime 1934 comedy survives triumphantly because of its wit, charm, romantic idealism and its shrewd sketch of married life. Clark Gable plays roguish newspaperman Peter Warne, he encounters a young gamine socialite on the run from her domineering millionaire father and their adventure begins. The first movie to be honoured with all 5 major Oscars - Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director and Best Screenplay. One not to be missed!!

Lanchester Social Club Entertainment - January 2012

Saturday 7th January 2012	Alfie Dobson
Saturday 14th January 2012	Hayley Storm
Saturday 21st January 2012	Lee Paul
Saturday 28th January 2012	Karen Leigh

KING'S HEAD DUCK RACE



The King's Head held a well supported 'Duck Race' in the River Browney near the car park on Saturday 19th November, and raised in the region of £750 for 'Children in Need'. There was a roundabout for children to keep them amused throughout the afternoon as well.

Lanchester Valley Conservation Volunteers

The next meeting of the Lanchester Valley Conservation Volunteers will be on Saturday 21st January. We will be joining Durham Wildlife Trust to carry out some woodland management at Malton Nature Reserve. No experience is needed as full training is given on the day, so if you are 14 or 114 and would like to meet new people, get a little fitter or help protect local wildlife please get in touch. You can contact Sue via email sue.charlton@lanchesterparish.info or by phone on 07585001355.

Churches Together Service

A Churches Together Service will take place at Burnhope Methodist Church at 6.00 pm on January 22nd. All are welcome.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 25th January at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, Doreen Welch will give a slide show entitled 'Slides of the Far East'.

W I

Our next meeting will be held in the small hall of the Community Centre on 9th January (second Monday) starting at 7 pm. The speaker for this meeting is Kathleen Adams who will be demonstrating prick and stitch card making and there will be audience participation.

The subscriptions of £31.50 are due at this meeting please.

The competition for the January meeting is a favourite Christmas card so keep this in mind as they start coming through the door.

New members are always welcome and if you have been thinking of joining, why not come as a visitor and spend the evening with us.

Short Circuit Walks

14th January 10.30 am, Rising Sun Country Park, 5 miles. Meet at the car park to the SW of the Superstore on the A191, NZ294695.

28th January, 10.30 am, Ovingham/Ovington, 5 miles. Meet at St Mary the Virgin Church, parking nearby, NZ085637.

Sunday Bridge

Come along to the small hall of the Community Centre on Sunday 8th January to play Bridge with a friendly group of people and at the same time help to raise funds for the Community Centre. Only £3 including refreshments.

Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 10th January at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, Noel Jackson will give a talk on 'Snails'. Love them or dislike them, Noel will do his best to convince you how good they are.

Junior Wildlife

On Sunday 22nd January there will be a visit to Shibden Pond. Meet in the Community Centre car park at 9.45 am.

Mothers' Union

The meeting on Wednesday 11th January, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, is the Wave of Prayer service with an enrolment.

Open House

There is no 'Open House' in January but we will be back in business on Thursday February 2nd.

THE CROSS KEYS ESH VILLAGE

Enjoy a meal in the restaurant with views overlooking the hills and surrounding area, warm and friendly staff await you.

**Restaurant opening times Mon - Sat 12-9
Sunday 12-8**

one course £5.95, 2 course £ 7.50, 3 course £10.50

Thursday steak night 2 ribeyes and a bottle of house wine £25.00

Christmas Fayre £14.95

Christmas Day £45.95

bookings now being taken

Come and see in the new year with the fabulous vocal entertainer JACQLYN BELL

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TENNIS YEAR

At the end of what has been an exceptional year for Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club, one of its junior players had the wonderful opportunity to escort a star player onto the O2 arena in London at the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals. The Sam Cranston, his mother Fiona and grandparents Pam and Geoff Graham travelled to London for the last major tennis tournament of 2011. He was there because of a winning ticket in a competition organised by Barclays Bank, which had been won and very kindly donated to the club by Mr David Vasey. After the withdrawal of Andy Murray, it meant that Sam walked onto the arena with replacement Janko Tipsarevic in front of a packed audience and watched by millions on television. Sam and his family had a wonderful day and he would like to thank Mr Vasey for the chance to be with some of the best players in the world.

The club coaching in the Community Centre, run by Dennis Laycock supported by Grant Ridley and Sally Laverick, has come to a close for the winter and finished with a mini festival and presentation of certificates. The sessions were fully subscribed with both of the centre halls being used (the numbers were restricted to 24 due to size of the halls). For the third year in succession, the club has won a trophy in the Northumberland and Durham league. The veteran mixed team have won their division and will collect the winners shield at the league AGM on Thursday 8th December at Jesmond Tennis Club. The club held its own AGM in November with some changes of officials and welcomed new members to the committee. We look forward to our 2012 season in the Olympic year, hope it is as successful as 2011.

LCC SENIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT

December 3rd saw the delayed senior presentation night take place at Lanchester Cricket Club, with the following awards given out:-

First Team

Batting:
Paul Underwood with an average of 50.5
Bowling:
Hayden Petch with an average of 18.8
Fielding:
Kieron Taylor with 6 dismissals

Player of the Year:
Graham Brinton

Second Team

Batting:
Paul Burn with an average of 89.69
Bowling:
Mattie Callaghan 17

wickets at an average of 13.29

Catches:
Neil Graham
Player of the Year:
Paul Burn

Third Team

Batting:
James Robson with an average of 42.8
Bowling:
Craig Smith 15 wickets at an average of 9.33
Best piece of fielding:
Cameron Metcalfe

Best Newcomer:
Nathan Somersall
Player of the Year:
Andy Smith

It was a great season with a cup win for both the first and second teams and the thirds were runners up in their league and cup.



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and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Lanchester Quilled Wine

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6 bottles £30.00



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Ranges of wine gifts from 1 bottle to 12 bottles, ideal for Christmas & special occasions

From £10 to £200, Corporate wine gifts & Christmas hampers

O2 APPEARANCE CAPS TENNIS CENTENARY YEAR



Sam Cranston being led onto the court by Janko Tipsarevic at the O2 Arena



The club coaching in the Community Centre, run by Dennis Laycock supported by Grant Ridley and Sally Laverick, has come to a close for the winter and finished with a mini festival and presentation of certificates. The children pose for this photograph with arms aloft and broad smiles on their faces.

See 'Tennis Year' story on page 19

JUNIOR CRICKETER HEADS TO DUBAI

Lanchester cricketer Greg Patterson, aged 14, has been selected to play for Durham County Cricket Club in the "2012 Gulf Cup" in Dubai this coming January. A squad of 13 players and 2 coaches will travel to the United Arab Emirates to compete in the competition against teams from Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Dubai. The tour starts on the 20th January and lasts for ten days. In preparation for the hot

and humid conditions expected in Dubai, the squad has started fitness training at the Emirates Riverside ground at Chester-le-Street. It is an opportunity to experience and learn from different styles of play as well as represent the County abroad. Players have to fund the trip themselves so if any company or individual would be interested in sponsoring Greg please make contact at gp2dubai@hotmail.co.uk



Greg Patterson

CONSETT UNDER 12'S

The team coach, Colin Hodgson, put the Under 12 Football Team together with boys from Lanchester, Satley, Consett and the surrounding areas (most attend St Bede's School) in April 2011 with a view to playing Summer League

football, which sounded ideal following years of Winter League football in snow, ice and rain! We entered the South Tyneside Summer League (premier division) which started in June and ended in November 2011

playing against teams from Tyneside and Sunderland. The boys played some fantastic football and ended the season as runners up in the Premier League and winning the Premier League Cup



Team (back row left to right) Jack Stewart, Tom Birkett, Matt Jackson, Will Hodgson, Jack Warriner, Lewis Hutchinson, James Coxon. (front row) Jay Mallon, Charlie Collingwood, Alex Winter, Jack James, Billy Hall, Cameron Innes.

NEXT DEADLINE

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

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