

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 14

Lanchester, December 2013

For contact information, see page 2

NEW BRIGHT LIGHTS FOR THE GREEN



The big 'Switch On', left to right: Councillor Richard Young; Eva Caden-Lambert; Jonathan Bunting (All Saints School); Cristal Cheng; Thomas Barnaby (EP School) and Councillor Ossie Johnson.



The volunteers giving away refreshments

A cool but lovely evening brought a few hundred people to the Village Green for the now traditional 'Lights Switch On'. Everyone seemed to be in the Christmas spirit

enjoying wonderful renditions of carols from the Lanchester Brass Band, and the Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society. The latter were there for the first time. A gazebo had been erected staffed by volunteers giving away mulled wine, mince pies for adults with children enjoying juice, sweets and a lucky dip with prizes.

Just prior to the countdown for the actual 'Switch On' Councillor Ossie Johnson delivered a short speech explaining that the new energy efficient LED lights had been installed, replacing the old ones after 12 years. They really are literally brilliant!



The Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society sing their hearts out

***Continued
on page 4***



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





Dear Village....

**THE
VILLAGE
VOICE**

**IT'S ALL
ABOUT PEOPLE**

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

Dear Village Voice

My family and I would like to thank all our kind friends and neighbours who supported us in our recent sad bereavement and who sent flowers and cards of condolence, also the doctors and staff at Park House surgery for their kind attention to my late husband Jim.

Sincerely

Edith Dougan and family

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for November 2013 is 50. The draw was made by Thelma Lovett of the Thursday Art Club.

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise:

Contact John Hurren, Advertising Manager
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By email:

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

By post:

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

LIONS TO START AGAIN?

The recent closure of Lanchester Lions Club came as a shock to many local people. It had served the community since 1967 by organising numerous events and in that time had distributed many thousands of pounds to local organisations and good causes. Since then, a number of residents have asked 'Is there no chance of the club starting up again?'

This plea came to notice of Durham Lions Club member, Mary Pearce, who in turn brought it to the attention of her Club and other Lions officers.

The possibility could not be ignored and recently Mary hosted a meeting at her house just outside Lanchester, bringing together various Lions from throughout the Region.

Preliminary plans have been discussed and it is intended to hold a public meeting early next year. It is hoped that arising from that meeting a new Lanchester and District Lions Club can be formed.

Membership of the new Club will be open to anyone - male or female, young or old - who genuinely wants to help others, enjoy the social aspect and

put something back into their community. Mary and her team hope that readers of The Village Voice will show an interest in forming a new Lions Club as a way of supporting the local community. For more details, please contact Mary Pearce on 0191 3735076 who will, in due course, keep you informed about the proposed public meeting.



Meet the Lions who want to help get a new Lanchester & District Club formed

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WILDLIFE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Lanchester Wildlife Group celebrated their 30th birthday with a super cake and buffet following their AGM on Tuesday 10th December.

EP SCHOOL ENTERTAINS SHOPPERS



The Lanchester EP School Choir sang a lovely rendition of carols and Christmas songs, at Tesco's new store in Consett, accompanied by Mr Johnson on guitar with Mrs Davis, Head Teacher and Mrs Marklew, Business Manager, all helping. Money raised in just an hour was £112.50 which will go towards funding the new MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) area in the school.

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NEW BRIGHT LIGHTS FOR THE GREEN

Continued from page 1

He thanked the volunteers who had helped on the night and congratulated the children who had been selected from the two primary schools - from All Saints, Eva Caden-Lambert and Jonathan Bunting, and from the EP School, Thomas Barnaby and Cristal Cheng. He also explained that the Parish Council wished to celebrate the installation of new lights with the



Lanchester Brass Band play with such enthusiasm



Members of the public thoroughly enjoying the night

community in County Councillors' Lanchester and funding Neighbourhood Budget had come from our Fund.

Many people have enjoyed this very well organised Christmas event. success and their

GUIDE DOGS CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



Echo (back to the camera) supervising his friends and Canon Spence

An unusual event was held on Saturday 7th December. Echo the Guide Dog and his attendants Gerry and Ann Taylor organised a Carol Service for all his friends, both two and four legged. Canon Spence, who had sacrificed the opportunity to watch Newcastle beat Manchester United, welcomed everyone to All Saints Catholic Church. The choir led the congregation in traditional Christmas carols, interspersed with readings which were not quite so traditional: the poem 'In the Beginning' when God named the animals; a new Christmas fable specially written by Michael Quigley, telling of the part played in the Christmas story by the sheep dog; and finally the traditional Christmas story as told by Luke. Then Canon Spence led the congregation in prayer before the final carol. Afterwards Canon Spence on Echo's behalf invited everyone for refreshments in the Parish Centre where £175 was raised for Guide Dogs for the Blind. All passed off peacefully and harmoniously.

WALKERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Members of the Lanchester Mid Week Walking group enjoy a Christmas lunch at the King's Head, no doubt hoping the calories come off when they next walk together after Christmas.

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STORM DAMAGE 5th December

Delays were caused to traffic by the high winds blowing down trees on main routes to and from the village on the morning of Thursday 5th December.



Maiden Law Bank near Ornsby Hill was closed for a time while this fallen tree was removed.



Tree surgeons working to clear Peth Bank near the junction to Deanery View



This shed was uprooted from its base at Margery Flatts, lifted over a hedge and ended up in the nearby field.

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REPLICA BANNER RETURNS

The first meeting of Devenport and Kate Lanchester Miners' Stockwell, two Banner Group took place experienced conservators were on 12th July 2012. Since then the group has met on appointed to undertake 12 occasions to progress the necessary works to the Fenhall Drift project. The banner is currently away undergoing repairs. The group has secured £24,704 to develop the project. The majority of Durham Bannermakers were appointed to produce a replica banner. Work began on the banner in the summer of 2013 and was completed at the end of November. The banner has been delivered to Lanchester and is currently hanging at Park House.

- Conservation repairs to the original banner
- Production of a replica banner
- Banner and dance workshops in the local 4 schools
- School and community information packs
- Celebration event

Over the past year substantial progress has been made across all elements of the project. Advice on the conservation works necessary to the original banner was sought. Jim



The reverse of the replica banner, finished in November 2013.



The replica banner arrives home at Park House. Members of the Committee who achieved this are: Aubrey O'Brien; Beth Meggeson; Colin Burton; Peter Smith; Mavis Datta; Jill Ramsey; Kevin O'Leary; Karen McKenna; John Gall; Sally Laverick; Mike Gladstone and Ossie Johnson.

Durham Bannermakers are also working with all 4 local schools on banner workshops which will run from October 2013 until May 2014.

Aubrey O'Brien, a local resident and nationally acclaimed Rapper Dancer

has agreed to facilitate dance workshops.

Information is being gathered to produce a school information pack and a community leaflet.

A celebration event has been arranged for Friday 27th June 2014. The event

will include a parade of the replica banner through the village, dance and music demonstrations and refreshments. All four schools will be taking part in this large community celebration.

LANCHESTER BRASS BAND GRAND CONCERT

The evening of December 4th was described by numerous people as being a 'wonderful evening'. Well, all those who participated would say they aimed to please and that they certainly did. Mr Lewis Wilkinson, who is an excellent musician, conducted the band, and compered the evening. His enthusiasm and love of music enriched the evening and the band certainly enjoyed playing to such a large

appreciative audience. There were several solo items too. Freya Kalus, another talented young person played a solo on her oboe accompanied in one piece by a gentle background of brass and it was all excellent. Miss Rebecca Davis, daughter of Mrs Jane Davis, sang several beautiful songs. The concert was a fund raising event for 'The Children's Society' and so it was fitting for children to be part of the programme and nine

members of the EP School Choir took part and sang a medley of delightful songs. They also joined in enthusiastically when the audience participated with well known carols and were a great help with 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'!

Thank you to everyone who came and participated in the concert and contributed to the £500+ raised. We will be back next year so watch this space.

Brenda Craddock

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Children from the EP school choir who sang at the Brass Band concert



BOYS' BRIGADE PRESIDENT'S AWARDS



Four young men from the Lanchester Company received their President's Award on Sunday 24th November. The awards were presented by Jane Nattrass to (from left to right) Harry Carson, Joe Hume, Jack Hume and Cameron Hume at the annual enrolment service. The badge is the second highest award to be obtained in the Boys' Brigade and the four young men will now start working towards their Queen's Badge.

THE LOST WORLD North Country Theatre

How much would it cost to make a film of Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*? Millions of dollars no doubt. Who other than Nobby Dimon would attempt to bring it to stage in our village community centre with only four actors. What a triumph. The play was reminiscent of Nobby's great success - *The 39 Steps* - that went from Lanchester to London and New York and won awards in both cities. Audience participation was solicited in a friendly way to create the atmosphere of a Victorian science lecture before we

were transported by the magic of our imagination to a lost world on a high plateau in the Amazon jungle. Prehistoric creatures flew in the skies, monsters (with Yorkshire ascents) roamed, apes tried to kill the intrepid explorers, one explorer somehow managed to swim underwater in a tropical lake. Eventually they escaped in a hydrogen balloon made from the stomach of a prehistoric creature. Unbelievable? Yes of course, but for one superb evening Nobby took us into an amazing world of fantasy.



Patrick Burton and Dominic Goodwin with Nobby Dimon take their bows after a superb performance

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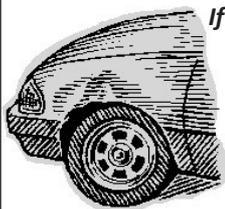
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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2013

Minutes

Ordinary meeting held on 12th November 2013 - approved.

Planning meeting held on 13th November 2013 - approved.

Finance, Development & General Purposes meeting held on 27th November 2013 - approved.

Police Report - for the period 23rd October - 27th November was discussed. The Neighbourhood Warden report for October was received.

Correspondence

Durham Community Action - notice had been given to the Parish Council to vacate their office.

Durham County Council - Environment Awards 2013 - a photo of the awards ceremony had been received.

County Durham Association of Local

Councils - funding for secretariat - information was received on the removal of funding for this post from the County Council.

Durham County Council - Finance, Development & General Purposes meeting held on 27th November 2013 - approved. Although supportive of flood reduction measures, a response is to be sent to the County Council asking if all other possibilities have been explored and whether options have been discussed with the landlord and tenant.

Area Action Partnership & Parish Councils Committee - Members received an update on recent meetings. Correspondence is to be sent to the AAP asking for

an update on the unfinished Gateway project.

Training - Approval was given for attendance on the 'Data Protection & Freedom of Information Act' course and the 'Lone Workers' course.

Newbiggen Lane - new ramp - members were informed that additional works had been undertaken and the road was now re-opened.

Planning Application - members considered planning application 1/2013/0581 and made a response.

Financial report - discussed and received.

Accounts for Payment - approved.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 14th January 2014 at 7.15 pm.

POLICE REPORT

The last Lanchester PACT meeting took place on Wednesday 27th November.

We have had three successful alcohol seizures on the evening of the Lanchester Bonfire and Firework Display. On these occasions youths aged under 18 years old were found in possession of alcohol which was seized by officers and poured away.

On the same evening officers also successfully seized approximately £60 worth of fireworks from youths on the Lanchester Valley Walk.

Officers have also actively targeted the area of Humberhill Drive following reports of youths causing a regular nuisance on the estate. After working with local residents we were able to identify the group of youths responsible who

were all spoken to in front of their parents and will be receiving warning letters from the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

The community decided to introduce speeding on Durham Road and Ford Road as the new PACT priority for the area. This was due to concerns that those commuting to and from Durham were travelling above the 30mph speed limit. In response to these concerns, local officers and the Road Policing Unit will be actively targeting the area to identify offending drivers.

A positive news story for this month was a roadside stop on a vehicle on the A691 at the end of October where the male driver was caught drink driving. On Thursday 7th November the offending driver appeared at court

and pleaded guilty to drink driving and received £350 worth of fines and 17 months disqualified from driving.

The next PACT meeting will take place on Wednesday 22nd January 2014 at 7.15 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. Anyone with any problems or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact PCSO Lisa Jackson on 101.

Stolen Lions

Stolen from a rear garden of a house on Durham Road during the week ending Friday 6th December, two stone Lions, a matching pair in the prone position. If you have any information about their whereabouts please contact Durham Police on 101. The crime number is W11301875 and the officer dealing is PC 1161 Alan Patterson.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

In mid-December Parliament set aside time to pay tribute to Nelson Mandela the former President of South Africa. Parliament does periodically set aside to pay tribute to former UK Prime Ministers or Monarchs but rarely, if ever, does it set aside parliamentary time to pay tribute to a leader from another country. Nelson Mandela is the exception in so many ways. Whilst the great and the good were called to speak it was clear that new, backbench MPs like me were unlikely to be called so I want to pay tribute, in my own way, to the man for whom the campaign for his release from jail was the backdrop to my own youth.

The anti-apartheid campaign and Nelson Mandela politicised me and thousands of young people like me. I knew that apartheid was

immoral and went against all of the Christian teaching that I had grown up with and even though it was taking place on a different continent and in a different culture I knew it was wrong and wanted to do something, however small, to change it.

I, like so many others, took part in marches calling for sanctions against South Africa. I refused to buy South African apples and oranges. I boycotted firms and banks with South African interests. I stood outside South Africa House holding a candle on all night vigils and along with thousands of other young people I attended rock concerts, all in the name of Mandela. It was not all hard work and hard marching, I also did my fair share of dancing to free Mandela. I will never forget how I felt the day he was released

because however small and significant I had done my bit to bring down an immoral and unjust system.

I do not regret that last week a 95 year old man died and is no longer sick and in pain but I do mourn the passing of a man of great courage and leadership who personally suffered so much for what he believed in and whose lack of recriminations was able to take his country through a peaceful transition to majority rule. Mandela was the man who brought thousands like me into community activism and who showed us that politics, however flawed, is still able to change the world. I want to take this opportunity to wish all my constituents in Lanchester a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Pat Glass MP

WORRIED ABOUT HEATING YOUR HOME THIS WINTER?

Struggling with bills?

County Durham Hotspots can help ...

With energy prices rising, we understand that it can be difficult to heat your home during the winter months. In addition, more and more people are struggling to understand their energy bills with so many tariffs available and applying for discounts can be confusing. Furthermore, living in a cold or damp home can have serious impacts on your health, especially if you have a long-term illness such as COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) or heart disease.

County Durham Hotspots is a project funded by Durham County Council and we work with a range of partner agencies to offer advice and support to ensure that residents can access the help they need to stay warm, healthy and safe in their homes. Whether it's advice on how to use heating controls, heating or insulation grants, fuel tariff switching help, benefits advice or support with fuel debt we can help! Hotspots has been running since 2008, but

as of this year we are now working with the Prince Bishops Community Bank and other partners to offer FREE home visits to help residents manage their money better and save on energy costs. Funding for the home visits has been provided by Comic Relief and all County Durham residents are eligible, subject to capacity. Call the Hotspots Team FREE on 0800 124 4320 to make an appointment for a home visit or for help and advice over the phone.

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CHRISTMAS: A TIME OF GIVING AT ST BEDE'S

Students at St Bede's have been really embracing the true meaning of Christmas by supporting two charitable campaigns that will help those most in need.

Year 11 students have shown great commitment to the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal; a worthy cause which the school supports every year. They have been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown towards helping children in need and were delighted to reach a new school record for their shoe box collection. At the end of their campaign, 308 boxes were packed into a van destined for the Ukraine, where they will be given as gifts to children this Christmas. Students in St Bede's Youth, Justice and Peace Group have also been busy supporting the work of Food4U and the food

bank at Consett in particular. As part of their 'Feed Just One' Campaign, the students have been encouraging their peers, families, and parishioners to donate items of food to help transform Christmas for those who are struggling in our community.

The students launched their Feed Just One event at the beginning of December. They worked with Year 5 pupils from feeder primary schools, to create a film to help spread the campaign's message even further. The response has been quite remarkable with Food4U donations still streaming into the school.

It can be easy to lose sight of what is really important in the run up to the busy festive period, but the dedication shown by the students at St Bede's is a wonderful reminder of the true message of Christmas.



Students from St Bede's with just some of the shoeboxes that will be heading to the Ukraine this Christmas.

PARISH CHURCH FAIR

Smiles, friendly chatter and good humour, a sense of purpose and busyness, various rustling noises and knocks getting stalls ready, plenty of things to sell, very attractive stalls full of colour and things to buy and you have the ingredients of a good Christmas Fair.

On the last day of November this could be applied to the scene in the Community Centre where the Parish Church held its Annual Autumn Fair. It is always a happy occasion and business is always brisk. There was a super cake stall, and beautiful handmade articles, as well as a well-stocked Bottle Tombola, and some lovely Christmas bargains. All the organisations of the church had generously contributed stall items. The catering ladies kept the stall holders supplied with cups of coffee or tea which was also available to the shoppers, with tasty bites to eat. As always the finale of the morning

was the raffle draw. There was one huge hamper of goodies and a slightly smaller one, as well as numerous other prizes, which included a turkey! There were lots of very happy faces! The Christmas spirit of giving, and sharing and working together for each other's good was there in abundance and over £2000 was raised for church funds. Mr Stephen Burt who has been a Lay Reader in the Church of England for 51 years, opened the Fair and encouraged everyone to be generous in their spending. His words had the desired effect! Well done everyone and Happy Christmas. Brenda Craddock



A smiling Olga (organiser) and Angela (customer) on the Traidcraft table



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WILLOW BURN CHRISTMAS FAIR

Santa Claus made his first appearance of the season at the start of his long journey. With the Grotto tucked away near the entrance hall he announced his presence over the microphone. Although still in November the atmosphere was certainly one of Christmas with entertainment from a mixed choir of adults called 'The Decibels', who performed a melodious concert of carols in the main hall and refreshment area. This was a first performance of this kind, during this festive time of the year. The numbers of people that arrived for the opening of the Fair were astounding - far more than last year. Several of those who attended voiced the same opinion. It was a nice touch that a member of the fund raising staff from Willow Burn welcomed everyone at the door and thanked them for coming. The Fair itself was full of a good variation of high quality tables featuring: 'Chocolate Santas'; Christmas Gifts; Tombolas; Raffles; Home Produce; Cakes and Plants and more. The

choice and ways to spend money in support of this very worthy cause was mind boggling. There was something for everyone. The generosity of the public in support of the hospice resulted in a profit of about £5500, a record. Willow Burn would like to thank all shop keepers and individuals for tombola and raffle prizes and all those who support the activities of the hospice throughout the year. They also welcomed the presence and thanked the staff from Lanchester and Whickham branches of Barclays Bank who have contributed their support and matched funding, the amount not confirmed at going to press but hopefully in the region of



Santa Claus with little four year old Anya and Elf, Megan McCabe, Fundraiser at Willow Burn.

£2000. It turned out to be a fantastic day for the hospice and staff.



Santas galore!

WILLOW BURN FUTURE EVENTS

New Easter Fair: We have noted that our fairs held in Lanchester are also well attended by people from Consett which has led us to confirm a new date on our events diary that will be a first time ever: Easter Fair to be held in St Patrick's Church Hall in Consett on 29th March 2014. We would love to see our Lanchester supporters make a visit to this new event, which we are hoping will be a resounding success!
Make A Will Month (March 2014): We are trying to give people lots

of notice so that they have time to consider everything properly. We will be initiating Make A Will Month in March again, so if anyone is thinking of having a will made up, please do so by way of the solicitors we are working with during that event. A list of those that are partnering us can be obtained from Clare Chillingworth on (01207) 523291. The scheme works by way of the will maker(s) donating a suggested amount to Willow Burn, instead of actually paying the

solicitor, who does the work free of charge in support of the hospice.

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COFFEE HEAVEN COMES TO LANCHESTER

On December 10th an exciting new coffee and cake shop opened in Lanchester. This new venture offers a taste of typical Austrian/German style coffee and cakes. Kaffeehaus Amadeus, situated at 1 Percy Crescent (on Station Road), is a new venture operated by Bernhard Nausner. He invites you to step inside and savour the flavour of single origin and Viennese style coffee. He wishes to create an atmosphere where you can relax and enjoy the present moment with all your senses. Bernhard said "Our table service will ensure that you will be looked after the moment you come through the door". Having grown up in his home town of Vienna, Bernhard experienced the Kaffeehaus as a place where the pace of life slowed down. Simply having some quality time to yourself or with friends was an act of sheer pleasure and was usually accompanied by a traditional sweet dish, cake or some delicious chocolate. All the produce is made on site to traditional Austrian/German recipes. Bernhard previously worked for the Methodist Church in Germany before he came to England 10 years ago. He worked at Durham University as a lecturer before deciding to open his Kaffeehaus. He said "I chose Lanchester to open my Kaffeehaus because I liked the community atmosphere and the people are very friendly".

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Bernhard enjoys a cup of his Austrian/German coffee at Kaffeehaus Amadeus




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NEW FLOOD DEFENCE



A flood defence has been laid in Newbiggen Lane as the road enters the countryside. The idea is that the water will flow against it and then run back into the new storm drains installed. There is a four inch gradual drop from the highest point of the defence to the drains. There is access to the drains from the manhole on top. The device will also serve as a traffic calmer though it was not put there with that intent. The construction has been modified quickly from the original as it was not built to the correct specification and was too steep for the traffic. Appropriate temporary 'RAMP' signs have been placed both sides of the defence.

NEW SAFETY HANDRAIL



Following the petition by Olive Simpkins and other residents of The Close (article in last month's Village Voice), a safety railing has now been installed at 'The Cut' leading from The Close to Newbiggen Lane just in time for winter. This area can be very difficult underfoot in winter conditions. The railing was paid for from the Neighbourhood Budget administered by our two County Councillors, Richard Young and Ossie Johnson.

ALL SAINTS' CHOIR ENTERTAINS AT WILLOW BURN

All Saints Primary School Choir giving a lovely performance of carols and Christmas music for patients and staff at Willow Burn Hospice. Stanley coaches provided a coach free of charge in exchange for a donation by the school of £60 to Willow Burn.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

A super party was held at the Lanchester Social Club on Sunday afternoon December 1st. DJ was Margaret who played some great music for dancing. There were games, a raffle and a lovely buffet for the 120 or so people who attended the party.

Santa was present and he was kept busy for much of the afternoon. The party was arranged in memory of Kelly Kasher, and the money raised was a massive £300 which will be sent to the Chemotherapy Day Unit at University Hospital Durham.



Relatives and friends of Kelly Kasher with Santa Claus and two children

TABLE TOP SALE FOR VILLAGE BUS



A superb buffet very much enjoyed by those who attended.

The morning of the annual bus didn't start very quite frightening. Even table top sale to raise well. The weather was Fred the bus driver had funds for the VillageLink atrocious and the storm problems keeping on the



A happy crowd with some familiar faces, at the raffle table.

road and yet all helpers and sellers arrived in time and started setting up. We were not very optimistic about the amount of people that would brave the elements and come along and things got worse when suddenly the electricity went off. There could be no hot drinks and so we prepared some juice, but after 1 hour (and I am sure, a few short prayers) the lights came back on to the relieved sound of a big "Ahhhhh". We kept calm and carried on. When Fred dropped the first people off, they could be served with a nice hot drink. All in all, about 40 quite heroic people joined us and were in great spirit. The room was beautifully decorated and with carols in the background the atmosphere was really festive. Unfortunately the sellers didn't do as well as in previous years but that didn't seem to bother them too much. The raffle and tombola were very busy and everyone was happy with their winnings. I would like to thank all those who helped make the morning a success: Geraldine for providing everything to make a nice cup of tea or coffee, to Marie who recruited most of the volunteers and kept me calm in the weeks of preparations, to Betty and Marjorie for baking their lovely cakes and scones, to Mary Hall for her always popular meat pies, to Ann for running the tombola, to Eileen and Kathy on the buffet and last but not least to Sheila and Theresa on washing up duty. A massive thank you to Trish and Richard for once again letting us have the room for free. The amazing amount raised so far is just over £400. And now I want to wish all the passengers and supporters of the VillageLink Bus A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Karin Bravington

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Two brave ladies who came to support the Village Link bus despite the very high winds and rain were: left, Ethel Bulmer aged 90 and Edith Broadfoot aged 94.

LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB



Our Demonstrator for the evening, Mildred Stafford, with her seasonal flower displays depicting a 'frosty winter's scene'

Lanchester Flower Club held their second Open Evening Demonstration in the Community Centre. This was our final meeting for 2013 and everyone had a really lovely evening. Our Demonstrator was the extremely talented Mildred Stafford; her theme was 'The Magical Mystical Season'. Her beautiful arrangements depicted the essence of a frosty winter's scene along with the fabulous vibrant colours that we all associate with Christmas, finishing with a very modern and

unusual arrangement showing the three wise men travelling to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. She portrayed everything we associate, enjoy and celebrate in the Christmas Season. The 12 arrangements were raffled much to the delight of the winners.

Gillian Harrison and Jane Pegram brought for us a magnificent array of home produce and gifts. A big thank you to them on the club's behalf. The evening finished with tea and coffee and a light supper along with convivial friendly chatter

- a really wonderful evening's entertainment.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd January 2014 in Lanchester Community Centre at 2 pm. Jean Gibbon will be entertaining us with a Slide Show and talk 'The World Show Highlights'. Everyone is cordially invited.

We would like to thank the Village Voice for the printing of our articles and photos over the last year and Lanchester Flower Club would like to wish everyone a peaceful and happy 2014.

Gardening in January

There are not many fine days in January when it is possible to get into the garden, so, when they come, make the best use of them. Also it is traditionally the coldest month of the year so it is the ideal time to complete your planning of what you want to plant in the coming month and do a little essential garden maintenance jobs.

In the Flower Borders

Clean any debris from your borders and put it onto your compost heap and whilst walking

around the garden check that perennial plants have not come loose with the December winds and that stakes are secure and firm in the ground. Cut down the old stems of perennial plants like sedum, lupin, delphinium, etc. Remove any faded flowers from winter pansies and violas and continue to dead head them so that they continue flowering well into spring.

In the Vegetable Plot

Keep harvesting your parsnips and leeks and remove any yellowing

leaves from brassicas. Start chitting early potatoes by standing them in old egg boxes on a light, frost free, window sill. If you want an early crop of, say, peas, place a cloche over an area prior to sowing in a few weeks time.

General

If you haven't already done so, place orders for your plants and seeds from (I am sure) the many catalogues, brochures, leaflets, etc that have bombarded your door mat in recent weeks.

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CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

The electricity was a problem on Thursday December 5th when preparations were being made in the Chapter House for 'Open House'. The lights went out and all the woe-begone faces looked heavenwards in the gloom as silent prayers were said. To continue preparations or not to continue was the question. Would people turn out in such conditions? Surely not, BUT at 11.20 am ten minutes before opening time, voila! the lights came on. It was a miracle, especially when all our faithful 'Open House' friends appeared and it was full house! Betty Calland and Noreen Rafferty, both in their nineties, and both of whom have never missed an 'Open House' for the 6 years it has been running, were, as always the first to arrive. The delicious



The helpers eat later when the others are gone

traditional Christmas sandwiches were made by Maureen Barker and her team, Barbara Sproat and Phyllis Reed. Not quite a case of 'Many Hands make light work'

but almost! The waiters for this Christmas special were our church wardens and the fun and 'entertainment' was provided by Santa's little helper (me). Carols

were sung to a brass accompaniment. Despite the bad start it was a case of 'All's Well That Ends Well'. Happy Christmas everybody and if you

have not yet tried 'Open House' yet come along in the New Year. We would love to see you when we open again in February.
Brenda Craddock

LANCHESTER EP SCHOOL FAIR

The EP School Fair was held on Friday afternoon 6th December on a really pleasant but cool late autumn day.

The beginning was so busy it was literally difficult to walk around. Parents, and others came in droves, quickly parting

with their money on the numerous opportunities available. There were several different types of tombolas which are always money spinners. The hall contained a good variety of tables with items produced by the children during the recent Enterprise Week. They were all attractive topical

products, very well made by children throughout the school, selling for really good prices. They ranged from pompoms, candle holders, Christmas cards, badges, salty Santas, little Christmas Tree decorations, biscuits, cakes, the list seemed endless. There was plenty to do as well

with a craft room area, face painting, and refreshment room which was handy for respite from the crowded noisy hall. Of course, Santa had arrived and was kept busy throughout the time of the Fair. It was all good fun with a lively Christmas atmosphere. The total amount made was an excellent £1458.47.

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So many gifts to choose from on this very busy table



Annie and Sam Lee visit Santa at the EP School Fair

SANTA COMES TO ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

All Saints' Primary school held its Christmas Fair on December 6th. A large crowd of parents and children waited for its start, and the school hall rapidly filled with eager shoppers. There were many seasonal features to enjoy - the home made cakes looked lovely, and the attractive festive lucky bags did a roaring trade. Many tried their luck at the tombola stalls and there was a range of toys and books for sale. A queue waited for the tasty hot dogs, and the Beauty Corner was popular with the girls, offering nail painting and hair braiding. Tickets for the Christmas Raffle were



The Beauty Corner offering nail painting and hair braiding at All Saints' Christmas Fair

snapped up, and the Guest of Honour was Santa Claus himself. He was ably assisted by his Helper, Mrs Days, and they were kept extremely busy welcoming a constant stream of visitors.



Santa's Helper, Mrs Days, greets visitors to his Grotto

COUNTING THE BIRDS THAT ARE COUNTING ON YOU

It will be all eyes to the skies on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th January, as the nation takes part in the Royal Society for the Protection of Bird's (RSPB) annual Big Garden Birdwatch. The activity is the biggest garden wildlife survey in the world and last year almost 600,000 people counted the birds in their garden. Big Garden Birdwatch, which has been running for thirty five years, provides the RSPB with masses of information about the changes in numbers of garden birds in winter, and helps to alert conservationists to significant declines in UK garden species such as house sparrows and starlings. And this year, for the first time, we need you to log some of the other wildlife you see in your garden

too. We want to know whether you ever see deer, squirrels, badgers, hedgehogs, frogs and toads in your gardens, to help build an overall picture of how important our gardens are for giving all types of wildlife a home. Getting involved in completing the Big Garden Birdwatch is fun and easy, and you don't even need to leave the comfort of your own home. To take part, spend just one hour at any time to suit yourself and your family over the Big Garden Birdwatch weekend noting the highest number of each species that you see in your garden or local outside space at any one time. You then simply submit your results to the RSPB at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch.

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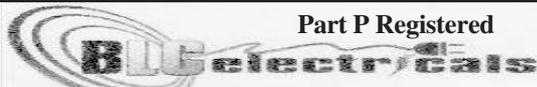
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WI NEWS

After a welcome by Ann Carr and short business announcements there were birthday wishes for three of our members reaching milestone birthdays during December, namely Betty Taylor, Dorothy Cavanagh and Eileen Curnow. Congratulations and Happy Birthday to you all.

We then enjoyed a Faith Supper - provided by members and hosted by the committee. As usual there was a huge variety of delicious foods causing both the tables and our tummies to groan. Desert was Christmas Pudding Ice Cream from Lanchester Dairies, also delicious!

At all of our meetings we can hear the Male Voice Choir rehearsing in the background. It has become a custom that at Christmas they entertain us with a selection of



Tucking in to the Faith Supper at the December meeting

their repertoire. Always enjoyable and this year was no exception, beginning with Elvis 'I can't help falling in love' then a mix from musicals and Matt Munro. They finished with Cliff's 'The Saviour' - we were truly in the Christmas mood. After thanks by Maisie Raine the choir then

joined us for drinks and snacks.

The evening ended with the ever popular Chinese Raffle causing many an upset as you can never be sure that you have won a prize until the last ticket is drawn (it's complicated)! A very enjoyable evening ending with Merry Christmas Everyone.

THE THURSDAY CLUB

On a glorious day of blue skies and sunshine the Thursday Club + a few friends set out for their Christmas outing. We were off to see Castle Howard in all its Christmas finery and the day seemed to be set fair. It was a lovely run down with a coffee stop at Swan House. And what a delight that was - a really warm welcome into a sun-drenched conservatory which led inside to a roaring fire - add good coffee/tea + biscuits and we were a group of very satisfied customers. It was then on to Castle Howard, a unique building which is quite magnificent. As we got closer the drive was lined with Christmas trees which were lit up in the dark as we came away. The house itself was beautifully decorated for

the festive season with welcoming roaring fires in the great entrance hall and most of the principal rooms. All the shops were selling Christmas goodies and there was a small craft fair in the courtyard, allowing for plenty of retail therapy. The day itself was also pleasant enough for a walk in the grounds for the fit amongst us. We hadn't booked a meal which meant that

everyone could please themselves when and where they ate and this worked fine with folks enjoying lunches and afternoon teas in the restaurant or the bistro courtyard café.

2014 will begin for the Thursday Club with lunch at Deano's on January 16th at 12 noon for 12.30 pm. If you haven't got your name on the list please contact Liz on 521682 asap.



Some of the Club members pose for a photograph in front of the Christmas tree

HOUSE FAIRY LIGHTS

Below are some of the colourful displays of Christmas lights that our intrepid Village Voice photographer found on his wanderings around the village.



The usual excellent display from Deanery View with the whole house in a colourful display



Burnhopeside Avenue - another excellent display of lights on this house



A fine display of Christmas lights that light up the whole front of the house



Colin Young gives HUNNY a big cuddle in his garden in Alderside Crescent - not sure of the spelling though!

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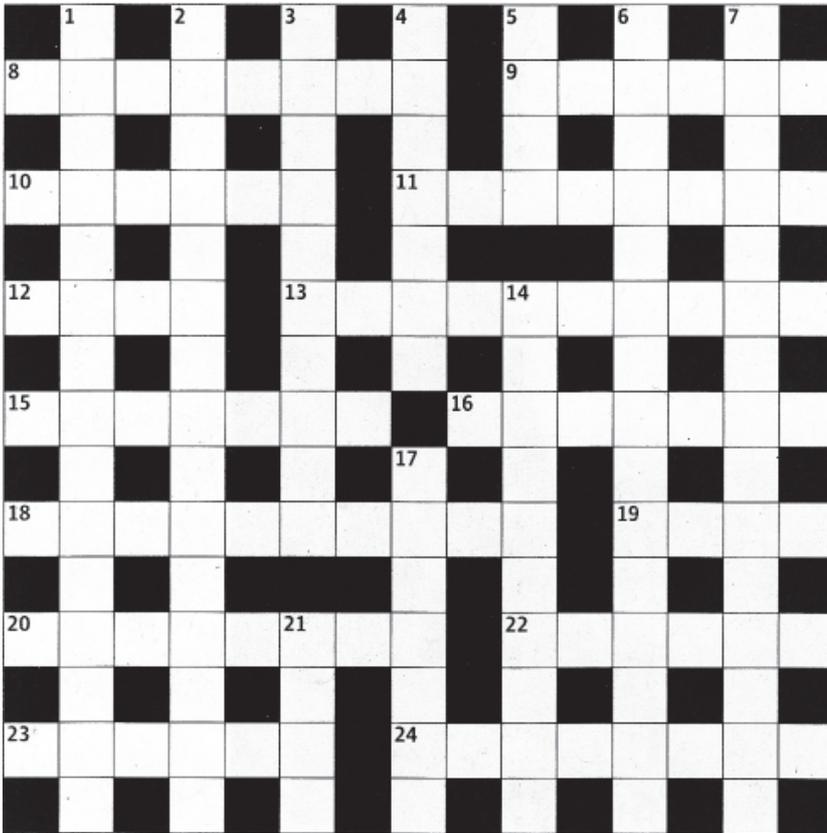
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CROSSWORD 92



ACROSS

8. Use pill at A&E to alleviate (8)
9. Trifles (6)
10. Slight (6)
11. Wailers in shebeans (8)
12. Symbol found in canticle form (4)
13. Savers (10)
15. Stratospheric (3-4)
16. Grieved and split (7)
18. Beano Kid's beat (4,6)
19. Cornish seaside resort (4)
20. Fencer it makes wild (8)
22. Regretting (6)
23. Lifers turn to weapons (6)
24. Starchy food (8)

DOWN

1. Be highly amused (5,4,1,5)
2. Lose it (3,3,3,6)
3. _____ and run away (4,6)
4. Express fiver by changing (7)
5. Ascending nuts amaze (4)
6. In excited anticipation (4,5,6)
7. A mess (4,1,4,6)
14. Get nouveaux riches with legit trait (10)
17. Military authorities (7)
21. Rubbish (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 91

ACROSS

1. choice
4. scrape
9. tough as old boots
10. stance
11. Chileans
12. relapser
14. ghetto
15. carafe
18. maintain
21. idoliser
22. crease
24. double standards
25. dreads
26. tender

DOWN

1. chortle
2. organ
3. craters
5. codling
6. atonement
7. extinct
8. concur
13. available
16. android
17. East End
18. merits
19. incense
20. insider
23. eland

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 0HY.

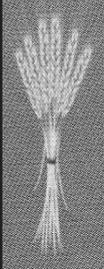
CROSSWORD 91

There were 23 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to Helen Taylorson of Broadoak Drive who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

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.

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



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PARKING CHAOS IN LANCHESTER



This picture is certainly not a Van Gogh! Could it be a new VANARAMA advertisement for the TV? Sadly no; Front Street, 10.00 am on a 'quiet' Tuesday.

BUILDING SITE PROGRESS



The houses on the Lanchester Arms site are going up quickly with the roof struts just going on.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Cream of Carrot Soup

It is during the winter months that soups really are attractive. Steaming bowls of home made and sweet smelling are both psychologically and physically warming on a cold January day.

Ingredients

450g (1 lb) carrots, pared and chopped
A stick of celery, chopped
½ small turnip, peeled and chopped
A small onion, skinned and sliced
1 rasher bacon, rinded and chopped

25 g (1 oz) butter
900 ml (1½ pt) white stock
bouquet garni
salt and pepper
45 ml (3 level tbsps) flour
150 ml (¼ pt) milk
30 ml (2 tbsps) cream
chopped parsley

Method

Lightly fry the vegetables and bacon in the butter for about 5 - 7 minutes until soft but not coloured. Add the stock, bouquet garni, salt and pepper. Cover and allow to simmer gently for about 1 hour or until the

vegetables are soft. Remove the bouquet garni and sieve the soup or purée it in an electric blender and return it to the pan. Blend the flour and milk to a smooth cream. Stir in a little of the hot liquid and add the mixture to the pan. Bring it to the boil, stirring until it thickens and cook for 2 - 3 minutes; re-season if necessary and add the cream and parsley. Bring to serving temperature but do not boil after adding the cream.

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

WHAT'S ON?

Lanchester Mid Week Walking Group

The Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month (though not Christmas day). Walks are between 3 and 6 miles, mainly local but sometimes it needs a car ride. All are welcome - it's a good fun social day out. For more information please contact Eric Skipsey on 01207 521099 or email eric.skipsey@talktalk.net.

Short Circuit Walks

January 4th, Monkseaton Metro to St Mary's Island, 5 miles. Meet on Norham Road side of station, car park at Churchill Playing Fields via Hartley Avenue, NZ348722.

January 18th, Wylam and the Three Bridges, 5 miles. Meet in the car park in the centre of the village, NZ118645. Walks start at 10.30 am.

Lanchester WI

The Speaker for the January meeting is Steve Owers from Durham County Search and Rescue Team. The competition is 'a piece of survival equipment'. The meeting takes place on January 6th in the Small Hall of the Community Centre and begins at 7 pm for 7.15 pm. Visitors are always welcome at a small fee of £2. Members are reminded that the subscription of £34.70 for 2014 is now due and payment by cheque would be appreciated.

Junior/Family Wildlife

Meet in the Community Centre car park at 9.30 am on Sunday 12th January for a visit to Saltburn.

Mothers' Union

The meeting on Wednesday 8th January, starting at 7.30 pm in church is the Wave of Prayer service and enrolment of new members. We will meet in the Chapter House beforehand because choir practice will be in progress in church.

Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 14th January at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, James McVey will give a talk on Birds of Prey.

Sunday Bridge

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon playing Bridge in the Community Centre on 12th January at 2.00 pm. Only £3. Everyone welcome.

Paradiso Club Social

The first Social of the New Year will be on Sunday January 12th at 6.30 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual refreshments, raffle and an opportunity to see the film 'SUMMER IN FEBRUARY' on the big screen. Adapted from the best selling novel 'Summer in February' follows a bohemian colony of artists who flourished in the wild coastal region of Cornwall in the years leading up to World War I. As the country's future hangs in the balance, three friends find themselves caught in a tumultuous love triangle in this sensational true story. It stars Dominic Cooper, Dan Stevens and Emily Browning.

All are welcome. Entry £2.50 members, £3.50 occasional visitors, £2 children.

Churches Together

The Churches Together Service for the week of Christian Unity will take place on Sunday January 19th, at 6.00 pm. The venue has been changed to All Saints Parish Church Lanchester.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 22nd January at 2.00 pm in Lanchester Community Centre, Jean Gibbon will give a slide show and talk entitled 'World Show Highlights'.

PACT meeting

The next Police and Communities Together meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd January at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

SATLEY PREPARES FOR CHRISTMAS

St Cuthbert's Church in Satley held its Christmas Fair on November 30th. Many early shoppers trooped into the church hall, all intent on finding that last minute present or festive decoration. Janice Gould and Enid Murray were the main organisers of the event, and they expressed their great thanks to everyone who had offered help and support. Many individuals and local businesses had also kindly donated prizes for the 'Big Raffle.' The home made cakes, pies, jams and chutneys all looked tempting, and the beautiful display of Christmas plants and decorations proved popular with shoppers. Two tombolas drew the crowds, and there were

toiletries, sweets and jewellery items, all attractive stocking fillers. 'Naming the Teddy Bear' was especially popular with the younger shoppers. Several local charities were represented, including the Great North Air Ambulance, and 'Daniels's Dream', a charity helping disabled children. The Retired Greyhound Trust sold interesting items for animals, including home cooked doggie snacks. One of their 'retirees' was a great favourite with everyone! The shoppers could enjoy relaxing in a quiet corner with coffee and cake, and it looked likely that a very pleasing amount would benefit the Church fund.



Home made cakes, jams and chutneys couldn't be resisted!

This visitor to the Fair, although retired and rehomed and certainly relaxed, really enjoyed himself and proved a very popular addition to the Fair.



JUNIOR PLAYERS WANTED AT THE CRICKET CLUB

As we approach the next set of winter nets, we could do with some new junior players to add to our numbers. Boys and girls of all ages are welcome, but we really need some new players who are aged 11-13 years. If anyone is interested, then please contact our Child Welfare Officer, Bob Gardiner on 07980238187. The club has teams at

under 11, 13, 15 and 18 age groups with two level two coaches to help develop those young players along. Matches are played on Monday and Tuesday nights and Sunday mornings during the summer months. We run indoor nets from the end of January until we can get outside on an evening or it's warm enough to be outside on

a Saturday morning. All four age groups play in leagues, though the format for under 11s is different to the other three age groups. Girls play on an equal footing to boys and it would be tremendous if more girls would come along. From the age of 15, the players that are ready, are introduced to senior cricket through the third

team league where competition is less fierce and provides a different challenge for the young players. You don't have to have played before so why not give it a go and contact Bob?

On December 13th we waved off one of our up and coming players. Mattie Callaghan has made huge progress in the past two seasons scoring

a maiden century and taking nine wickets in an innings. However, he's off on a big adventure heading to Australia for twelve months combining travel with playing cricket and he goes with our best wishes.

Merry Christmas to all our players and members and wishing everyone a Happy and prosperous New Year.

HENRY DANCER DAYS UPDATE



2013 was a fantastic year for this young charity. We have supported 45 families throughout the UK who include

some children with Osteosarcoma and are planning projects in the RVI to distract children from their awful treatment.

Henry Dancer Days has been the chosen charity of several companies, including ASDA, John Lewis, Rowlands and Komatsu, who raised £15,000 (as featured in November's Village Voice.)

Morpeth Mayor (Cllr Joan Tebbutt) has chosen the charity as her year's fund raiser, as has Georgie

Macadam, the NE District Ladies' President of the Methodist Church.

Harlands of Consett have given amazing free support in business and charity development for which we are extremely grateful.

We have several highlights planned for 2014 including a Northumberland

Fusiliers Concert in February and a Swimathon in March.

Two popular events will be:

- * May Ball - 2nd May, Beamish Hall
- * Charity Golf Day - 14th May. Longhirst Hall Golf Club (PGA Course) Please contact henrydancerdays@aol.com for further info of events and the charity.

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BOYS' BRIGADE ANNUAL ENROLMENT



The boys and leaders of the 14th North West Durham, Lanchester Boys' Brigade Company

On Sunday 24th November the Lanchester Boys' Brigade Company held their annual enrolment service at the Methodist Chapel. This is an important part of the life of any Boys' Brigade Company and of the local Church. It is a time at which the Company and Church unite in reminding each other of their objectives and of their obligations to one another. Many of the boys' parents joined the morning congregation to see the boys receive their membership cards. We also took the opportunity with the whole Boys' Brigade company being together to have a Company photograph taken.

CENTURIONS PRESENTATION



Centurion members line up for a photo shoot with Danny Crozier (right centre), LCCFC, displaying their new suitably inscribed sponsored shirt, with Alan Seymour lending a hand.

CHRISTMAS CENTURIONS



On Dec 7th, Centurions M/C Club held their Christmas Party in the village Social Club. They enjoyed a live band and disco, some sported fancy dress, and a raffle was held. Besides supporting their main charity, the Great North Air Ambulance, they wanted to offer support and publicity to Northumbria Blood Bikes.

LCCFC, Lanchester Cricket Club Football Club which is fairly new, approached the Centurions for some financial help. They needed match footballs and strip to continue their progress in the Consett Sunday League Second Division. The Centurions, who are one of the best fundraisers in the area, came up with a £500 cheque to sponsor the team, for which all football club members are very grateful.

As things stand at the time of the presentation, the team are doing pretty well. They have played

six matches in the league, won four and lost two, and at the time of writing are 4th in the league and still competing in four cup competitions. Their biggest achievement so far is to reach the second round of the County Cup for the first time. Their main aim, however, is to

win promotion to the First Division, hopefully, this season.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 21 January. The deadline for **adverts** is 19 January.

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