

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 2 Volume 12

Lanchester, February 2011

For contact information, see page 2

CHINESE NEW YEAR



Children and adults gather together outside the Golden Valley Takeaway to celebrate Chinese New Year.

There was great excitement in the village late afternoon February 5th as crowds of children and adults gathered outside the Golden Valley Takeaway to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Guang and Winnie Wu organised this colourful event to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit. New Year's Day was actually on Thursday 3rd this year. There was dancing led by the Lion and drumming to frighten away evil spirits. All this was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. 'Ocean's Apart ACD were touring the area to provide this entertainment and were going on to Stowell Street, Newcastle in the evening. For those who may wish to contact them the phone number is 07872 340 936, email: shaka_brown2000@yahoo.co.uk website: www.oceans-apart-acd.co.uk

LAUNCH OF LANCHESTER'S NEW CINEMA

After 60 years the village has a cinema again. John Wills, Vice Chair of the Community Centre launched this exciting project on Friday 29th January, in front of staff, helpers, mums, childminders, and children from the Playgroup.

He thanked John Hurren for his efforts in applying for a National Lottery Grant and his success in securing £6000. John further stressed that the new Audio Visual Equipment is a system available to all sections, organisations and for private parties and would adapt to Blu-ray DVD, Freeview, Video and PowerPoint presentations, all with exceptionally good

stereophonic sound. In a lighter moment he introduced Christine Monaghan as the Operator and Liz Smith as 'Usherette'! With

**Continued
>> p4**



Mums, childminders and children from the Playgroup celebrate the opening of the new Audio Visual Equipment at the Community Centre. Left to right: Fiona Draper (Playgroup), John Wills (Vice Chair Community Centre) and Liz Smith (Playgroup) amongst the children.



Dear Village...

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

Dear Village Voice, **Sixth Form Parking at St. Bede's**

On behalf of the whole community of St. Bede's, I would like to apologise to Lanchester residents for the thoughtlessness of some of our Sixth Form students; in particular to those families who live in St. Bede's Court and Bishop's Meadow. Parking on our own premises is limited, especially when we have visitors or students from Durham University who complete their teaching practice with us. I have also asked staff to car share; apart from alleviating the parking issue, it is a sound environmental message to our whole community. We do, however, have twenty Sixth Form parking

spaces which we allocate to a different group of students each term; they display the permits in their cars. In the past, students have been happy to wait for their turn.

I am now aware that a number of students are determined to drive to school and are parking in the nearby St. Bede's Court and Bishop's Meadow. We are now checking each day and warning students about the inconvenience this is causing some families whose driveways have been blocked.

I also ask for your support in reporting to us the car numbers which you believe may belong to our students and are parked either in the centre of Lanchester or on some other estates. Thank you again for your support and your patience.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Maria Matthews
Headteacher

Dear Village Voice,
Dorothy and Mark Beauvoisin would like to express their sincere thanks to all their friends, neighbours and church members for the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy following the death of Gerry. A special thank you to Canon Spence for his tremendous support at this sad time.

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Dear Village Voice,
My eldest child is due to start at St Bede's in September this year and I am extremely concerned about the main road she will have to cross to get there. My concern is the speed limit. I do not know of any other school with a 40 mph road which pupils must cross. My daughter will have no choice but to cross this road which is the main road from Durham to Consett and bearing in mind school starts at 8.45 which is when this road will be at its peak.

I am aware that there is a safe crossing point in the centre of this road, but that has been wiped out before which only shows how unsafe the road is. In today's society when we have to complete risk assessments for just climbing a step ladder at work, how is it that it is acceptable for children to cross a 40 mph road to get to school. As well as the fact they will have to look in 4 directions.

It wasn't that long ago when there was a driving campaign on TV telling us the statistic between driving at 30 and 40 mph. Does anyone else feel the same? Does anyone know why it's acceptable here? Does anyone know how to go about getting it at least lowered to 30 mph? Clare Lamb, Resident of Alderdene

Dear Village Voice,
I would like to thank the Queen's, Crinnion's and Jed's for the prizes for our raffle and everyone else who made donations. We raised £114.00 over the Christmas period for the Village Bus. Thanks again, Lynette Cassidy

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number this month in the Community Draw for January 2011 is number 93. The draw was made by Mrs Draper of the Playgroup.

COMPUTER SCAM WARNING

A number of people have contacted Computers for All at the Community Centre reporting they have had telephone calls saying that their computer is infected by a virus and the caller can fix it. This is a total scam; one person

called did not even have an internet connection. These people are trying to get personal details from you.

If you receive one of these calls hang up immediately and do not respond to their questions.

PANTO



Lanchester Methodist wives and friends panto, *Puss in boots* - written, produced and directed by Marjorie Hughes, with special guest star, Sir Alan Sugar in the back row centre.

To contact the Village Voice

By email:

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

By post:

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

This month 4 very big Bills came before Parliament: the Localism Bill; the Health Bill; the Education Bill and the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill. These four Bills, if passed, will have a profound effect on the future landscape of local government, the NHS, our schools, how we elect our representatives and how we are governed. The Government has allowed only one day each for the Commons to debate the

second readings of these Bills. I have been appointed to the Education Bill Committee and will ensure that this legislation is scrutinised, so that even if I cannot change it, at least all the possible outcomes are highlighted.

I led my first adjournment debate on the cost and regulation (or the lack of regulation) of domestic heating oil. An adjournment debate takes place for 30 minutes each day and members can put

into a draw to lead the debate. I chose this topic because in North West Durham there are a lot of people who are forced to rely on oil for heating and cooking.

Many constituents have contacted me to complain that the price of heating oil has increased 100% since November. Some people tell me they have to choose between feeding themselves and keeping warm. The heating oil industry has created a

'perfect storm', a combination of a completely unregulated market, a large number of suppliers owned by 2 or 3 huge companies who seem prepared to charge exorbitant prices, and the coldest winter in a generation. This state of affairs leaves the consumer without protection. The Minister advised me that as a result of my highlighting this issue he was referring the matter to the Office of Fair Trading

for investigation. If you have an issue with the cost and regulation of the domestic heating oil industry or any other problem that I may be able to help with, please get in touch.

Best Wishes
Pat Glass MP,
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Consett, DH8 5LQ,
Tel: 01207 501 782,
Fax: 01207 501 791,
E-Mail: pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF LAURENCE AND DORIS McDERMOTT

Laurence and Doris were married at St Mary's RC Church at South Moor on February 4th 1961. They have only had four houses in their life together - two at Stanley and two at Lanchester, where they spent 30 years before retiring to Ferndale Court, Consett, some nine years ago. They have maintained their strong links with the village by attending All Saints' RC Church and continuing social contact with their many friends, some of whom were members of the Lions Club where Laurence was a member for twenty one years, also serving for one year as President.

During their marriage both have spent much of their time looking after children in their family, but also looking after those less fortunate than themselves with visits to Lourdes - thirty times for Doris and twenty eight visits for Laurence.

Their celebration of 50 years of married life together took place on Saturday, 12th February, at All Saints' RC Church, Lanchester, with a Mass which included a blessing and renewal of marriage vows. This was followed by a reception at Sopranos restaurant in Consett for 110 family and friends.

Laurence and Doris would like to thank: Father Graham who deputised for

Canon Spence; Andrew O'Connor; Michael and Avril Quiqley; Marie Atkinson and Helen Hedley; all of whom either took part in the service or helped in the background. This is an opportunity for Doris to offer public thanks to the church members, family and many friends who have supported her and Laurence through her serious illness which happened nearly three years ago.

In lieu of presents, Laurence and Doris raised in excess of £600 for Willow Burn Hospice. They would like to thank all those who donated so generously for such a worthy cause.



Laurence and Doris McDermott leaving All Saints' Church after renewing their marriage vows at a Mass to celebrate their Golden Wedding.



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LAUNCH OF LANCHESTER'S NEW CINEMA

that said, he formally 'opened' the new amenity. The children settled down in perfect silence to enjoy episodes of Peppa Pig which they all seemed to thoroughly enjoy, including the adults. Once people have seen films on this equipment - a very large screen

which slides down from the ceiling with excellent sound, complete with a barely visible, minute projector, it will really feel as if one is in a cinema. The Club Paradiso run by the Lanchester Partnership will feature films on a regular monthly basis on their social nights. Look out

in the Village Voice or on Community Centre notice boards for details. The whole project has been well thought out and will benefit so many people once they hear of it and see it for themselves. This can only be good for the Community Centre as well as it continues to develop its facilities.



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A TRADITIONAL TALE BROUGHT RIGHT UP TO DATE!

At the end of the Christmas term, the youngsters of All Saints Junior School were looking forward to seeing a performance of 'Beauty and the Beast'. The bad weather we then experienced meant that the production had to be postponed until early February, but the children would all agree that the wait was worth it!

M and M Productions present traditional tales to junior schools, with a tiny but talented cast taking on several roles. The story is well known - a handsome young prince refuses to help an old woman seeking shelter in his castle. The woman is actually a witch and she places him under a spell, turning him into an ugly, bad tempered creature until he meets a girl who can fall in love with him, breaking the enchantment. The beautiful Belle lives in the nearby village and we all waited for her to meet the prince and rescue him from the spell.

The traditional theme was brought up to date with the addition of characters and music from the popular Disney film, with many modern references and songs, together with lots of "Oh yes you are!" and "He went that way!" from the excited audience. Youngsters from the reception class to Y6 students enjoyed every minute of the show. Well loved old jokes, slapstick and familiar songs entertained and involved the audience, and everyone agreed it was a lovely change from the History and Geography lessons usually on the timetable!

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Local lads Gaston and Gormless causing trouble for Belle

A THEATRE VISIT

On Thursday afternoon, the 10th of February, the School Hall at the EP School reverberated with all the fun of a pantomime. It was the visit of the M and M Production Theatre Company, who are based in Ayrshire in Scotland and were performing Beauty and the Beast. There were only four actors, to do all the setting up of the stage, scenery, props, costumes and sound effects, not to mention the eight character parts. The only part which required no double up was the part of Belle the Beauty and she played her part very eloquently and of course beautifully. This has been her first tour of schools with this company, which she joined after studying for a degree in Musical Drama and Theatre. Gaston, Gormless and Scamper the dog were fun parts and the children really enjoyed the slapstick, and humour. Interspersed with the dialogue was hearty music and song, mainly pop songs which the pupils knew and sang lustily. There was also some very nice solo singing. The dialogue became more serious when the handsome Prince Errol



Belle - The Beauty (not the Beast)

had a spell cast upon him and changed into a beast by means of a large furry head and big furry hands. Gaston and Gormless and Scamper also changed their roles at this point and became the beast and his courtier and Mrs Potts the maid, who was dressed quite realistically as a teapot. There was however an underlying message in this pantomime and this was clearly conveyed by the actors, particularly Belle, when she fell in love with the beast. He may have looked fierce and unattractive but he had an inward beauty, shown in his many kindnesses and

thoughtfulness toward her and that was why she loved him. In true pantomime style, the spell was broken and the Beast changed back into the handsome Prince Errol. This of course was just what everyone wanted and there were loud cheers from the audience, On that very happy note the pupils from Reception right up to Year 6 showed their appreciation with loud applause. They all had had a very happy afternoon and hopefully the experience they had will have fired their imaginations for some good creative writing of their own. Brenda Craddock



A scene from the Pantomime with the attention shown from the back of the audience's heads.

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AN APPLE A DAY ... LAUNCH OF LANCHESTER'S COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Have you ever thought that you'd like to grow your own food and enjoy the pleasures of working outside, picking and processing your own produce but don't have the time or the spare ground. Have you even considered an allotment at some time but realistically couldn't put in all that effort and certainly don't know where to begin. Well here is your chance to not only grow some fruit but to do so with minimum effort and with the support and company of other people in our village. Land has been set aside at Margery Flatts, Newbiggin Lane bordering Lanchester, for a Community Orchard or more to the point a Community Fruit Garden as the intention is to grow not only fruit bearing trees like apples, plums, damsons, pears and cherries but also the blackcurrant, raspberry, gooseberry, blueberry bushes and you never know, even strawberries. The project is in its planning stage but Lanchester

Partnership Green Group hope to set up a small co-operative where members of the orchard manage the trees and harvest the fruit. Anyone can sign up to be part of the project either as a family group or an individual. For the annual cost of £10 and the promise of a few hours' labour a year you will receive membership of the orchard and your share of the pick-your-own produce. Initially the money will help buy in root stock and fruit bushes and hopefully if the project can attract some funding the area can be fenced and paved and areas set aside to encourage wildlife.

Don't be put off by the idea of labouring on the land - yes we will need able bodied people to carry out planting and pruning - but there will also be jobs like designing, administration, publicity, fruit processing and grafting. In the UK we now eat twice as many apples from abroad as from our own shores and very few are free from

insecticide. With increasing fuel costs the price of imported foods is likely to increase so how much cheaper and healthier to grow and pick our own organic fruit. We will also be helping to increase biodiversity as we can grow local, less known varieties. According to the National Trust 60% of England's orchards have disappeared since the 1950's. Can Lanchester start to reverse that trend?

Be part of the action and come to our first community day on Saturday 19th March at Shepherds Barns Margery Flatts 10 am-3 pm. We have a 100 fruit trees to graft so bring your sharp Stanley knife, spare 10-12" plastic pots and your own packed lunch.

If you wish to become a member then send your £10 (Cheques made payable to: Lanchester Partnership) with your contact details to Lanchester Orchard, Colm Doyle, 35 Kitswell Road, Lanchester. Or you may just wish to make a donation to get things growing for the future generations.



The land that has been set aside at Margery Flatts, Newbiggin Lane for a Community Fruit Garden.
What will this view look like in 10 years' time?

CAN IT REALLY BE SPRINGTIME - FINALLY?



Snowdrops, like the ones shown in this picture, can be seen at this time of year in many gardens in the Village. After such a long and cold winter they give a clear indication that Spring is on the way.

Gardening in March

Even though it's been long and started early, winter is probably not yet finished – we might still get bitter winds and icy rains, but now it is the end of winter and spring beckons. March is named after Mars who was the God of fertility and, by the end of the month, more and more of the summer flowering plants are pushing their way through the cold soil. Spring in our gardens is just around the corner.

Borders

March really is a month of preparation in your borders. You need to complete the pruning of all floribunda and hybrid tea roses by shortening last year's stems by half and cutting to just above a bud remembering that the bud should be in an outward facing direction. You need also to cut away the dead and

woody stems of your fuchsias, prune winter flowering jasmine and tie in new growth, and buddleia bushes can soon become woody if you do not prune them. March is a good time to cut back last year's growth to almost their base just above a bud of new growth. Finally, you should prune summer flowering clematis cutting just above a bud almost at soil level. If you did not sow your sweet peas last autumn, then now is a good time to sow them in deep pots.

Vegetables

The crops to sow now under cloches or directly outside include broad beans, peas, carrots, beetroot, spinach, Swiss chard, cabbage, cauliflower and turnips. I mentioned 'root trainers' (deep pots) last month and sometimes I use these for some of these

crops like beans, spinach and turnips to give them a good start. Also you might like to sow your peas in short lengths of plastic gutters to give them an early start. You also need to raise seedlings of tomatoes, peppers, chilli and leeks in the greenhouse or on a well lit window-sill.

General Tasks

Plants like delphinium are starting to shoot and this new growth needs to be protected from slug attack with copper-ring, or gravel barriers or some other means. If the soil is moist and frost-free you can prepare sites for sowing or turfing next month. Your winter-flowering heathers will now have finished flowering and will benefit from their annual trim. Finally you can start regular hoeing to remove any weed seedlings.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2011

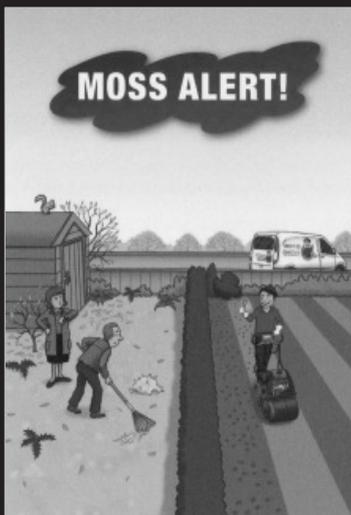
Stephen Reed, Durham County Council Planning Development Manager, had come to explain to Members and residents the planning procedures and issues raised by Parish Councils. He explained that the new Unitary Authority, having taken over 7 local authorities, were trying to keep a feel for local communities where planning is concerned. They are trying to be as open and transparent as possible when discussing issues for general or contentious planning applications. He works alongside Graham Reed, the County Strategy Officer and Stewart Timmus, Head of Planning. Although Consett handles most applications, those in the northern area go through the Northern Area Planning Committee. However there is a potential to use local offices. Mr Reed also explained about Parish Council rights and planning enforcement protocol. Members then asked various questions such as why the Parish Council's comments are not always taken into consideration when the County Council decisions are made, and whether there is a time

limit on demolition. Mr Reed replied that planning is not an exact science and that it depends on the condition of the building as to demolition enforcement. Cllr Johnson asked if the Village Design Statement would be retained as a supplementary document in future County Planning strategy and Mr Reed explained the County plan which includes training for Unitary Councillors. Mike Gladstone, on behalf of Lanchester Partnership, asked about the County's policy on affordable housing to which Mr Reed replied that it will be at least a year before it will be possible to formulate a policy. Cllr Bob Glass commented on the depth of the mineral strategy and the phenomenal amount of work which must have gone into its production. **Allotments Management Agreement.** As this expires in March, John Dixon, Secretary and Bob Gibbon, Treasurer, of the Allotment Association were present to discuss the renewal of the agreement and to request that the new tenancy be for 20 years instead of ten. Members agreed to

renew it for 20 years; 10 years is a very short time and in any case the lease could be terminated at any time. A 20-year term will enable grant aid to be applied for and Members agreed about the benefits of recreation, leisure and a healthy lifestyle. Cllr Harrison suggested that an annual report be given to the Parish Council and this was agreed. **Police Report.** The Police have now decided that no report will be presented at the Parish Council Meetings but they will be produced for the PACT Meetings, which means they will be about a month behind. Members commented that no-one attends the PACT meetings and that by no representative from the Police attending the Parish Council Meetings they miss out on local intelligence. Cllr Glass agreed to pass on to Dave Turner the Council's disappointment that neither a member of the Police nor even a report comes to the Parish Council Meetings and ask him to reconsider the situation. **Correspondence.** Lanchester Lions Carnival 2011. A letter has been received asking permission for this to take place on

Saturday 11th June 2011. This was agreed but the Lions were to be reminded about parking problems. LINK. The latest newsletter and information was received, along with a feedback form for evaluation; Cllr Mrs Gray offered to complete this. Buckingham Palace Garden Party. An invitation has been received and certain Members from the various Parish Councils in the County will be selected in a draw; Cllrs Jackson and Mrs Gray asked for their names to be 'put into the hat'. County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan. A document for consultation, which has to be returned by 17th February, is now available. Great Poppy Party Weekend. Details of this had been received from the British Legion and it was agreed that the information be handed over to the Lions for possible inclusion in their Carnival. County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services - Change

4 Life. Details of this initiative were discussed and it was agreed that they might also be included in the Carnival and also put in the Parish Council Newsletter. **Area Action Partnership and Parish Councils Committee.** Cllr Burton reported on the last meeting on 12th January, when the usual priorities had been discussed. These included Road Safety and Highways when feedback had been given on the use of the speed visors. They had been used 8 times in the Lanchester area between September and December. A decision on 40 small grants had been finalised; 6 of these were from Lanchester. PCC had discussed a report on speeding, winter maintenance and support for Burnhope where no snow clearing had been done. **Newsletter.** The latest edition, prepared by the Lead Officer, was shown to Members and approved, with the addition of the introduction and photographs of the newly-elected Councillors as well as a statement of the Returns, the percentage of voters and numbers.



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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2011 (continued)

Chairperson's Announcements. Cllr Johnson formally and warmly welcomed the two new Members, Malcolm Clarke and Alan Myers and suggested that photographs be taken after the Meeting for inclusion in the Newsletter and on the new website which had gone out the previous day.

Questions from Members. Reference was made to the response to the request to the Head Teacher of St Bede's School with the regard

to the parking of students' cars in the streets near the school. It appears that there has been an improvement in that there were no cars in the nearby residential area on the day of the Parish Council Meeting, but it was

agreed that a close watch be kept on the situation and that residents get in touch with Cllr Mrs Gray if the problem re-occurs.

Grass Cutting Contract. Members considered tenders received.

Date and Time of Next Meeting. This will be held at 7.15 pm on Tuesday 8th March in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester but it will be preceded by a Council Surgery from 6.30 pm to 7 pm when Councillors will be pleased to answer Residents' questions.

PARISH COUNCIL BY-ELECTION

At the Election for the Parish Council which was held on the Thursday the 3rd of February 2011, Malcolm Clarke and Alan Myers were duly elected to serve. The results were as follows:

Name	Party	Votes	Elected
BENNETT, Maureen	Independent	344	
CLARKE, Malcolm Andrew	Labour	473	YES
MULVIE, Catherine	Liberal Democrat	250	
MYERS, Alan	Labour	480	YES
REES, David	Liberal Democrat	252	

There was a turnout of 958 or 28.16%.

PROGRESS ON THE MALTON BRIDGE PROJECT



Work to date on the Malton Bridge project which began in January. Carrillion Construction are the contractors. They hope to finish the construction by the end of July/early August.

The bridge will be constructed on site, manufactured from steel beams on concrete, with stone cladding, incorporating a Badger Shelf and Bat Boxes. The lower and upper car parks will also be upgraded.

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FOOTBALL NEWS

After the extra long enforced break through December and January, the Cricket Club football team finally got some games in the past month. The first game was a 4-1 defeat at the hands of a very good Wickham side in a cup competition, but the lads were just glad to get back to playing. There then followed a league game against bottom of the league Dipton Rovers and the side racked up a comfortable 5-0 win. The downside was that they have probably lost forward Richard Pearce for the rest of the season with a broken leg. The upside saw the goal scoring debut of Connor Cruddace. After missing a week due to a frozen pitch, the most recent win saw the team progress to the semi finals of the Jack Grigg Memorial Trophy with a thrilling win over the Duke of Wellington from a higher division. Hot on the heels of Newcastle's dramatic come back the previous

day, the cricket club had their own version to celebrate. The side were caught out twice with long balls over the top and were punished both times, before Paul Smithson was on hand to halve the deficit with a close range effort. The Duke restored their two goal advantage before the interval but no heads went down and within a minute of the restart, Nathan Burnett had reduced the deficit again. The cricket club hammered away and levelled through Mark Charlton. The game was finely balanced and the Duke took the lead again with a fine goal that completed a hat trick for one of their forwards. Manager Steve Murray threw caution to the wind and the side levelled once more with two minutes to go, thanks to a fine strike by skipper Phil Bowes. A minute into injury time the crowd went wild as Paul Smithson made it 5-4, followed by a sixth as Nathan Burnett scored

from a tight angle. The ref even found enough time for the Duke to score

again, but finally the whistle went for a glorious 6-5 victory. The

next league game sees us entertain title rivals Washington Oasis.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Washington Oasis	13	10	3	0	58	22	33
Lanchester CC	9	9	0	0	46	13	27
Consett Demi	13	6	2	5	27	30	20

CRICKET EVENTS

Senior nets are underway at Consett Community College, check with the captains for times as they have varied. Cost £3 each. Junior coaching and nets are on a Friday night at Greencroft School 5.30-7 pm cost £2 each. The

under 13s are getting coaching sessions whilst the over 13s are in the nets. Newcomers welcome. It's a quiet time at the club as preparations for the season start. There is a race night for members on Saturday March 5th

starting at 7 pm to raise funds for the season. Cricket Force is set for April 9th when all players and members are asked to lend a hand in setting the club up for the new season with tidying and decorating.

THE VASELINE DIARIES (part 4)



The stunning Tintern Abbey, Wales

Twitter entry, day 4: Made it to Symons Yat. Have officially consumed twice body weight in wine gums.

Journal Entry 16th August

The award for best view goes to Tintern Abbey, Wales. After a spectacular 2m downhill stretch, the tree lined road opened up to reveal the abbey ruins in all their glory. We abandoned our bikes and stand in slack jawed awe!

17th August, 1130 am: Sick to death of punctures. Seven so far, three this morning. Haven't even set off from Symons Yat, 63 miles to get to Much Wenlock!

12.30 pm: Limped in to Ross on Wye and found a bike shop! In a puncture drunk frenzy I grab the

shop assistant by his lapels and beg him to help. He provides a 'Kevlar' lined tyre. I know Kevlar is used in bullet-proof jackets. Partially reassured I ask for more. Sensing a mug with money, the assistant directs me to buy a 'slime filled innertube,' explaining that if some armour piercing thorn did manage to get through and puncture the inner tube, the slime inside would instantly seal it. £40 later, I now have a VIP kidnap prevention proof back wheel.

9.45pm: Finally made it to Much Wenlock. Never been so glad to get anywhere. And made all the better by the welcome from friends - the Collins family recently displaced from Lanchester to Warwick!

Journal entry Thursday

19th August
Have taken a detour to visit Blackpool. Stuart is doing the ride in memory of his mum who passed away earlier this year from ovarian cancer. She lived in Blackpool and Stuart wanted to cycle along the sea front for her. After a long ride to get here, we both fall quiet, lost in our own thoughts. Stu of his mother, me of my cousin-in-law Simon who died so young after developing a brain tumor. I was cycling in his memory, raising money for Marie Curie and the hospice in Newcastle who cared for him. Under the shadow of the Tower, Stu and I shake hands and share a quiet look. We are doing the right thing. We will complete this. For them.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

These days we are bombarded with advice through the media of how to have a healthy lifestyle. Our EP school is always up to date in their awareness of the world around them and so it was no surprise that the week February 14th - 18th was called 'Healthy Living Week'. A special programme was devised on this theme, about how to eat healthily and stay healthy, how to look after themselves and keep themselves safe. A First-Aid Course was run for three afternoons by Des Black, Jackie Short and Brian Turnbull of The St John Ambulance. They are from the Durham Division and they very much enjoy going into schools. The course is

linked with the 'Duke of Edinburgh Award' so it is something valuable to have.

The first session, which I attended, the pupils were told and shown what to do if someone falls down and becomes unconscious. This could be a faint or a blow to the head, or something even more serious. If the person does not regain consciousness quickly then further help must be sought and an ambulance must be summoned. Meanwhile the person could be put into the recovery position and the pupils were shown how to do this. Then they got together in pairs and had to practise the recovery position on each other. Also included in this

session was what to do if someone chokes on food or some object. A video clip was shown to demonstrate this and Mr Turnbull also demonstrated what to do with the help of a pupil pretending to choke. The final piece of learning was what to do if someone has an asthma attack. The pupils were again shown the position to put the person in, in order to breathe more easily, before getting more help. The person may have an inhaler if he or she is asthmatic so be aware of that. The message from the session was that if in any doubt at all as to what to do when someone falls ill an ambulance must be summoned with a 999 call.

In Part 2 of this First Aid Course the pupils will learn how to deal with wounds, bleeding, fractures, burns and scalds and will be taught how to apply bandages. No doubt the teaching will be practical so it could be fun. The pupils may want to practise that skill on mums and dads, so beware!

In Part 3 of the course the lesson will be Resuscitation and the pupils will be practising on 'Dummies'. As you can see the course is very comprehensive and the knowledge gained will benefit the pupils enormously as they grow older.
Brenda Craddock



Pupils from Years 5 and 6 of the EP School practising First Aid

CONSERVATION GROUP IMPROVES PATHS

Those who ignored the weather forecast on Sunday 13th and made their way to Malton Picnic site for the Conservation Group meeting were rewarded by a day with no more than a short spell of drizzle and the satisfaction of helping to keep the paths open. We spent the morning clearing back encroaching branches and scrub from a path. A break

followed with the chance for a convivial chat. There were people from various groups in the village so we were able to catch up on what the Green and Locality Map Groups are doing about renewable energy - one working within the village and the other with farmers. We rounded off the day using 'filings' from the road work being carried out nearby

to improve the path surface. Altogether a worthwhile day was had with thanks to the Rangers from DCC.

The next opportunity to help is on Saturday 26th February at 9.45 am at the Malton reserve, contact Sue Charlton on 07585 001 355 or by email at sue.charlton@lanchesterparish.info for more details of this and future events.

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NATIONAL AWARD FOR HALL HILL FARM

Hall Hill Farm, near Lanchester, has scooped a national prize as the "Farm Attraction of the Year" beating stiff competition from scores of similar attractions across the United Kingdom. This is the second accolade in recent months for the farm as it was also named Best Tourism Experience of the Year at the 2010 North East England Tourism Awards. Hall Hill Farm, which employs up to 50 people, welcomes around 60,000

visitors every year attracted by the family fun on offer and the opportunities to see and touch animals at close quarters. Visitors can bottle feed lambs, see fluffy chicks, inquisitive goats, magnificent Highland Cattle and get close to children's favourites such as guinea pigs and rabbits,

as well as enjoy a tractor or donkey ride around the beautiful countryside. The farm, which opened in 1981, is very much a family business. Situated on a 291 hectare site near to Lanchester, Hall Hill Farm is owned by Jack & Pat Gibson, whose son David runs the working farm and livery and daughter Ann

Darlington manages the Visitor Enterprise. Hall Hill Farm will re-open for the new tourist season at half-term when it will be open to the public daily 10.30 am - 4.00 pm. From February to April it will be open to the public every weekend and after April it is open every day until the autumn.



Feeding alpaca at Hall Hill Farm

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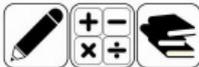
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RAGS TO RICHES

People often say that someone's trash is someone else's treasure, and the staff of Asda at Stanley have proved the truth of this. They searched their wardrobes and cupboards for old clothes that would normally have been thrown away, and donated them to Willow Burn Hospice, to be converted into cash. Representing Willow Burn's fund raising team, Helen Whaley, and Charity Shop manager Sheila Henry received the rag collection from Marsha Spence, events coordinator of the Asda branch. Asda have a well deserved reputation for their support of charities, primarily their "Tickled Pink" campaign for breast cancer research, and they have adopted Willow Burn as their chosen charity this year. A recent event was a staff quiz night, which raised over £70 for the

Hospice. The rag collection itself contributed £107 to the funds - an excellent effort! In these times when everyone must watch their expenses very carefully, there is a danger that charities lose out, and the supermarket chain are to be congratulated for their support, especially of Willow Burn, so valuable in our local community. The Hospice is using modern technology to help in fund raising, and

Helen Whaley, eBay fundraiser describes how supporters can now donate items to be sold online - good quality branded clothing, antiques and jewellery are all popular items, and people selling them can choose on their listings to donate a percentage of their profit to the Hospice. Helen can be contacted for more information on 07519 343173, or email hwhaley@willowburnhospice.org.uk.



Sheila Henry, Marsha Spence and Helen Whaley at the Willow Burn Rag Collection, Asda store, Stanley

THURSDAY CLUB NEW YEAR PARTY

This was celebrated in the small hall of the Community Centre on the third Thursday in January in the afternoon, which enabled all of our members to get there. We have decided as definite future policy to have November to February meetings in the afternoons and

avoid the need for cold, dark evening journeys. We feasted on a superb buffet lunch along with testing our brain power on a table quiz, after which we were entertained by the versatile Derwentside Singers. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.



The Derwentside Singers at the Thursday Club Party



Some of the Thursday Club members enjoying their New Year Party

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LADIES WHO LUNCH

On a beautiful sunny day in January we decided to head off for the Beamish Park Hotel just outside Stanley where we had our lunch in their lovely airy conservatory which catches all of the noon-day sun. Since we were last there they appear to have got some gorgeous contemporary new furnishings and curtains, there are always vases of stunningly arranged fresh flowers, add all that to attentive staff and a good choice menu and you're well set up for a very

pleasant lunch time. We sampled lemon chicken omelette with chips, smoked salmon and spring onion omelette and chips, slow roast mutton with colcannon mash and veg and tempura fish and chips with minted peas. For puds we had raspberry and lime leaf crème brûlée and sticky toffee pudding nicely rounded off with a good cup of coffee - a very tasty enjoyable meal. A really good start to the New Year - we look forward to a well fed 2011.

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LANCHESTER TIME BANK

With reference to the advertisement in our December issue about the Lanchester Time bank, the organisers held a session at the Community Centre on Saturday 12th February. Briefly, the idea is that people share their skills and help one another, accumulating credits for every hour used helping a fellow neighbour or villager. Those credits are then held by the Time Bank

for every hour worked. The list of skills is endless, but may include decorating, computer skills, gardening, ironing, cooking and so on. At the session to make people aware of this initiative there was a face painter present to attract families and to keep children occupied whilst the organisers, Chris Tindale and Ellena Coleman, dealt with those interested in the scheme. Seven residents registered for the scheme and there were several others who showed interest and took away the appropriate forms and leaflets. Other events will be held in the area in the near future.



Ellena Coleman (left), David and Rose Matthew, (centre) and Chris Tindale study the leaflets. David and Rose registered for the Lanchester Time Bank.

For further information please contact: Chris Tindale on 0191 3844801, email christindale.cvs@btconnect.com or Ellena Coleman who is based in Lanchester, on 07508281052.

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COUNTY DURHAM CRIME DOWN

Members of Durham Police Authority are pleased to confirm that County Durham remains one of the safest places in the Country to live. Crime across the Force area has fallen 12.4% between April and December 2010, compared to the same period the previous year. In real terms this equates to 3866 fewer victims of crime, this is the third best reduction nationally for all Forces.

Police performance was reviewed by the Police Authority at its meeting of the Effective Policing Delivery Committee on 3rd February. Some of the individual crime categories have seen some significant reductions. In particular the Force is performing extremely well in relation to vehicle crime with reductions of 25.7% over the same period and an increase in vehicle crime detection rates of 143.8%.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP OF THE MONTH

It's not rubbish, it's a resource. Mobile phones, computers, printer cartridges, clothes, books and even left-over paint can all find happy homes away from the landfill site. Charity organisations, internet auction sites and free exchange schemes like Freecycle or The Furniture Re-use Network are perfect for your unwanted items. Every time a donated item stops a new item being created, it can help save energy and tackle climate change.

MINERS' BANNER MAY RETURN

continued from back page

Following closure of Fenhall Drift the banner, being nearly new, was transferred to Thrislington Lodge at West Cornforth where the name "Thrislington" was added to it. It remained until the closure of that colliery in 1967.



By 1973 it was with Harton & Westoe who had their lodge name painted over the Fenhall Drift name and painted out "Lanchester". It attended the Centenary Durham Miners Gala in 1983 as Harton & Westoe.



In later years it was borrowed annually to attend the Gala with a white strip of cloth draped over the crossbar with "Thrislington" written on it (see picture at top of next column).

Finally a banner group was formed in Coxhoe and while they raised funds for a new banner, they used the Fenhall Drift Banner with "Coxhoe Drift" painted over "Harton & Westoe", although we don't have a picture of that.

When Coxhoe got their new banner, the Fenhall Drift banner was returned to the mining museum, and over the past few years it has seen many outings to banner displays around the county.

Last year Bob Ord, an amateur artist at Thornley who has painted the last 3 Thornley Banners and has done various paintwork repairs on other banners, re-painted "Fenhall Drift" and "Lanchester" on the banner so once again it looks the way it did when new.

The Miners' Hall has asked Colm Doyle of the Lanchester Partnership whether the residents of Lanchester would like to 'have the banner back' to keep on display in the village. It has also offered to help with fund raising - for some repairs that are needed, for a replica (to use on parades) and for a display case. The Parish Council supports the idea and is willing to help.

What do you think? Please email Colm on colm@colmdoyle.net or ring him on 528568.

Incidentally, there was also a banner for the Towneley Drift, but it hasn't been seen for about 10 years. Does anyone know where it is?

(With thanks to Roy Lambeth of the Red Hills Miners' Hall for much of the above information and the photos)

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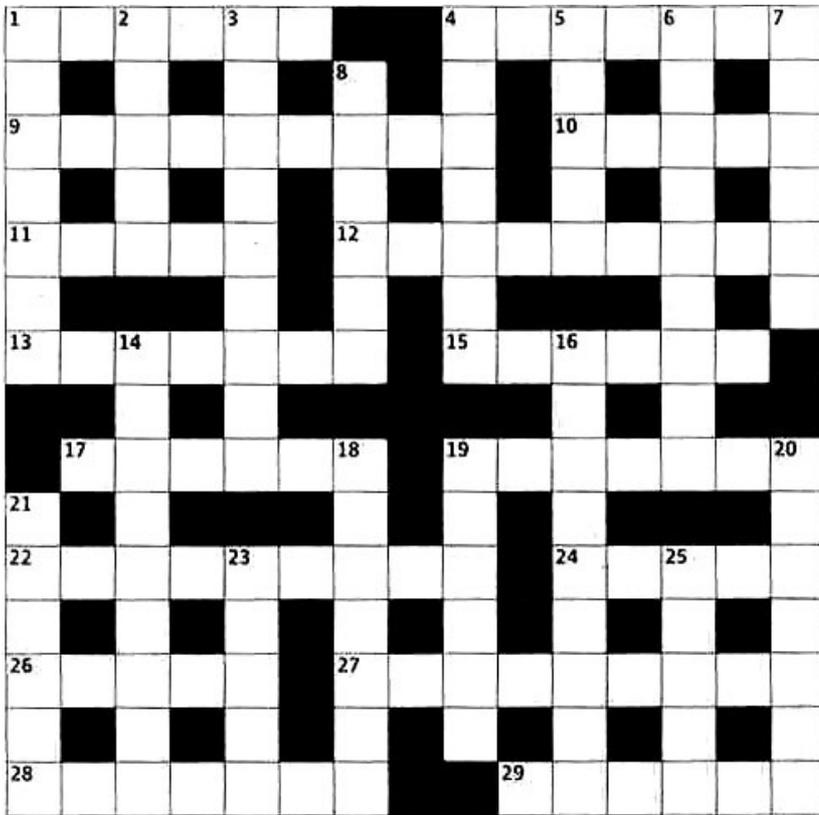
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CROSSWORD 58



ACROSS

1. Dog-daisy stems for arrangement (6)
4. Strong spiralling wind (7)
9. French wine making region (9)
10. Vex (5)
11. Opened (5)
12. Alter timer in dent damage (9)
13. Smoked herring (7)
15. T o n s o r i a l creation (6)
17. A m e r i c a n inventor (6)
19. Overexcited (5,2)
22. Sensible and is it clear? (9)
24. M u s i c a l instrument (5)
26. Make amends (5)
27. Where there is life on Earth (9)
28. NT elite produce sanction (7)

29. Expert in homespun ditties (6)

DOWN

1. Give in (7)
2. I leave radish to fragment (5)
3. Facilitates (9)
4. Fastest thing on four legs (7)
5. Italian island (5)
6. Penned ode is limitless (4-5)
7. Throws out (6)
8. Moroccan port scene of 1911 incident (6)
14. Misfit (3,3,3)
16. Spontaneous (9)
18. Worthy nob late for alteration (7)
19. Bully verbally (6)
20. Sharp (7)
21. Make (6)
23. *That is* (2,3)
25. Avarice (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 57

Across

9. iron oxide
10. ideal
11. heretic
12. amenity
13. addle
- 14,21 down erase with tipp-ex
16. great white shark
19. eider duck
21. tawny
22. compost
23. see 8 down
24. crass
25. on the take

DOWN

1. right-angle
2. porridge
3. Goethe
4. zinc
5. Bela Bartok
6. lifeless
7. Gemini
- 8,23 across play in panto
14. exhaustion
15. hokey cokey
17. tortoise
18. Aswan Dam
20. demean
21. See 14 across
22. cock
23. iota

Name _____

Address _____

Please send your entries (by deadline date on back page) to The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

CROSSWORD 57

There were 18 entries in last month's competition.

Congratulations to D Fraser of Lee Hill Court who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

Try your luck with 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.

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

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WI NEWS

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed everyone to our February meeting, Jean Forster gave the reading and Jennifer read out a thank you letter from Maureen Clarkson. Lists were on the table for:- Annual council meeting on the 12th April, Knitsley Farm visit on the 21st March, 9th of May meeting at Lanchester Garden Centre and Summer trip on Wednesday 29th of June to Rheged Centre, Dalemian Mansion and Pooley Bridge boarding the Ullswater 'Steamer' and sailing to Glenridding Pier where we will catch the coach home. The price is £21 and includes everything except refreshments and meals, £5 deposit now and balance by the 6th of June please.

Jennifer and June attended the first meeting of our new larger group and the next group meeting will take place in the Methodist Church Hall Consett on the 13th of September.

June Wallis won the raffle and the competition winners were Heather Muir and Maureen Heron.

Our speaker Margaret Beck spoke very openly

about her breast cancer and explained that 87% of women with breast cancer now go on to lead a normal life. She gives her talk to make ladies aware of how important it is that we go for breast screening. Margaret's talk was inspirational and her openness, love of life and sense of humour took the

fear out of an normally taboo subject.

Jennifer gave the vote of thanks and we then enjoyed a choice of two delicious soups made by June, stottie, shortbread and Ginger wine.

We had speakers from the Time Bank and we finished this very busy evening with a sales table.



Speaker Margaret Beck judging the Pink and Frivolous competition

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Fruit Cake for Mothering Sunday

Ingredients

6 ozs bought almond paste
12 ozs currants
4 ozs sultanas
3 ozs candied peel, chopped
8 ozs plain flour
pinch of salt
1 level tsp ground cinnamon
1 level tsp ground nutmeg
6 ozs butter or margarine
6 ozs castor sugar
3 eggs, beaten
milk to mix if necessary

Method

Line an 18cm (7 in) round cake tin with double layer

of greaseproof paper. Tie a double band of brown paper round the outside. Clean the fruit if necessary.

Roll out the almond paste into a round the size of the cake tin.

In a bowl mix together the prepared currants, sultanas and mixed peel. Sift the flour, salt and spices together onto a plate. In a large bowl cream the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Add the beaten eggs a little at a time, beating well after

each addition. Fold in half of the flour mixture using a metal spoon, then fold in the rest. Lastly fold in the fruit.

Put half of the mixture into the prepared tin, smooth and cover with the round of almond paste. Put the remaining cake mixture on top. Bake in the oven at 170C (gas 3) for about 1 hour, then lower the heat to 150C (gas 2) and bake for 2 more hours, until the cake is golden brown, firm to the touch and no longer 'sings'. Allow to cool in the tin.

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

Green Group Main Meeting

Sunday 27th February at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre, "Where to next?" Come with your ideas and suggestions to plan the next events for the green group.

Open House

All are welcome at the Chapter House on Thursday 3rd March. A sandwich lunch is served between 11.30 am and 1.00 pm.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The Annual Service for Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP) will be held on Friday, 4th March, in the Methodist Church, 2.00 - 3.00 pm. All ladies are welcome.

Lanchester Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 5th March, SONIA MICHELLE, One of Clubland's finest singers

Saturday 12th March, CONNOR, Knockout Male Vocal

Saturday 19th March, HAYLEY STORM, Stunning Young Vocalist

Saturday 26th March, CHRIS JAMES, Incredible and Classy Singer

Sunday Bridge

The next Bridge afternoon will be on Sunday 6th March in the Dining Room of the Community Centre at 2 pm. Price £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuit.

History Society

A History of Cumbria

Once again we are lucky to have the return of a well known speaker, Mr Philip Nixon, who will be remembered for his excellent talk on The History of The Border Reivers. He now returns to entertain the Society with a talk about the History of Cumbria. Philip's specialty is photography and his work has been published in numerous well known magazines, newspapers and calendars etc, all over the world. He is a respected raconteur and author with many historical books to his name. He also runs a wide variety of photographic courses throughout the county.

In his spare time, Philip is a steward and guide in Durham Cathedral, and his love of local history creates a great demand for his services all over the Country. It all bodes well for another special evening on Friday, 4th March in the Community Centre at the usual time of 7.30 pm.

Short Circuits Walks

5th March, 10.30 am, Newburn and Wylam circular, 6 miles. Meet at Newburn Visitors' Centre, NZ159656. A different stretch of the Tyne with woods, wildlife, local history and folklore.

19th March, 10.30 am, Waldrige Fell circular, 5 miles. Meet at Whitehills Public House car park, Waldrige Road, Chester le Street, NZ263506. Woodland and open country with spectacular views. Some stiles and inclines.

Paradiso Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday 6th March at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. Refreshments, raffle and a chance to see a film on the BIG SCREEN.

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI - Directed by Franco Zeffereilli, starring; Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright and Cher. It is Zeffereilli's attempt to explore Italy's fascist past. "A group of English women live a sheltered existence in Florence which they believe is guaranteed protection in a tea reception given by 'Il Duce'. However, the shifting political climate begins to have serious consequences for this unconventional community ..."

WI

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 7th March in the small hall of the Community Centre at 7.00 pm. The speaker will be Barry Peacock from Lanchester Dairies Ltd (this will include samples of ice cream) and the competition a dairy item. This will be a full and interesting evening and if you have been thinking of coming to join us why not come as a visitor, you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Mothers' Union

The March meeting is on the 9th - Ash Wednesday and is a Eucharist in Church followed by a short meeting. We will meet in the Chapter House and go into Church for 7.30 pm.

Lanchester Writers Group

This informal group meets in the library at 2.00 - 4.00 pm every Tuesday afternoon. Anyone interested in writing would be most welcome to attend.

WHAT'S ON?

Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 8th March at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, Michael Rogers of Durham Wildlife Trust will give a talk on 'Living Waterways'.

Junior Wildlife

On Sunday 6th March there will be a visit to Chapman Well. Meet in the Community Centre car park at 9.30 am.

Information Days for the deaf

Are you deaf or hard of hearing or do you have tinnitus? Do you know someone who is? If so, you are invited to come to the Library for a FREE information day to try out equipment that could help you, find out which services you are entitled to and learn how RNID can support you. The dates are March 17th, June 23rd, July 14th and October 10th, from 10.00 am to 12.00 midday. For more information please contact Jackie Clark 01670-513606 Email jackie.clark@rnid.org.uk

Flower Club

On Wednesday 23rd March at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, Marjorie Moore will give a demonstration entitled "Nature's Promise".

Christian Aid coffee/lunch

The Monday House Group is holding a coffee morning and soup/bread luncheon to raise funds for Christian Aid on Friday 25th March at the Methodist Church, starting at 10.30 am for coffee and lunches from 12 onwards. Please come along; we need your support.

Spring Concert

English Choral Classics
On Friday 11th March Lanchester and District Choral Society will present a programme of well-loved English choral music with guest soprano soloist Jessica Holmes. The programme will include Coleridge-Taylor's vivid setting of Longfellow's poem 'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast' with Richard Woods singing the tenor solo, as well as Vaughan Williams' beautiful arrangement of 'Serenade to Music'. Also featured will be music specifically written for coronations including Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' and Parry's anthem 'I Was Glad'. This glorious music will raise the roof of the Methodist Church and we look forward to seeing you there. Tickets are available from any society member or 01207 521458.

Grafting Day

Saturday 19th March, 10 am-3 pm, Shepherds Barns. Come for all or part of the day and help prepare 100 fruit trees ready for planting out next year in our community orchard. Bring a packed lunch.

Village Bus Anniversary Party

On April 7th, the Partnership will celebrate the 10th birthday of the Village Link Bus in the Social Club, from 11 am until 1 pm. There will be something to drink, a light buffet (including birthday cake) and a raffle. Everyone who has used the bus and everyone who hasn't is invited. There will be more information in next month's Village Voice but please put it in your diary now.

NEW YOGA CLASS

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www.laura-yoganortheast.co.uk

FREE Taster

Thursday
3rd March

6th Annual Litter Pick

The 6th annual litter-pick will take place on Saturday 26th March, from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. Please put it into your diaries.

Everyone can help on the day - if 100 people give ½ an hour or so each then that will be great! Please come to the village green to pick up litter-grabbers, black bags, etc. and to register. And please wear strong shoes, bright clothing and gloves.

There will be refreshments, badges, certificates and even a quiz! Children are especially welcome but we cannot provide supervisors to go out with them so they should come with families or in groups with adults.

The village is much cleaner than it has been in the past and we would like to thank all of you who regularly pick up litter - especially Dave Maddox, the Parish Council's handyman. However, there is always plenty to be found and every year so far we have completely filled the big skip.

If you know of any area that needs special attention please tell a member of the Partnership or ring Jill Gladstone on 528 114.

As usual, the litter-pick is being organised by the Lanchester Partnership and supported by the County and Parish Councils, Groundwork and Leaf. Councillor Johnson is kindly providing the skip.

Concert for Soloists

On Thursday 17th March there will be a short concert for more able and talented violinists from local schools. Mr Hartley an enthusiastic upper strings teacher from Durham Music Service has organised the concert taking place at Lanchester Methodist Church at 7 pm. Admission is free although there will be a retiring collection in aid of the church.

Mr Hartley believes that providing such an opportunity for soloists will facilitate his pupils' progress, as many are working towards Associated Board, GCSE, or A-level examinations. The experience will develop pupils' confidence and communication as performers as well as providing an opportunity to celebrate their achievement. Most of the musicians participating attend St Bede's, although there are also pupils from Lanchester EP and St Mary's RC Primary, Blackhill.

An eclectic programme will include favourites such as Brahms Hungarian Dance No 2, Bach Sonata No 2 for Violin and Harpsichord, Vivaldi Violin Concerto in A minor, Purcell Rondeau, Mancini "Moon River", as well as capturing the essence of tango with "La Cumparsita" by Rodriguez.

A new singing group for children

Margaret Dillon, a music teacher from Langley Park, is hoping to set up a singing group for children in the area. She has sung opera professionally and offers singing and piano lessons at her home, teaching on a 19th century Broadwood grand piano. However, she is very versatile and teaches all kinds of singing, including helping potential X Factor contestants.

Mrs Dillon is looking for children aged 7 to 10 to form the group. Any parents who are interested can call 0191 3739472 for further details.

Our picture, right, shows Music Teacher and Opera Singer, Margaret Dillon, at her 1840s Broadwood Grand Piano

Music Lessons

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Contact Margaret 0191 3739472



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MINERS' BANNER MAY RETURN



Did you know that there is a miners' banner for Fenhall Drift in the Red Hills Miners' Hall? And that it has had an interesting life?

The two sides are shown above. Fenhall Drift was driven by the National Coal Board in 1954 to maintain production

while bigger pits were being upgraded. It was driven to the Townley Seam but only operated for 9 years because the coal

was found to contain too much sulphur. The banner was made in 1960 and was unfurled in 1960 by the local vicar, the Rev W E Wright.

The illustrations on it were designed by Ernie Reay & George Thomas who were Lodge Members.

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VILLAGE BUS - RAFFLE OF PAINTING

The Lanchester Partnership has to raise £1,000 every month to pay for the Village Link Bus, but Lanchester people are very helpful - none more so than the bus passengers themselves who all make frequent voluntary donations. The Theatre Group, the Lions, Margaret Doyle and many others also contribute regularly. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the bus, local artist Dave

Anderson has very generously given a quite beautiful framed painting, titled "Calm", which the Partnership is raffling for the bus. Tickets cost £1 each and are available from Karin Bravington, Lyn Cassidy, Mike Gladstone, Fred Prophet (the bus driver) or any member of the Partnership.

Right: the painting, "Calm", by Dave Anderson



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NEXT

DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by 15th March. The deadline for **adverts** is 13th March.

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

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