

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 2 Volume 13

Lanchester, February 2012

For contact information, see page 2

## KUNG HEI FAT CHOI!

As we would say 'Happy New Year'!

On a freezing cold late afternoon, Saturday 28th January, Guang Cheng and Winnie Wu from The Golden Valley organised a celebration of Chinese New Year, which was on January 23rd, with a visit by the Newcastle based 'Oceans Apart Kung Fu Club', to perform the traditional 'Lion Dance'.

A large crowd had gathered and prior to the start Winnie gave out 'fortune cookies' to the onlookers. During the 25 minute performance the dancers used up a tremendous amount of energy with their enthusiasm, exuberance, exhilarating dancing and willingness to please the audience. It was exhaustive for the

dancers, who had already performed for four hours in Durham. A slick change of dancers wearing the same lion attire somewhat alleviated this problem for them.

The Lion constantly teased children and adults alike who were huddled together watching. The music was loud, vibrant and

repetitive, with cymbals, drums and a gong making up the band, but nevertheless, it was exciting, creating a good atmosphere, almost making people forget how cold it was. Hopefully, the music will manage to drive away any bad luck in 2012.

During the dance the 'Lion' devoured the lucky lettuce hanging from the

door of the 'Golden Valley' and scattered the leaves for those who wanted them, to bring good luck in the year of the Dragon.

It was good for Lanchester, particularly the children, to enjoy the culture of a different country especially as the event was presented in such a demonstrative professional way.



*The Lion, with band in the background teases the children in the crowd*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

See What's On?, pages 17-19, for details of these and other events

Prof David Bellamy to launch Lanchester wildlife booklet. Free event for all the family on 17th March.

Lanchester Heritage Walks to be launched on the Green on 31st March. Free guided walks.

Annual Village Litter Pick 24th March  
Help to keep our village environment clean.



# 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 Editor

Thank you very much for publishing the article concerning Lanchester Lions last month about their membership concerns and also help needed to ensure the work of the Lions continues to support the community of Lanchester. I regret to inform you that at their recent Club meeting of the Lions I had to report that not one telephone call had been received regarding enquiry for membership or help to assist at functions which was very disappointing.

Considering both the size of the village and the support Lanchester Lions has given to the community for over 40 years, it is very

disappointing to say the least.

Whilst we, the few remaining Lanchester Lions, consider the future I can confirm that it is our intention to hold a Lanchester Lions Carnival at the EP School on Saturday 19th May 2012 but at present cannot give any further commitments including the Fireworks Display with the current level of membership.

Brin Jones  
Lanchester Lions  
President 2011/12

## LOST RING

A small gold lady's wedding ring has been lost in the village during early/mid January. If the ring is found would the finder please contact 01207 521531.

## COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for January 2012 is 13. The draw was made by Mrs B Mead of the Thursday Art Group.

Just when you think you have the hang of it ...

I thought I was having a really good week in Parliament. I had been drawn out for Communities and Local Government questions and asked the Minister about the under-occupancy or 'bedroom tax' in the Welfare Reform Bill, which proposes to cut housing benefit for families deemed to have spare space in their homes and will affect up to 25% of tenants in parts of North West Durham. Later in the week I got the opportunity to ask the Justice Secretary a question about justice for prison officers assaulted by prisoners serving life sentences where the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) judge that as the prisoner is already on a life sentence it is not in the public interest to prosecute. This is something of real importance to many constituents given that

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

we have a lot of prison officers living and working in the area. I then found out that I had been pulled out of the draw for Business, Innovation and Skills questions on Thursday morning - on a roll I thought.

Thursday morning there I was in my place for my question, which was No 22 on the order paper so not likely to be called early, when right at the beginning of the session the Speaker called my name. He clearly thought I was 'standing' as I wanted to be called early when in fact I was not 'standing' but leaning forward to speak to Ian Wright, MP for Hartlepool who was sitting on the bench in front of me. Shocked at hearing my name called so early I jumped up and started to ask my question about the collapse in higher education applications but was ruled out of order as the question under discussion at that time was about red-tape

in business and my question must be linked to that. I thought I had lost my opportunity but later the Speaker took pity on me and invited me to ask my question on the back of another member's question about tuition fees. Lessons learnt today - do not fidget so much in the chamber.

We all feel a bit abashed when we do something that makes us feel a bit foolish in front of the class, the office or the Chamber even when in reality no-one else really notices or cares but I cheered up no end a bit later when a Tory MP called for a debate on cheese!

Pat Glass MP  
If you need to contact me on any issue of concern, then please write to me at Pat Glass MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, e-mail me at [pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk), or phone my office on 01207 501782.

## To contact the Village Voice

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

**By post:**  
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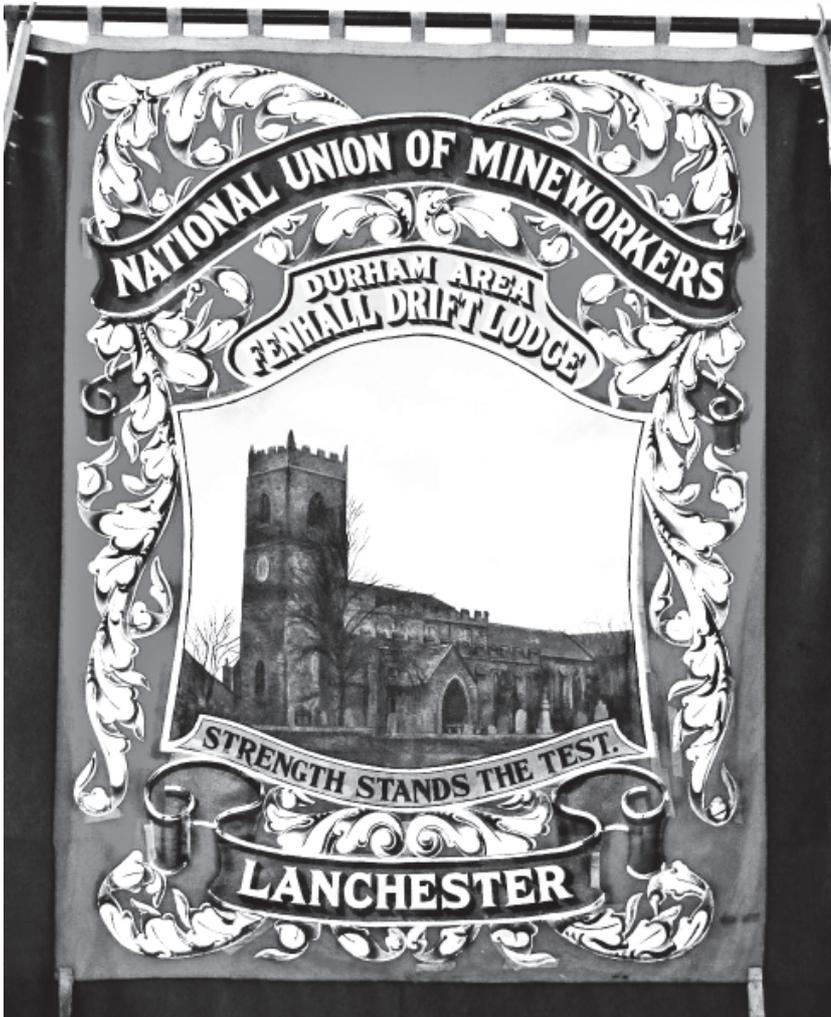
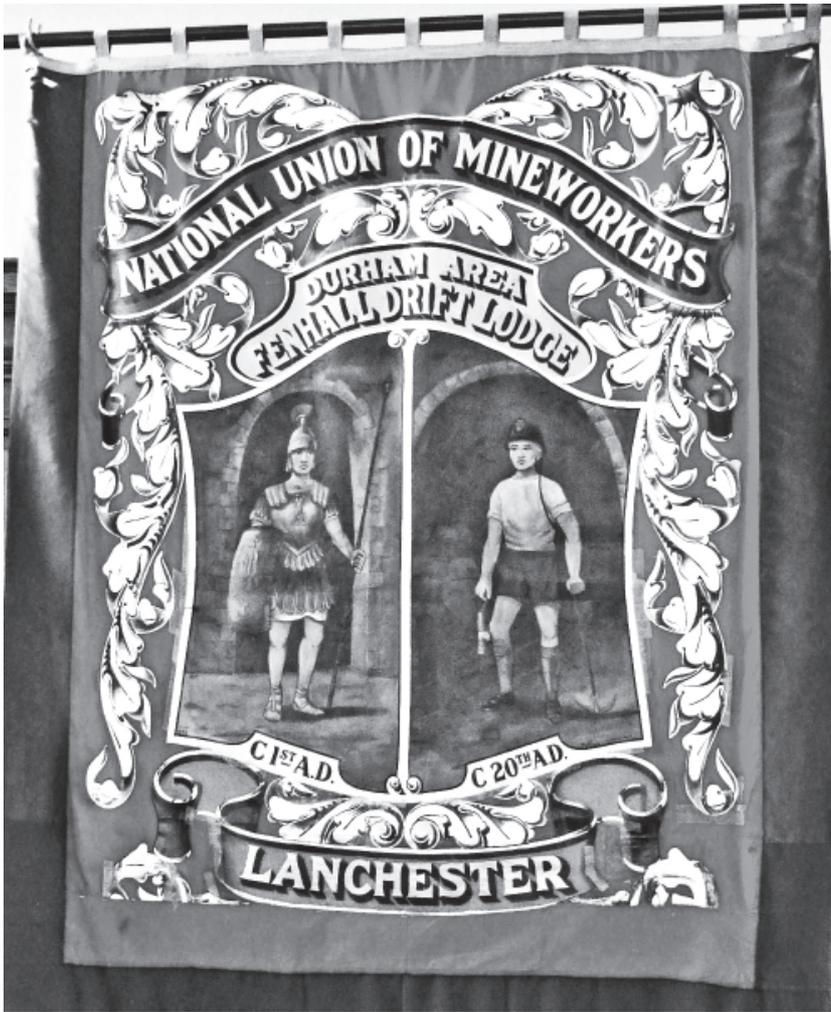
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# BRING BACK THE BANNER: A VILLAGE DIAMOND JUBILEE PROJECT?



Instead of buying the souvenir mugs and tea towels, why don't we residents of Lanchester and area club together to raise the funds necessary to restore the Fenhall Drift Banner so that it can return to the village? I think this would be an excellent and long lasting way to celebrate the Jubilee and preserve part of our history.

The Fenhall Drift in Lanchester was mined from 1954 until 1963 and the banner unfurled by the local vicar, the Rev W E Wright in 1960. In later years it was used by other mining communities with their name covering the word "Lanchester". The banner (pictured on the left) is now in the mining museum in Durham, in need of some repair.

At the time of going to press I have no further information about the cost involved, but questions are being asked behind the scenes. Watch this space!

Jill Ramsay (who will be pleased to receive any offers of help)  
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## A WINTER WEDDING



Sarah Austin arrives at Lanchester All Saints Parish Church with her father, Bill

On Sunday January 29th, Sarah Austin married Jay Stirk in Lanchester All Saints' Parish Church. Sarah is the daughter of Mr and Mrs William Austin of Lanchester Dairies, Upper Houses Farm, and Jay's father, Mr John Stirk, is from Iveston. Both Sarah and Jay were pupils at Lanchester EP School, Sarah then moving on to Greencroft Comprehensive, while Jay became a student at Durham Boys' School.

The bride and her father arrived at the

church in a very stylish Bentley Flying Spur. She looked beautiful in a simple, traditional dress of white satin with a flowing train. Her Chief Bridesmaid was her friend, Rachel Smith and Sarah's sisters Victoria and Jayne also attended her, with Mickii Thompson a charming flower girl. Their classic pastel dresses were complemented by white fur shrugs, a vital accessory for the chilly weather. Jay's friend John Appleby served as his best man, and

ushers were Christopher Austin, the bride's brother, Johnny Smith, and Murray Rowan. The Reverend Peter Sinclair conducted a warm, intimate service, and the reception, as well as the evening celebration, took place in the Beamish Park Hotel. Sarah's wish for a really wintry wedding was fulfilled, as a flurry of snow arrived at the end of the service! The happy couple will continue to live at Upper Houses Farm, after returning from honeymoon in Cumbria.

## SNOW PATROL HELPS HENRY DANCER DAYS

As a result of considerable coverage in the Journal newspaper, Henry Dancer Days was invited to collect at the Metro Arena in aid of the charity by the PA of the band Snow Patrol. We were also offered free tickets and had fantastic seats to watch the amazing concert. Armed with collecting buckets,

Lanchester supporters froze for nearly 3 hours in the venue's foyer as they collected an amazing £500 from the generous attenders for children with cancer. The band also kindly gave £208 meaning the evening raised a stunning £708. Three days later, a cheque for £1000 arrived from Cllrs Johnson and Young,

to support the community in fundraising further. It's been a wonderful week in aid of a fantastic cause. Thank you to all who have helped. Anyone who'd like to know more about the charity please see [www.henrydancerdays.co.uk](http://www.henrydancerdays.co.uk) See photo on opposite page

# SUCCESSFUL ART FUNDRAISER

The Community Centre on Saturday 4th February was the place to be for art lovers. On display in the main hall next to Country Markets who occupied the small hall, was a huge exhibition of water colour, pastel, and oil paintings. There were at least 900 on display produced by Charles Ketteridge, now aged 90 and in a care home in East Anglia. The art works covered a very wide range of subjects, far too many to catalogue here, but there was something to interest everyone. Charles became interested in drawing

through his career in the Civil Service as a Senior Assistant for the Meat Research Institute, where he was required to draw pieces of meat! This was during the 1950's. After retiring some 30 years ago Charles really became interested in art. It became his hobby for which he has an obvious natural talent and he was certainly prolific. Charles has produced an incredible number of works, probably in the region of 3000. As he is now in a care home, he has donated his works to various communities and charity

shops in places where he has lived previously and here in Lanchester to the Community Centre where his son-in-law, Peter Andrews, leads the Creative Writing Group. Although the exhibition was only on for a couple of hours the result was quite staggering with £160 in donations raised for the Community Centre. Thanks are due to Charles Ketteridge for his generosity and to Peter Andrews and his wife, Margaret, for choosing Lanchester Community Centre for the exhibition.



Left to right: Jane Pegram (Country Markets), Margaret Andrews, Peter Andrews, Betty Whaley and Jonathan Taylor admiring the works of Charles Ketteridge.



Lanchester supporters of Henry Dancer Days with their collecting buckets at the Metro Arena (story on opposite page)

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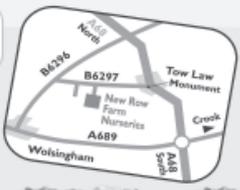
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# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 14th FEBRUARY 2012

The Meeting began with Members standing in silence for two minutes as a tribute to the late Frank Kemp. Chairman Ossie Johnson said that Mr Kemp and his wife Ann and family had always been very supportive of the Parish Council.

Cllr Johnson also welcomed visitors to the meeting, namely our MP Pat Glass, County Councillor Richard Young and Lanchester Partnership Chairman Mike Gladstone.

**Police Report.** See separately. Cllr Bob Glass pointed out the first item under Dwelling Burglaries, where two vehicles were stolen after the dwelling had been entered, while the occupiers were there, and the vehicle keys taken. He said it was most important that keys were kept locked in a safe place and out of the way.

**Walkabout.** Members agreed that Parish Council Members, together with County Council Members

and Officers should walk round the village on 25th April to identify any problems and find solutions.

**Correspondence**  
**Lanchester Agricultural Show.** Members discussed a letter received from the Show Committee and it was agreed that they should have a stall at the Show on Sunday, 1st July and invite the Friends of Longovicium, the Lanchester Partnership and other societies to join them. A rota will be set up for Members to attend.

**Bus Services in North West Durham.** The Lead Officer read a letter from Pat Glass MP in which she stated that the Friday and Saturday evening bus service from Lanchester to Consett is to be reinstated. This has been achieved through the donations of County Councillors Ossie Johnson and Richard Young who donated £2,400 each from their Neighbourhood fund. They are able to do this because it is a Pilot Study

for 12 months, when the use of the service will be assessed and analysed to see if it is justified. It is hoped that the neighbouring Parish Councils will get together to pay for a Sunday service to enable hospital visiting.

**Parish Paths Partnership Scheme** - to consider any public rights of way improvements. It was agreed that Cllr Keith Harrison and his group would support this and it is hoped that residents of the village will also make suggestions.

**'How to shape where you live: a guide to Neighbourhood Planning'**. The Lead officer showed this new publication to Members and said that she would produce more copies of this useful guide to distribute to Members.

**Durham County Council - changes to recycling and rubbish collections.** A new system will start in April and more information will be received later.

**Lanchester Allotments**

**Association.** Minutes of their AGM and a recent meeting were received.

**Lanchester Partnership.** It was agreed that the Partnership be allowed to use the village green for the annual litter pick, to be held on 24th March, from 10.30 am to 1 pm.

The findings from the consultation which took place last year on the Railway Paths Master Plan will be launched alongside the Litter Pick.

**Water running down Cadger Bank.** A letter was received from the County Council saying that the blockage causing this had been cleared and a camera survey would take place to see if the cause was tree root. Cllr Johnson said that the cameras were returning next month to survey other areas.

**Proposed changes to Traffic Regulation Orders.** These changes in the system of streamlining notification were considered.

**Durham County Council Library Strategy Document.** Changes in hours of opening of the County's libraries were given in this document. Lanchester opening hours will be reduced by only one hour to 20 hours per week, which means that **THE LIBRARY WILL NOT CLOSE.**

**Lynwood Care Centre.** Cllr Mike Wardle explained that finding funding for this project has been difficult but that Derwentside Homes have offered to do this. Mental Health Care is no longer involved in the scheme, which is a great loss, but this has freed space. The Rural Community Council have made enquiries and are exploring the possibility of moving

continued on next page

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continued from previous page

offices, meeting rooms etc from Park House, which has been offered to Derwentside Homes. It is now a complicated situation for the Community Interest Company, who are taking legal advice. Derwentside Carers would provide a support service. Cllr Bob Glass thanked Cllr Wardle for all the work he is doing for this project.

**Newsletter.** This was received and the Lead Officer thanked for the lovely work produced.

**Chairperson's Announcements.** Cllr Johnson commended the booklet 'Lanchester Wildlife which he described as a 'stunning document' and thanked Keith Harrison and his committee, Sue Charlton and the Lead Officer for her guidance and help; he said it is a tribute to the Wildlife Group. There will be a Launch Event for this and the Heritage Walks on 17th March.

**Questions from Members.** Cllr Harrison asked if it would be possible to get an oak tree to plant in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee from the trees which the Queen is donating to the Woodland Trust. The Lead Officer said she thinks those trees are to be planted in a specific place but that one of trees to be planted on the Green could be dedicated to the Queen.

Cllr Harrison also asked if anything could be done about the very wet conditions in the cemetery and it was agreed that a letter be sent to Durham County Council and that Cllr Johnson and Young would follow this up.

**Date of Next Meeting.** Tuesday, 13th March at 7.15 pm in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester.

# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 25th JANUARY 2012

## Planning Applications

Members considered the following applications:-

- i. Extension to side and rear at 3 Watling Way, Lanchester.
- ii. Erection of detached stone-built garage, incorporating ground source heat pump plant, at Woodlea, Lanchester.
- iii. Erection of microwind turbine mounted on 15m tower at West Biggen Farm, Hamsteels Lane.

**RESOLVED** - that Members raise no objection to these applications.

**Erection of extension to existing natural burials business** including new garaging workshops, showroom, entrance and reception, shower room, WC, store room, Chapel of Rest, and retention of temporary dwelling at Chapel View, Greenfield Burial Services, Millershill Lane, Knitsley. **RESOLVED** - that Members object to this development and raise the following issues:

- i. Members consider that the application moves the business from just greenfield burials to a full undertaking service and question if this is an appropriate location for a full undertaking service.
- ii. Members would ask that the proposal be thoroughly investigated for functional need.
- iii. Members raise concern that this is a substantial development out of proportion for the business and located in a rural area.

iv. Members would ask planners to consider the withdrawal of permitted development rights if the application is granted.

## Erection of farm workers dwelling at Greenwell Farm.

Members agreed that planning officers had taken into account the concerns and objections of Lanchester Parish Council.

**RECOMMENDED** - that a formal letter of thanks be sent to the County Council for the substantial work undertaken in connection with this application.

## DECISIONS OF THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

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

- \* Reduce in height by 50% of five conifer trees, cut back branches to one willow tree on neighbouring property at Beck View, Ford Road, Lanchester.
- \* Felling of one spruce tree, lowering of limbs of two pine trees and one spruce tree at 1 The Paddock, Lanchester.
- \* Installation of 91 PV panels on south elevation of Garden Centre's retail building at Lanchester Garden Centre, Bargate Bank, Leadgate.
- \* Single storey extension at Lee Hill Court, Lanchester.
- \* Orangery extension at Greystone, Crow Hall, Lanchester.

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# POLICE REPORT

Reporting period 28/12/2011 to 24/01/2012  
 Number of calls for area: 57  
 Alcohol seizures 0,  
 Burglaries 3 (vehicle keys and vehicles stolen; items taken from derelict building - offender using horse and cart arrested at scene), Bogus callers 0,  
 Anti-social behaviour/nuisance 3 (male arrested for being drunk and disorderly; male outside school suitably warned over his dog not being under control; complaint regarding van reversing near blind male - van driver traced and suitably spoken to),  
 Criminal damage/thefts 1 (window of council offices smashed)  
 Attendees at the January PACT meeting decided to change the PACT priority to the following:  
 Continuation of regular police patrols in the grounds of the former 6th form college, in particular evenings and weekends 8pm onwards.  
 Evidence of criminal damage and drug use. Ford Road (previous PACT priority) will continue to be given general attention by partner agencies.

## Important message from PCSO Vanessa Gray

There has been a recent increase in burglaries in the Lanchester area that involve the theft of the occupier's motor vehicle. This has included an unknown person(s) entering the dwelling whilst the occupants were watching TV. In light of these incidents, please can residents look at their house and make sure that their dwellings and vehicles are sufficiently secure. As previously

requested, Durham Constabulary would like to increase the amount of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) areas throughout County Durham. These are ideal ways of helping to protect the community, being a way of communicating necessary information amongst residents. Please can I ask that you, the reader, considers joining or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch in your area? Lanchester can benefit greatly from this. PCSO Vikki Ord is the NHW co-ordinator based at Consett who can be contacted to help you set up a scheme. Please ring the non emergency number 101 and ask to speak to Vikki or leave a message. Alternatively, please contact me, your local PCSO 6846 Vanessa

Gray, either whilst I am on patrol or leave a message at Consett Police Office. Please remember not to leave valuable items on display in your vehicle or through a window where they can be seen by a passer by; remove sat navs and their suckers from windscreens of vehicles (and the marks they make); make sure doors and windows in your dwellings are locked when out and whilst asleep; draw curtains and keep a light and/or radio on and that you regularly check and upgrade your security if necessary. If you are not sure what to do please ask me. I can also visit your dwelling at a time to suit you and give you some crime prevention advice. Thank you, PCSO 6846 GRAY.



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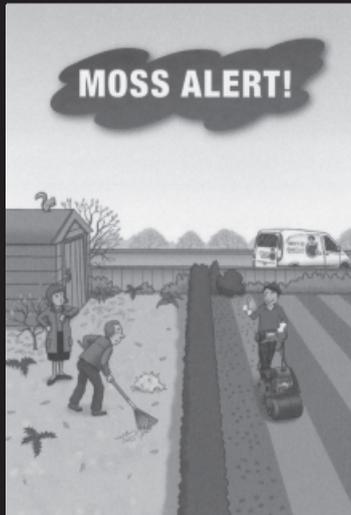


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# A WELCOME TO CROFT VIEW!

It's always a pleasure to welcome a new business venture to Lanchester. On January 14th, Simon Bennett Nagi opened his Croft View Podiatry and Chiropody Centre, offering a wide range of foot care treatments. Simon is returning to his roots. As a child, he lived in Lanchester, and his father is a well known local doctor. Simon attended school in Esh Winning and Durham, and now after graduating from University, he is looking forward to making Lanchester his home base. He became engaged to partner Jo

at Christmas. She is a PhD student at Durham University and is studying Geography and Health Inequalities. Simon aims to provide a valuable facility to local residents, enhancing health provision in our area. The Croft View practice will be open at regular, convenient times throughout the week, and on alternate Saturdays. Home visits are also offered and Simon will be available for an additional two days at Langley Park surgery. Contact details are: 01207 528 122/07927 184 426, email: croftviewpodiatry@hotmail.co.uk



Simon and Jo outside their Croft View Practice

A warm welcome to Simon and Jo, and much success to their new venture!

## Gardening in March

With both the days longer and warmer March should see bursts of colour from spring flowers. The month can be busy as there is plenty of pruning to be done and the first seeds of the year need sowing. Snowdrops are replaced by primulas and daffodils should be starting to appear everywhere.

### Borders

Old dahlias and begonias kept in store may be started into growth in warmth for planting out next month and it is now time to start propagating outdoor chrysanthemums by taking cuttings. Spring bulbs should be well established now. If you have clumps of them, divide them when the leaves die back and dead

head to ensure that their energy is conserved for next year. In terms of pruning cut back roses within four or five buds from the base and two to three buds of side growth not forgetting to remove dead and damaged stems.

To help flowering you can divide herbaceous perennials and replant the healthy parts in good soil. You might also lift and divide snowdrops, crocus and aconites.

### Vegetables

You can prepare your vegetable patch for sowing by removing weeds and applying a general purpose fertilizer. Also, you can warm your soil before sowing things like beetroot, leeks, broad beans, cabbage, peas, sprouts and

radishes which can all be sown in the ground this month.

Similarly, March is a good month to plant both onions and shallots and potatoes that have been chitted and showing shoots about half an inch long can also be planted.

### General

Even though your seed packets may say sow from March, be guided by both the weather and the soil conditions. If it is still cold or very wet, it will be better to wait a week or two rather than have your seeds rot in the ground.

If you have not sent your petrol mower for a service you can do it yourself by renewing the old spark plug with a new one, fitting a new air filter and draining and replacing the engine oil.

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# SKYDIVE FOR A NEW CANCER UNIT

Julie Fairhurst from Lanchester and Sharon Heron from Consett would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to everyone who supported them to raise an outstanding £5,295.70 to help create a new unit at the Newcastle Freeman Hospital for teenagers and young people with cancer.

Sisters Julie and Sharon received sponsors to carry out a tandem skydive from 10,000 feet on 16th October 2011, raising funds for the charity 'Help a Capital Child' through Capital FM. This was initiated following Sharon's daughter Jessica being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Thankfully Jessica's health is improving and she is clear from cancer. Martin Toole, a friend from Leadgate, also helped to arrange charity events to raise funds. Their brother Thomas Stamp from Consett and his band 'The Trojan

Eaters' provided the entertainment for a charity night along with a prize raffle with prizes kindly donated from local businesses and organisations. Thanks to Lanchester businesses, Valentino's and Lilydale Pet Supplies, who provided vouchers for the prize raffle. The total amount raised from these events was £1389.70.

They received donations from the staff at Maple Court Extra-Care Scheme in Consett, 'Go North East' and donations paid into the 'Just Giving' website page which totalled £460.

People were very kind sponsoring Julie and Sharon to take part in a skydive for this worthy cause. They collected money from people working for Gateshead Police, Frankland Prison, Durham County Council, St Bede's Catholic School, Lanchester EP School, Stanley Medical Centre, Hair by Peter in



The skydive charity night. Sharon and Julie with Martin Toole who arranged players for football, cricket and pool events and band members, brother Thomas Stamp, Dez Lartey, Steve Forrester and Ian Reah. In the centre the 'dalmatian' who attended the football and cricket matches giving balloons to the children.

Consett, 'Snippers' hairdressers in Consett, The British Legion, Maple Court, Intersnacks, Go North East, as well as friends from Lanchester and Consett and family members which gave them a total of £1723.00.

The girls are very grateful to John White and The Prison Service Charity Fund who kindly doubled the sponsor money of £1723 to give them a grand total of £3446 towards their final figure.



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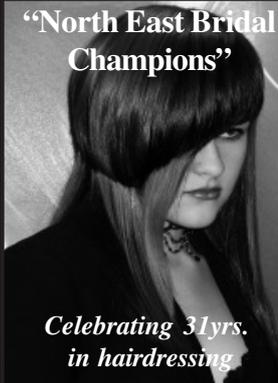
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Sat 29th April Holy Island & Seahouses £11.50

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## WALK THE WALK THE PORTUGUESE WAY

Between March 18th and March 29th I will be walking the "Camino" or "Way of St James", the medieval pilgrim's route to Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia, North West Spain. I, along with two of my oldest friends, Brian Convey formerly of Leadgate and now resident in Penrith and Michael McCarthy formerly of Lanchester, now of Coventry, will walk the one hundred and forty miles between Portugal and Spain which constitutes the "Portuguese Way". Along the route we will be celebrating our joint sixtieth birthdays, giving thanks for our current good health and good fortune, and wondering whether we will be able to endure ten days' close proximity without seriously injuring each other. For this

hazardous adventure, I am seeking some sponsorship for either of my two designated charities, namely MacMillan Cancer Relief and CAFOD, Catholic Aid for Overseas Development. Giving can be quite anonymous and painless. Just go online and google justgiving, or go to the sponsor a friend box and type in my name, press search and you will then have the option to donate to either of my two designated charities. The website is easy to follow and will be updated with photos as we progress. Choose either the Macmillan page or the CAFOD page. You can donate any sum (all will be welcome) or you can donate by making a cash donation by signing a sponsorship form at All Saints RC

Church, the GALLERY Coffee Shop or Lanchester Post Office. All monies donated will go in their entirety to either charity in question. As proof of completion we will have a "Pilgrim's Passport" which is signed and authenticated upon completion. I realise that money is very tight during our current recession but any donation, however small, will be very gratefully received. Thanks,  
Martin Matthews

## CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS



Lanchester Valley Conservation Volunteers and Durham WildLife Trust gather together under the guidance of Sue Charlton, at Malton Nature Reserve in appalling conditions, to spend something like five hours removing gorse to promote lowland growth.



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# NASA ASTRONAUT TOUCHES DOWN IN ST BEDE'S



Col Ron Garan with sixth formers at St Bede's

A NASA astronaut inspired students at St Bede's on January 26th as he revealed details about his life in outer space at the start of a two-day visit to the North East.

Flight engineer Colonel Ron Garan, who was selected by NASA in the year 2000 following a successful career in the US Airforce, visited St Bede's as part of a mission to encourage

youngsters to take up careers in science and engineering. Students watched a DVD film which documented the astronaut's life on board NASA's International

Space Station and featured some amazing footage of Earth before they got the chance to quiz him themselves. Colonel Garan said: "One of the main messages I want the children to take away is that anything is possible and that they can choose whatever career they want - no matter how out of reach that may seem to them at the time." The astronaut has taken part in four space walks totalling more than 27 hours in the hostile environment outside the space craft as well as being involved in the installation of major components of the International Space Station - which is as big as an American football field. Chris Saunders, head of science at St Bede's School, said: "Ron's visit makes science feel

more real to the children. They watch some science fiction programmes on television but this is about reality. Hopefully they'll think 'I can do that' rather than simply be an observer." Rob Burleigh, 17, who is studying physics, chemistry and maths A Levels at St Bede's, said: "He was really very inspirational and some of the pictures he showed were amazing. It just shows you what you can achieve. It's taken what we learn in the classroom from textbooks and given it real life perspective." Ross Williamson, 17, who is studying maths, further maths and physics, said: "It's great that you can see that careers like being an astronaut come from maths and science. The possibilities are endless."

## REDUNDANT - TRIG POINT IN LANCHESTER

Did you know that Lanchester has its own trig point? It is sited on Humber Hill (about a mile out of Lanchester on the hill behind Hollinside and Colepike Halls). It is part of a network of 6173

triangulation pillars used by the Ordnance Survey to accurately map the whole of the UK. But satellites can now do the job even more accurately so all those concrete trig points beloved by

walkers are now redundant. The oldest pillars date from 1935. Just think how much time and effort went into installing them in some very inhospitable places.

Our trig point (number TP4076 at a height of 886ft or 270m, map reference NZ 141465) can be visited by taking the public footpath from the end of Hollinside Terrace up the drive past the stunningly restored Hollinside Farm. You get a great 360 degree view of the area on a clear day. Not surprisingly there is a website that is dedicated to trig points at [www.trigpointinguk.com](http://www.trigpointinguk.com) Brian Naylor



The Trig Point on Humber Hill which is about a mile out of Lanchester on the hill behind Hollinside and Colepike Halls

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## WI REPORT

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed everyone before Maisie Raine shared a ghost story.

Ann Horner won the raffle; competition winners were Shirley Mair and Maureen Barker.

The coffee morning was discussed, and members were requested to please bring items for the stalls to the next meeting or on the Wednesday morning.

Lists are out for the AGM at Bishop Auckland on Tuesday the 1st of May, tickets priced at £5. April 24th, visit to Newcastle Radio £6.75 (money needed at the March meeting) going in by bus for 1.30 start and

cars were allocated for the Brancepeth visit.

Our speakers were Janet Ridley and Susan Jones from Willow Burn, they brought with them treasured gifts which are special to Willow Burn and called treasured as they give those who use them treasured "me" time.

Janet and Susan are dedicated to Willow Burn and the service it provides not only at the Hospice but in the wider community. Willow Burn has been here 23 years but has outgrown the old premises which is why new premises are being built. They also provide day care and at all times go that extra mile to make sure the

patient and family are supported as much as possible in the way which is right for them. They work on possibilities, on what can be done and 70% of people go home. Willow Burn gets 39% of its funding from government and the rest is fund raised. Local people and businesses are very supportive, the Elddis truck has raised over £50,000 and thousands are raised by local fundraising. This was an inspiring talk and Ann Carr gave the vote of thanks.

June Wallis had made delicious home made soup for the refreshments, members gave generously and £65 was donated.



*WI members Jannis Suddes, Michelle Hoult, Marjorie Raper and Maisie Raine buying treasured gifts from Willow Burn speakers Susan Jones and Janet Ridley.*

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# LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The two dozen or so members who braved the cold to attend the first meeting of the year, after the very enjoyable Christmas Dinner and New Year break, were in for a real treat on Friday, 3rd February. The speaker was J Michael Taylor from Ponteland, who is new to the Society.



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*J Michael Taylor from Ponteland poses for a photograph alongside a picture of Robert Stephenson who was the subject of his talk*

He had everyone enthralled by his talk entitled 'The Art of Robert Stephenson'. Mr Taylor is a founder member of the Robert Stephenson Trust, whose aim is to

make him famous again as he is, very sadly, overshadowed by his father George, the Railway King, and his very famous contemporaries, Brunel and Telford.

Mr Taylor illustrated his talk with pictures, music and videos illustrating some of the really wonderful bridges and tunnels constructed by Robert Stephenson and telling of his life, beginning with his humble beginnings in a cottage in Killingworth and ending with a picture of his grave in Westminster Abbey, when his funeral was

attended by many thousands of people.

Chairman, Mr John Thompson thanked Mr Taylor for all the research and effort he had put in to his talk, saying that it had been an education to learn so much about a man from the north-east who is often forgotten and that the Society would very much look forward to a future visit from Mr Taylor.

Next month's meeting on Friday 2nd March will be 'Exploring Durham History' by a regular, popular visitor, Philip Nixon. Everyone is welcome.

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## POLICING COUNCIL TAX FREEZE

Durham Police Authority has made the decision to freeze Council Tax for the second year running to the benefit of local people. Whilst Members deliberated over the difficulties of accepting the Government's offer of a grant which covers 2012/13 only, they determined that regard had to be made to the

difficult economic situation facing the council tax payers of County Durham. Although the Authority has been faced with identifying savings of approximately £7m in the next financial year, the main target has been to make these savings without diminishing service delivery.

# COUNTRY MARKET



*It's all smiles with the ladies whilst they are perusing the Craft Stall at the Country Markets, which was held on Saturday 4th February, in the Community Centre.*

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## LADIES WHO LUNCH

Well, we thought we'd start off the New Year in our own particular comfort zone - Bistro 21. If you haven't been yet, it's at Aykley Heads in Durham, no distance at all from Lanchester, only 10 minutes away. At this point in time, as well as the A La Carte, they have a Fixed Price menu of 2 courses for £15.50 or 3 courses for £18.00+ we had vouchers giving us £5 off everyone's meal, be it Fixed Price or A La Carte. We arrived to the usual warm welcome from the attentive staff, the restaurant was cozy and warm, and the tables were decked out for Spring with bright yellow daffodils - it looked lovely. We ate from the Fixed Price menu and sampled, for starters, a salad of beef, celeriac, apple, and pickled cauliflower, with parsnip crisps and a sherry vinaigrette - I have to say it both looked and tasted divine! For main course it was panfried salmon with parsnip puree, red wine shallots, crispy Parma ham, or minute steak with herb butter, rocket salad, and thin chips, or fishcakes with buttered spinach, parsley cream, and thin chips. Puds were white chocolate mousse with poached raspberries, or cinnamon pannacotta with a red wine coulis, or sticky date and orange pudding - and all of it, we all agreed, was quite lovely. The Bistro is an absolute delight and guaranteed to be good every time you go - that's why we and back ...

**The Gourmet Girls**

## Lanchester Wine Cellars



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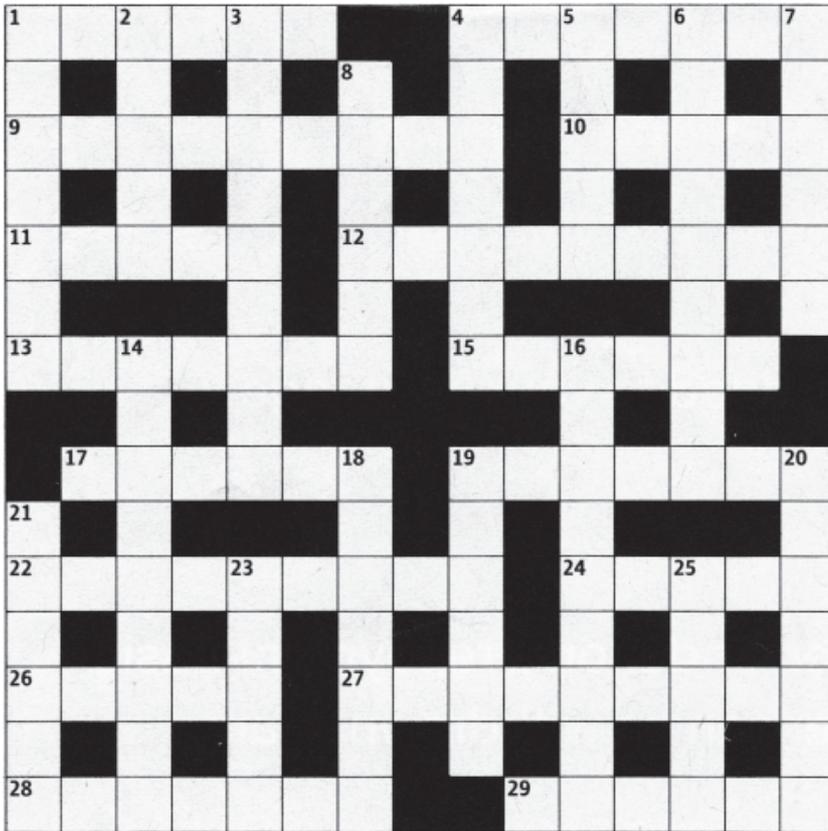


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# CROSSWORD 70



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## ACROSS

1. Oddball (6)
4. Course outlines (7)
9. Four-sided figure (9)
10. Stale (anag.) (5)
11. Stale (anag.) (5)
12. Target (fig.) (4,5)
13. "This sceptred isle" (7)
15. Withdraw what is said (6)
17. Catch yourself on! (4,2)
19. Undergarment for artists? (7)
22. Topple (9)
24. Stale (anag.) (5)
26. Stale (anag.) (5)
27. Inspiration (5-4)
28. Official obstructions (3-4)
29. Changed from accredited method (6)

## DOWN

1. Format is settled for artist (7)
2. Stale (anag.) (5)
3. Everyone's wish from a diet meal? (5,4)
4. An emir's period for discussion (7)
5. Stale (anag.) (3,2)
6. Superficially (2,1,6)
7. See 19 down
8. Course bridal expression (6)
14. Necropolis (9)
16. Subdued hundred hurry to short 29 (9)
18. Story (7)
- 19,7. Obey the instructions (2,4,2,4)
20. Postpone (7)
21. Delroy, the Tyrolean folksinger (6)
23. Stale (anag.) (5)
25. Stale (anag.) (5)

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 69

### ACROSS

9. idiom
10. grenadine
11. safety net
12. edict
13. gibbous
15. espouse
17. egg on
18. dub
20. amend
22. nemesis
25. obliged
26. E.coli
27. Neolithic
30. clientele
31. watts

### DOWN

1. kiss
2. Jiffy bag
3. smut
4. agonized
5. fettle
6. wake up call
7. milieu
- 8,29. test case
13. glean
14. omniscient
16. ended
19. blow over
21. egg white
23. myopic
24. singed
26. etch
28. Iowa
29. See 8

## CROSSWORD 69

There were just 13 entries in January's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Mr Ken Raper of Humberhill Drive 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.

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

# WHAT'S ON?

Continued from page 19

## Flower Club

On Wednesday 28th March at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, Margaret Earl will give a demonstration entitled "Elegance".

## PACT meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 28th March at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

## Look out for:

Information being delivered to residents and businesses in Lanchester about Flood Warnings Direct, what they are, why and how to register. Discuss preparing for flooding or other emergencies at an Information Event during Tuesday 3rd April in Lanchester Library. For more information please contact Karen Gibson, Community Flood Engagement Officer, Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU), Durham County Council, Tel: 01388824021, Mobile: 0777 5025 174, email: karen.gibson@durhamdarlingtonccu.gov.uk

## Knitted Bible Exhibition

The "Knitted Bible" is coming to Lanchester. An exhibition entitled "The Knitted Bible" will be held in Lanchester Methodist Church, from Tuesday 17th April, for 5 days. Admission is free.

The exhibition, on loan to us, by kind permission of Hartlepool United Reformed Church, comprises approximately 30 scenes from both the Old and New Testaments, ranging from Noah's Ark to the Easter story. All the figures, and some of the "props" have been hand knitted.

Exhibition visiting times are:

Tuesday 17th April and Friday 20th April: 10 am until 4 pm.

Wednesday 18th April: 10 am until 1 pm and then 6 pm until 8 pm.

Thursday 19th April and Saturday 21st April: 10 am until 1 pm.

Lanchester Methodist Church Wives and Friends Group very much look forward to welcoming you to share with us in this unique event.

## Invitation to Partnership Meeting

Everyone who is interested is invited to come along to the next Lanchester Partnership meeting, on Thursday March 15th at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre dining room. Over a glass of wine and some nibbles we will chat about how to make life, the universe and everything local a bit better. Topics will probably include the new community orchard and allotments, Lynwood House site, a proposed new survey of Roman remains, two contentious planning applications, transport issues, the Jubilee ....

## Charity Concert

Lanchester Male Voice Choir will present 'Back to the 60s' in Lanchester Methodist Church on 17th March, 7.30 pm. The choir will be accompanied by piano, guitar and drums. Jane Westwater is to be guest soloist. Proceeds are for The Bethany Haynes Fund. Tickets £5.00 from Choir members.

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## ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Country Captain

This tasty casserole is easy to make and is a family favourite of all ages. Serve with potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

1 Chicken (or joints)  
1 clove of garlic (optional)  
1 pepper - green or red (chopped)  
1 medium tin tomatoes  
2 teaspoons mustard  
Pinch of mixed herbs  
½ tsp paprika  
Small tsp curry powder  
50g/2ozs sultanas  
Few sprigs of parsley (chopped)  
1 large onion  
Salt and Pepper  
1 tbls flour

A little oil and butter for frying.  
Casserole dish.

### Method

1. Joint the chicken.
2. Mix the flour, salt and pepper and paprika together and roll the chicken joints in the mixture.
3. Using a frying pan saute in oil and butter to brown and place into a casserole dish.
4. Chop onion, garlic

- and pepper and fry until soft.
5. Add the tomatoes, herbs, curry powder, mustard, parsley and sultanas and mix together.
  6. Pour over the chicken pieces in the casserole.
  7. Place in a medium oven for one and a half hours. Cover for the first hour - remove cover for the last half hour.

## Open House Change of Date

There is no Open House on April 5th because this date is in Holy Week. The date has been moved back one week to March 29th. There is also an 'Open House' in March in its usual place on the first Thursday of the month, this being March 1st, 11.30 pm to 1.00 pm.

## Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer Service is an annual event in Lanchester. This has been the case for the past 40 years. The venue is one of our churches in the village in rotation ie Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic. This year the service will be in Lanchester Parish Church on Friday

March 2nd, from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm. A small choir is set up of members from our three churches and they lead the singing. Members of each church read passages from the Bible and other sources and there are appropriate prayers. There will be a short address, given this year by Reverend Jean Hudson, a retired Methodist Minister who lives in our village. She will be given a very warm welcome. Ladies from countries around the world take it in turn to write and prepare the service and this year it is the Christian Women of Malaysia who have prepared the service with the theme 'Let Justice Prevail'. The attendance is usually between 80 and 90 people but we were delighted last year when 102 ladies

attended. We hope for the same this year or even more! There is a cup of tea or coffee after the service when we can chat and get to know one another. Please, ladies from each of our churches, come and join us on 2nd March.  
Brenda Craddock

## Country Market

On Saturday 3rd March, 10 am-12 noon, come along to the Country Market in the Community Centre for your fresh produce, cakes, pies, jams, chutneys, eggs, plants, etc, and crafts.

## Junior Wildlife

The meeting on the 25th of March will be a visit to Waskerley. Meet at 9.45 am in the Community Centre car park.

# WHAT'S ON?

## Short Circuit Walks

3rd March, Wylam to Ryton, 5 miles. Meet in the public car park (meter) in Wylam near the War Memorial, NZ115646.

17 March, Durham and Houghall, 5.5 miles. Meet at east end of Framwellgate Bridge (advise use of Park and Ride), NZ273424.

31st March, Holywell Dene, 4.5 miles. Meet at roundabout in Hartley village, north of St Mary's Island on A193, NZ342758.

## Lanchester Social Club Entertainment

Sat 3rd March, Sonia Michelle

Sat 10th March, Garry James

Sat 17th March, Maggie May

Sat 24th March, Sonya

Sat 31st March, Mark Hodgson

## Paradiso Club Social

Refreshments, a Raffle and a Big Screen Film.

The next Social will be held on Sunday, March 4th in the Community Centre at 7.15pm-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.

That night will be the film 'THE CHANGELING', directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Angelina Jolie and John Malkovich in an unforgettable story.

Los Angeles, 1928. When single mother Christine Collins (Jolie) leaves for work, her son vanishes without a trace. Five months later, the police reunite mother and son; but he isn't her boy. Driven by one woman's relentless quest for the truth, the case exposes a world of corruption, captivates the public and changes LA forever. This emotionally gripping story illustrates the profound power of a mother's love.

## WI

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 5th March in the small hall of the Community Centre starting at 7 pm. Our speaker will be Joanne Wylde and her talk is "Wylde about Bears". The competition is a teddy bear.

If you would like to come along and spend the evening with us you can be sure of a friendly, interesting time. Age does not matter, our members are in their 30's upwards, so if you have been thinking of coming why not come as a visitor, you will be warmly welcomed.

## Yoga Classes

Shotley Bridge:	Wednesday	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Shotley Bridge:	Friday	9.30am - 11.00am
Lanchester:	Wednesday	9.30am - 11.00am

## Pregnancy Yoga

Shotley Bridge: Wednesday 6.00pm - 7.00pm  
followed by 1/2 hour tea & biscuits, a chance to get to know one another!

## Meditation Sessions

Shotley Bridge:	Tuesday	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Shotley Bridge:	Thursday	8.15pm - 9.15pm

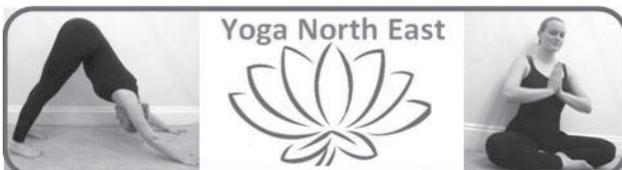
**All Classes are Suitable for Beginners**

Contact Laura at Yoga North East:

Tel: 01207 507 903 Mob: 07849 55 87 19

Email: [laura-yoga@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:laura-yoga@hotmail.co.uk)

Web: [www.laura-yoganortheast.co.uk](http://www.laura-yoganortheast.co.uk)



## Red Cross Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who attends the monthly coffee morning, but over the past year the number of people attending has fallen. The cakes and scones are made by the volunteers at their own expense with no support from the Red Cross.

As the money raised by the coffee mornings has fallen we have to decide whether to continue. We would really like to keep it going so please continue your support and bring along your friends.

Also we would like to let you know that the coffee room will be open with a variety of goods to buy throughout the month. Thank you for your continued support. Tracey Dobson.

## Local History Society

Friday 7th March in the Community Centre, an illustrated talk by Philip Nixon, 'Exploring Durham History'. Mr Nixon's interesting talks are always beautifully presented and illustrated. EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME.

## Lanchester Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 13th March at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre, Michael Rogers will give a talk on Streams and Waterways, especially in the Lanchester Valley.

## Mothers' Union

At the Mothers' Union meeting on Wednesday 14th March, at 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, the speaker will be the Bishop of Jarrow, the Right Reverend Mark Bryant.

## St Patrick's Ceilidh

On March 15th, All Saints is celebrating the feast of one of England's greatest Saints. This native of Cumberland (allegedly) has been the excuse for national holidays, green Guinness and universal merriment, and goes by the name of St Patrick of Ireland.

Please come and help enjoy celebrating his feast, with a Ceilidh at St Bede's, Lanchester, 7.30pm till 11.00pm. Music and entertainment will be provided by the excellent Steel String Band. Tickets are £5.00 for adults and £3.00 for children. All proceeds will be donated to Parish supported charities. Tickets are available from Lanchester Post Office, or direct from All Saints RC Church, or St Bede's.

## Willow Burn Events

St Patrick's Night, Saturday 17th March, 7pm. If you're Irish or Irish at heart, come along to enjoy an evening of Irish music and an Irish supper. Tickets from (01207) 523292.

King's Head, Lanchester Restaurant Night, Mon 19th March, 7 pm. Meet with friends and family to enjoy a 3 course meal whilst helping raise funds for the hospice. Tickets from Paul Jackson on (01207) 500463 or from Willow Burn on (01207) 523296.

Sponsored Spring Stroll (6-7 miles) Sunday 25th March, 10.15 am. Meet in Demesne Car Park, Wolsingham. A walk through countryside with a challenging walk to Tunstall Reservoir then back to the village. Entry fee £5. Sponsorship forms available from (01207) 523295.

Make a Will Month Solicitors across Derwentside will be waiving their fees in lieu of donations to Willow Burn, whilst helping clients ensure their future wishes.

## Lanchester Locality Map Launch Events

Come along and help us celebrate the new Wildlife Audit and Heritage Walks publications

### Lanchester Wildlife

An audit of the species of Lanchester Parish Saturday 17th March 11.00 am - 1.30 pm at Lanchester Social Club. Introduction by Professor David Bellamy OBE. Refreshments ~ wildlife displays ~ face painting ~ badge making ~ and lots more ... Bring the family to this FREE event.

### Lanchester Heritage Walks

Saturday 31st March 10.00 am, Lanchester Village Green (in inclement weather at Park House). Introduction by local historian John Gall. See the new walks leaflets and have some refreshments. Two FREE guided walks will leave the Village Green at 10.30 am (limited numbers). To attend these walks you must pre-book by contacting Sue on 07585 001355.

## Annual Village Litter Pick

The annual village litter pick (organised by the Partnership and supported by the Parish and County Councils) will be on Saturday March 24th. Please try to spare an hour between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm). Come along to the tent on the green. As usual there will be a County Council skip or trailer. Bags, litter-pickers, gloves and refreshments will be provided. Every year at least 100 people join in and pick up an amazing amount of litter, and each year there is noticeably less litter than the year before, so we are winning! Your help will be greatly appreciated.

**'What's On?' is continued on page 17**



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# LANCHESTER LIONS SUPPORT TENNIS CLUB

Following another successful year raising money for good causes, Lanchester Lions were delighted to assist Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club in their efforts to secure funding for new maintenance equipment

and the 2012 coaching programme. President Bryn Jones attended the coaching session on Monday 13th February in the Community Centre to present a cheque for £300, which was gratefully

accepted by club Treasurer, Pam Graham. Mr Jones said that he was pleased that the club was continuing to grow and provide the community with the opportunity to learn and play tennis. The club would like to

thank the Lions for their support. Apart from a head coach and two level two coaches, the club has been instrumental in three members obtaining their level one coaching badge. This provides the club

with a solid coaching base and enables a strong programme to be set up for 2012.

If anyone requires information about the tennis club, please call Secretary Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278.



*Lanchester Lions Club President, Brin Jones, presents a cheque for £300 to Tennis Club Treasurer, Pam Graham. In front, youngsters who are receiving regular coaching sessions at the Community Centre.*

## CRICKET CLUB NEWS

The club is starting to exit its Winter hibernation, preparing for a new season and raising the money to keep the teams going. The seniors have been netting on a Sunday afternoon at Consett Community Sports College since early January. The Junior nets started at Greencroft on Saturday mornings from 10-12. All newcomers are welcome. Cost is £2. The club collected nearly 13,000 Evening Chronicle wish tokens and would like to thank all those who contributed. We just have to wait now to see The Village Voice Page 20

what that equates to in cash terms. The club recently ran a quiz night that attracted nine teams. It's a general knowledge quiz and was well appreciated by those who came with another one planned for March 8th, 7.30 start. All comers welcome. Sat 4th February saw the club hold a cabaret night, with tablecloths, flowers and tea lights transforming the club into a very welcoming, sartorial place to be. The attendees were entertained by comedian Mike Hunt and singer Patrick Hibbert. It was a

great night which will hopefully be repeated soon. However the biggest laugh came when a follicly challenged man won a cut and blow-dry in the raffle. I'm sure his wife enjoyed the benefit of it! Watch out for a similar event in the future.

There is an 'All you can eat and drink' event set for 31st March, starting 8 pm. Tickets are £22, which may seem steep in these times, but you are guaranteed some great food and all your drinks paid for until 11 pm. Contact the club for details.

Finally, the club is always looking for sponsors, whether it is for a match ball or all the way up to sponsoring the professional, so if you are interested in helping the club out in any way then please get in touch, your help will be appreciated.

### NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 20th March. The deadline for **adverts** is 18th March.

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