

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 1 Volume 14

Lanchester, January 2013

For contact information, see page 2

## ‘NO ROOM AT THE INN’



Thanks to Beth Lloyd for sending this panoramic photo taken in the Parish Church on Christmas Eve, showing the huge number of people who had taken shelter from the rain on the Green. See page 5 for story and more pictures.

## NORTH DURHAM HUNT



An old postcard of the North Durham Hunt in front of the Deanery in Lanchester. Thanks to Les Richardson for sending this to us. Please contact us if you can put a date on this photograph. See page 8 for story and pictures of this year's Boxing Day Hunt.

## LANCHESTER LIONS CEASE TO ROAR

After 46 years of service to the village, it is with regret that as from the end of June this year, we will cease to remain members of Lions International and therefore Lanchester Lions will not continue as a village club. The decision has been taken due to ageing and falling membership; in spite of all efforts we have

had no success in recruiting replacements. Therefore reduced numbers make it increasingly difficult to operate and carry out the traditional functions such as the Carnival, Bonfire and Senior Citizens' Christmas Party. It is regrettable, but after much discussion at a recent club meeting, the remaining

members decided that due to notification of further reductions in membership numbers being indicated, we have no alternative but to close as a village organisation. We would like to think that over the past 46 years, we have made a valuable contribution both locally and internationally. Lanchester Lions members

would therefore like to thank the villagers of Lanchester and surrounding areas for their help and support during this period in raising funds for a wide variety of good and deserving causes. The one remaining function to be carried out by the Lions Club is the FA Cup draw, which will take place in May at Lanchester



"We Serve"

Social Club (date to be confirmed). All other future functions are therefore cancelled. THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN AND GOODBYE FROM LANCHESTER LIONS CLUB MEMBERS



# 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

The library tradition in Lanchester dates back to the establishing of a library centre in the Primitive Methodist church hall in 1927.

This was followed by a part-time library service, run in the Community Centre and open two afternoons and evenings a week in 1955. Many Lanchester residents will remember Lilian Downs who worked there until the full-time library was officially opened on 12th March 1975.

It had proved difficult to find a suitable site for a new library building,

so when the Magistrates Court and Police Station was vacated in 1973, the building was bought because the ground floor was considered suitable for conversion into a library.

Site and Buildings cost £25,000 and a Building conversion cost £188 48. The total book stock was 16,600 volumes!

When the library was opened in 1975 it was staffed by Joan Robinson, Monica Murfin and Lilian Downs. Monica, of course, stayed on until her retirement in December 2012 and has proved to be the very essence of what a community librarian should be.

Over the years computers have been added to the service and Monica has always been there to offer help and guidance.

Older members of the community have had the benefit of her care and consideration too, so every age group has been catered for.

Monica has truly put her heart and soul into the library service in Lanchester and she will be sorely missed.

We all wish her the very Best Wishes for a long and happy retirement.  
Joan Robinson

Dear Village Voice  
Thanks to Great North Run sponsors who helped raise just over £1000 for Childline.

After a long delay my final total of sponsorship from work colleagues, family and friends local and far away with £400 added from a bank has been confirmed by NSPCC as just over £1000.

My time as expected was well off my past best of 1 hour 41 minutes, but after a long gap since last running a half marathon in 2005 I was happy to be in the low 1'50s.

Thanks to all my sponsors who helped raise that final total.  
Gavin Quiney

## SPECTACLES FOUND

Recently found on the Lanchester Valley walk, near Lizards Farm, a pair of spectacles. There is slight damage, though they appear repairable. Please phone 01207 528843 or mobile 07702 825183.

## LOST KEYS

If you have found a set of keys which were lost in the Kitswell Park area on Monday 14th January 2013, would you kindly ring the following number 0777 1886121. Thank you.

## CORRECTION

Unfortunately a mistake occurred in the letter printed in last month's paper from Mr W Austin. The size of the pipe on the proposed Cadger Bank development should have been quoted as 36-38 inches. We apologise to Mr Austin for this error.

## CAN YOU HELP THE POLICE?

Damage was caused to a vehicle parked on Kitswell Road on the evening of Saturday 12th January 2013 while Mass was underway at All Saints Church.

Police are requesting that anyone with knowledge of this incident contact them on the non-emergency 101 phone number and the officer dealing is PC 1302 Morrisroe; alternatively contact with information via Twitter on Derwentside\_A\_Police.

## COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for December 2012 is 53. The draw was made by Stephen McDermott of the Gym.

## How to contact the Village Voice

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# FAREWELL MONICA

Monica Murfin who has been a librarian in the village since 1975 began to say her goodbyes to friends and regular visitors to the library on Thursday 20th December, as she approached imminent retirement. She didn't want any fuss but reluctantly agreed to a 'drop in' session on that day, with ginger wine and cakes provided.

However, longstanding friend and former Librarian in the village, Joan Robinson, who worked with Monica and Lillian Downs all those years ago had different plans. Monica was to leave in style!

On Saturday 22nd December just before the keys were to be handed over, Joan arrived with local author Terry Deary,



*Those who attended Monica Murfin's surprise function on her retirement from the Library. Between 40 and 50 people and children attended.*

armed with boxes of champagne and orange juice and a Brian Ferry Disc. Monica was in complete shock but loved every minute of it. People began to arrive with their many gifts, flowers and cards. Mingling around

chatting to people was lovely for Monica and everyone else. Of course, for the first time ever there was music in the library when open for normal business. It had to be Brian Ferry, Monica's heartthrob, whom she travels to see regularly in the UK and Europe.

Joan Robinson wrote a magnificent speech

highlighting Monica's dedication, inspiration to children and adults, her depth of local knowledge, brilliant ideas for special events including the reading group, art displays, craft sessions, to name but a few, as well as the only known library with a gym class. The speech was delivered in a lighted hearted, amusing

way with consummate ease by Terry Deary, well known author and actor, formerly Arts Officer at Durham County Council. Terry has known Monica for many years.

With speeches made and champagne flowing it was a fine send off for a lovely character and we all wish her a very happy retirement.



*Left to Right: Monica Murfin, Terry Deary, Joan Robinson, Richard Downs (Drawing of Library by Richard given to Monica by Joan Robinson)*



*This photo was taken in December 1978 and features Lillian Downs, Monica Murfin and Joan Robinson along with a Library customer.*



*Monica and Clare looking happy together at the Thursday 'drop in' despite both leaving the Library within a few days.*

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# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

## Notes from the Ordinary Meeting 8th January 2013

### Minutes

Ordinary meeting held on 11th December 2012 - approved.

Planning Committee Meeting held on 11th December 2012 - approved

**Police Report** - the next police report will be distributed at the end of January and cover a two month period. It was agreed to ask the new PCSO Lisa Jackson to a future Council meeting.

**Green School** - Helen Johnson the Manager of the alternative KS4 education provision at the Green School attended and gave members an update and thanked the community for making the school welcome. There was a slight issue around access to the school by the public which it was hoped would be resolved by repairs to a

fence. The school is seeking community representation to its Board and posters in the village and an article in the Village Voice will provide more information on this.

### Correspondence

(1) Lanchester Lions - annual firework display Members were informed that the Lanchester Lions would no longer be organising the annual fireworks display and that Lanchester Cricket Club were considering taking this event over.  
(2) LINK Newsletter - received.

**Area Action Partnership & Parish Councils Committee** - Members received an update.

**Maintenance Progress Report** - Members considered the report which outlined the maintenance work undertaken over the last 3 months. Members

thanked David Maddox for all his work.

**Financial report** - discussed and received.

**Precept 2013/14 Report** Members considered the implications of the removal of the £6000 payment and the £1645 double taxation payment previously paid annually by Durham County Council. In addition members discussed the impact of the new Local Council Tax Support Scheme to be administered by the County Council and the predicted affect on the reduction in the council tax base.

It was agreed that the precept be set at £50,624.00 for 2013/14.

**Accounts for Payment** - approved.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 12th February 2013 at 7.15pm.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

Happy New Year! I hope that 2013 proves to be a healthy, wealthy and drier year than 2012.

2012 was the wettest summer on records and we certainly felt that with flooding in the village in June and October. I have met with the Association of British Insurers on the general issues of flood insurance and have been able to raise individual concerns on behalf of those who are still out of their homes or on behalf of older or more vulnerable constituents. If your insurance company has still not paid out or if you are having problems with flood insurance please get in touch and I will do what I can to help.

On a more positive note, Derwentside Homes have now confirmed that they have applied for planning permission to build a complex of luxury two bedroom flats and amenities for older people on the former Lynwood House site. I understand that there are still some issues to be ironed-out, ensuring that access arrangements do not negatively impact on neighbours, but once those issues are

addressed this looks like a first-class development of apartments, some for rent and some to buy, with medical and social facilities on site. Derwentside Homes have a good track record when it comes to this kind of supported living provision for older people and anyone who wants to see the quality of provision that the new Lynwood is aiming for should visit Magdalene House, Medomsley or The Haven, Leadgate. I think we have all been concerned at the state of the former Lynwood House and I know that Lanchester Parish Council has been working with community organisations to try and establish supported living arrangements on this site for some time, so I am pleased that this is finally moving towards a conclusion.

I am always keen to hear from constituents, so if you would like to contact me, please write to me at Pat Glass MP, Gledstone House, 26 Newmarket Street, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5LQ, email me at pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk, or phone my office on 01207 501 782.



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## 'NO ROOM AT THE INN'

These words are well known words in the Nativity Story. But they became something of a reality in Lanchester on Christmas Eve. 'Carols on the Green' on Christmas Eve with Lanchester Brass Band and with David Hughes in charge of the singing programme has become a tradition. It has been held for at least 25 years and there is always a good attendance. It is thought that only once has it had to be held in a church because of bad weather BUT just as the concert was about to

begin the rain decided to descend, quite heavily. It became clear that umbrellas were not enough to protect people or the music and instruments. The Reverend Rupert Kalus came to the rescue. "I am going to open up the church. Follow me", he said. A huge crowd surged forward and how huge was soon revealed. It was a case of 'Come in if you can get in' and standing room only. In addition approximately 100 people stood outside in the rain to take part.

Lanchester Brass Band conducted by Mr Peter Bradshaw played enthusiastically at the front of the church while David Hughes announced and introduced the hymns and the singing. The ambiance and fellowship in the beautiful historic parish church was absolutely terrific. Reverend Kalus read the Christmas story from the Bible and somehow it had extra significance for all those present. That was Christmas at its best!  
Brenda Craddock



The crowd rushes towards the Parish Church in the heavy rain



Robbie and others from Lanchester Brass shelter from the downpour

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# GOLDEN WEDDING OF GEOFF AND JO PEACOCK

Seen here with glasses in hand, Geoff and Jo Peacock celebrate fifty years of marriage, with friends and family at a 'drop in' session at their home in Brookview. A further celebration was planned with lunch at the King's Head. Originally from Blackhill, they were married in Newcastle but have spent most of their life together in the village.

Geoff & Jo would like to thank everyone who came to their house to celebrate their Golden Wedding for the gifts which they received and especially for the donations for Willow Burn Hospice which totalled £160.00. "Everyone seemed to have an enjoyable day and the memories will last with us both forever."





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## SEARCH DOGS AT LILYDALE

If you are a dog lover the place to be on Saturday, 15th December, was Lilydale Pet Supplies. Searchdog Sam was there with owner Karen Fisher of Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team. The idea was to raise money for their cause by customers guessing the weight of the dog. Prizes were a £20

voucher for the shop and Hugo aftershave. Searchdog Sam, a 5 year old collie, was a stray. He has been operational for three years and has made two very important 'finds'. A tremendous bond has been made between minder and dog

which seemed obvious when seen together. Store owner Margaret has supported this cause for a very long time and Karen would like to thank her for that, and for the opportunity to raise even more money on this occasion.



*Dog lover, Kirsty Green, who went to the EP School and is now at Durham High, is seen with Karen Fisher and Searchdog Sam.*



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## GRANNY SMITH 103



*Granny Smith, a Londoner, who has lived in the village for over 30 years celebrated her 103rd birthday on Sunday December 16th at home, with family and friends dropping in to see her. What a truly remarkable, lovely lady who still lives at home!*

## WEDDING CELEBRATIONS



*Jane and John Reed, newly married with Bamburgh Castle in view*

## LIONS' PUB CRAWL



*Having dinner at the King's Head during the Lions' Pub Crawl were Jane Laycock and Sally Laverick who were pleased to give Santa a cuddle. The total raised from The King's Head, The Black Bull and the Social Club was £131. The Lions Club would like to thank all proprietors and contributors for helping out once again at Christmas.*

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# BOXING DAY HUNT

On a relatively mild, overcast, showery morning, a large crowd gathered for the annual Braes of Derwent Boxing Day Hunt. There were no protesters!

The atmosphere was convivial in the Queen's Head car park as Fiona Wilson and helpers distributed whisky, port, mulled wine and hot sandwiches to the huntsmen, free of charge, courtesy of Crinnions.

Riders and onlookers listened attentively as Master/Huntsman, Richard Spendlove, spoke with great passion about the state of hunting in the UK and the effect this was having to the countryside under the current laws. He cited many examples, too many to record, as to why the current Hunting Act should be repealed.

Then they were off, slightly late at just after 11.00am. They headed for Kitswell Road into the fields crossing the main road to Consett near the lay by, over to Stoney Heap, and on to the Greencroft Estate where a trail had been laid as 'the Hunt' had gathered.

It was a great sight as the horses left the Queens with sound of the hooves growing faster and faster until it was over - almost in a flash.



*Anyone for sandwiches?*



*Master, Richard Spendlove, makes an impassioned speech*



*Ready for the 'off'*



*They're off!*

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# THE GREEN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Green School opened last September offering alternative education for those pupils living in County Durham aged 14-16 who were not coping with mainstream secondary schooling.

It was decided to have a Christmas Fair to support a school project in Tanzania.

Food technology Teacher, Catherine Forster, has been interested in this for some considerable time and will visit the school in February as a volunteer, which she has been doing many times during the past four years. Any money raised from the fair will go to 'Foot2Afrika' and will

be put towards a perimeter fence at the school.

As for the Fair it was light and bright with plenty to offer. The students had made Christmas tree decorations and a magnificent gingerbread house as well as other cakes. Tombolas and games were also available as money raisers. Two of the students stayed behind to help at the fair and seemed to enjoy it.

The staff were friendly and very enthusiastic to the point of dressing up for the event, which certainly added to the Christmas atmosphere. Santa looked a bit lonely in his Grotto but did have some young visitors.



Mainly school staff plus visitor, Josh, at the excellent cake table

An excellent presentation in the form of a brochure is available from the school for anyone interested in becoming a

volunteer in Tanzania. This can be in almost any discipline, as there are so many diverse projects being undertaken. It is certainly a very beautiful

country to visit. The fair raised just over £300 which was extremely good for a first event of this kind, with little publicity.

## PARTY SPIRIT IN LANCHESTER ON CHRISTMAS EVE



Spice Girls at Talking Heads on Christmas Eve

The girls in fancy dress and Christmas hats certainly cheered up their customers on Christmas Eve.



Superwoman and 'motley crew' at New Image on Christmas Eve



The Coplands Girls on Christmas Eve

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# GRAEME DANBY VISITS LANCHESTER

On December 11th, Lanchester EP School had a visit from Graeme Danby, an international figure in the world of music and a native of our area. He had come to meet and rehearse with the school choir who were taking part in a concert that evening in the Methodist church. The concert was being held for the 'Henry Dancer Days' charity and Graeme Danby was responsible for the artistes taking part in it. Henry Dancer's mother was present and of course delighted that such a person as Graeme had

undertaken this evening for the charity. It was a most enjoyable evening. Graeme's wife, Valerie, had also come to perform and Graeme had brought a number of his pupils from Sunderland University with him. They are studying 'Performing Arts and as part of the course are trained in singing by Graeme. They sang delightfully as a choir as did the choir from our EP school. There were also two sisters from Consett, Olivia and Mia Walker-Toward, aged 14 and 8, who performed beautifully.



*Graeme Danby conducts the choir at the EP school*

Graeme and Valerie sang several Tyneside songs as part of their repertoire, one of which was the favourite 'I bought a little whippet'. All the music was accompanied on the piano by Graeme himself or Mrs Hemmings, who is the mother of Jane Davis. Brenda Craddock

## HENRY DANCER DAYS

Two events were held in Lanchester in December to raise money for young people with Osteosarcoma: a Murder Mystery in the Community Centre (it was the chef!) and a concert with the well-known singer Graeme Danby. Graeme worked with children from the EP School prior to their performing in the Methodist Church alongside Graeme's Sunderland University students and soloists including his wife, Valerie. These 2 events raised just under £1000, which will be donated to families to help with the specialist transport the condition

requires. So far the charity has supported 15 families throughout the UK - from Newcastle to Belfast to Bristol. Events for 2013 include a second Ball at Beamish Hall on April 20th and a Lyke Wake Walk in May. We are now Komatsu's Charity of the Year 2012-13 and have benefited from being a 'Chosen Charity' in ASDA and John Lewis in Newcastle. Thank you to everyone in Lanchester and beyond who supported us in 2012 and made our first year so successful. Please see [www.henrydancerdays.co.uk](http://www.henrydancerdays.co.uk) for information and updates.



*Graeme Danby singing 'The Whippet'*  
Photo by Gary Natrass

  
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# CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS



*Harry Carr conducts the Male Voice Choir and the Choral and Operatic Society at their Celebration of Christmas*

For many people this is the place to be on the Monday prior to Christmas. They come to sing and to listen. The congregation sing carols to the rafters, the two choirs of the village lend their voices to less familiar Christmas songs and the village clergy tell the Christmas story. An evening of celebration, reflection and reverence and the choirs' choice of music perfectly covered this.

The combined choirs started the evening with the reverent Come now in Awe set to the beautiful tune Finlandia by Sibelius.

The mood was quickly changed by the Choral and Operatic Society with a rousing rendition of Gaudete! (Rejoice!), a piece with 14th century words set to 16th century music Pia Cantiones. The Male Voice Choir offered Eileen and Alan Simmons' reflective One More to Count that asks questions of all Christians. The evening continued with both choirs in fine voice as they wove their way through beautiful harmonic songs.

Sadly the evening had to draw to a close but it did so in fine style with 'The Choral' singing a joyous

and intricate Stable Carol written in 1992 by Vaughan Meakins. The men finished with a 2010 arrangement by Alan Simmons of Oh Holy Night before the choirs came together for Nazareth by Charles Gounod. The finale had to be Hark the Herald Angels Sing and the congregation sang their hearts out.

The collection raised a magnificent £350.63 for Willow Burn.

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**What's brown and sweet and glides around an ice rink?**

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**Which players in an orchestra can't you trust?**

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**What's orange and fizzy and comes down the chimney at Christmas?**

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**Hear about the man that collected five thousand door knockers?**

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# AMIGOS - THE FINAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

For the past 12 years Amigos has been a rollercoaster ride full of highs and lows - lots of fun, joy and laughter tinged here and there with a little sadness as friends were lost along the way. One really great high was the celebration of Little Betty's 100th birthday party - an amazing occasion, and who, on having seen it, could forget the sight of Mrs Wheatley in her reindeer ears. In the past we've enjoyed Christmas parties in the Community Centre (when Health and Safety allowed such things!). All three clergy in the village joined with us for a truly joyful celebration of Christmas, with Pam on piano for carols, messages from the clergy, sometimes nativity plays



*Enjoying our meal*

from Playgroup and a fantastic dinner cooked by some members of the team + Santa of course, with presents. The closing of Amigos has come with much

sadness and regret but it has been inevitable. We the helpers are all getting a lot older; earlier in 2012 we lost our faithful driver Tommy and there has been the inevitable build up of more and more rigorous Health and Safety requirements which it was getting impossible to sustain. So, on Friday December 14th we held our final party

in the King's Head and as ever we were royally looked after by the staff, fed with a lovely Christmas meal, visited by Santa and a good time was had by all. A big thank you to the King's Head for looking after us so well over the years and also to our lovely Santa who has attended all our Christmas parties. We've enjoyed 12 years of friendship and good

times together which we sincerely hope will continue into the future as we plan to meet up in the King's Head on the last Friday in the month for a pensioner's special and a catch up on all the gossip. The date for your diary is Friday, January 25th at about 12.30 pm - we look forward to seeing you all there. Olive and Liz

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## Gardening in February

February is a dormant month in some parts of the garden so the jobs for the month are all about preparation and pruning plants whilst they are dormant.

### In the Flower Borders

February is a good time to prune summer-flowering Clematis, overwintered Fuchsia, Jasmine and other winter flowering shrubs such as Mahonia and Viburnum. The large flowered Clematis such as Nelly Moser should be pruned in Spring before they start shooting by removing any dead or damaged stems and reducing the remaining growth back to a set of strong healthy buds.

New flowering stems will be produced from the previous year's growth. Prune Fuchsia back to one or two buds on each shoot. Prune winter Jasmine after flowering by cutting back previous year's growth to 5cm from old wood and this will encourage new growth for next year's flowers. Prune Mahonia after the flowers have finished by cutting back the flowered stems. Trim winter flowering heathers as the blooms fade which will stop the plants getting too leggy. To keep winter flowering Pansies and Violas flowering into spring remove dead heads and cut back to stop them also becoming leggy. Lift

and divide snowdrops whilst they are still green if you want to increase your stock.

### In the Vegetable Plot

Start chitting early potatoes by standing them on end in a module tray or egg box on a window sill or other bright, frost-free place. Start sowing vegetable seeds such as leeks, onions and celeriac under cover.

### General

Other jobs in the garden include trimming deciduous hedges before the birds start nesting, washing empty pots by scrubbing in hot water, and, as the weather is still cold, hanging fat balls out for the birds and keeping their feeders topped up.

# LANCHESTER MAN WINS HIS GREEN BERET

Darren Biggs (20) from Woodlands, Lanchester, has just received his coveted Green Beret, having successfully completed 32 weeks of the hardest initial military training in the world.

Darren, who went to Greencroft School and New College Durham, has now become a British Royal Marines Commando. He passed out at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines at Lympstone, Devon, with 145 Troop on 18th January 2013 and has now joined 45 Commando Royal Marines based in Scotland.

The distinctive hallmark of a Royal Marines Commando is the Green Beret. It indicates to others that the wearer has undergone gruelling and physically demanding tests of endurance, by displaying the



*Darren Biggs proudly wearing his Green Beret*

Commando qualities of unselfishness, cheerfulness under adversity, courage, determination and high professional standards.

He said: "Finally after all the hard work I am there, it's certainly all worth while when you are presented with your Green Beret".

## SIAS (STATUTORY INSPECTION OF ANGLICAN SCHOOLS) AT LANCHESTER EP PRIMARY

This Inspection took place at the start of December over the course of two days. The inspector talked to parents, pupils and Rev Kalus as well as visiting every class, observing worship and watching the children play and have lunch. This was to ensure he had a good overview of the school's Christian distinctiveness, the impact of Collective Worship and the effectiveness of Leadership and Management as a Church School.

His overall judgement was that 'Christian values are at the heart of school life in this warm and nurturing

family environment and provide the basis for its success. As a result children feel safe, valued, supported and challenged to reach their full potential.'

He also stated some established strengths were:

- \* Christian ethos of the school in which all pupils are valued and encouraged to succeed.
- \* Christian values are lived out in action within the school which makes this an environment for growth and learning.
- \* Enthusiastic and committed staff and governors who work well together as a team and set a very good role model for pupils.
- \* Close partnership with

the vicar, parish church and wider community.

As always, there were also some areas for development which were already identified in the school's own

Development Plan including suggestions to:

- \* Re-introduce the Eucharist into school life.
- \* Incorporate the core values into specific policies.
- \* Use the evaluation of

worship to monitor its success and possibilities for future developments.

The staff and governors are proud of this successful outcome, but as usual, intend to build upon these strengths in their pursuit of excellence.

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# CHRISTMAS COMES TO ALL SAINTS SCHOOL



*A sea of Santa hats and reindeer antlers as the children of All Saints Primary School celebrate the arrival of Christmas at their End of Term Musical Assembly*

On December 19th, the children of All Saints Primary School celebrated the arrival of Christmas with their customary End of Term Musical Assembly. The school hall was packed for the performance, with an appreciative audience of

family and friends, besides the pupils sporting a colourful collection of festive head gear. Deputy Head Teacher Mrs Alison Conlin introduced the event, with a special welcome to the several musicians from St Bede's

School, who had once attended the Primary School and were a real inspiration to the current youngsters to work hard and make progress in their musical skills.

Opening the programme, the brass players from St Bede's School helped create the Christmas spirit with the Muppets theme, 'It's time to raise the Curtain!'. After that, the audience were treated to a very enjoyable festive musical fare from students

of both schools. Traditional and much loved carols such as 'Away in a Manger' and 'In the Bleak Midwinter' followed on from more modern offerings such as 'Rudolf' and 'Little Donkey'. There was the opportunity for audience participation in joining with the familiar words, and a really happy spirit was present during the show. Many of the brass musicians and the guitarists are working

towards exam grades, and they demonstrated their pieces with confidence and flair. Some of the young guitarists perform on electric guitars, and these musical stars of the future confidently reproduced classic rock and roll riffs, to the delight of their listeners. In closing the performance, Mrs Conlin thanked the audience for their presence, and the young musicians for their excellent contributions. Mrs Conlin also recognised the very great amount of encouragement and help the children received from their families. The young people are confident in their musical skills, and really enjoy becoming familiar with their instruments. Another great performance from All Saints! Well done!

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## YOUNG MUSICIANS - ALL SAINTS SCHOOL

On Wednesday 13th December a lovely concert was held for the whole school with parents and grandparents of the children involved attending. It was 'keyboard day' as twenty two pupils from years 1, 2

and 3, all gave demonstrations of their progress since learning the keyboard under the expert tuition of Mrs Deborah Knox, who comes into the school on a regular basis. Each of the children played a short piece of music from well known songs, nursery rhymes and carols. It was a lovely

atmosphere and there was some excellent playing from these talented young pupils. No doubt some of them will be fine musicians in the future provided they show as much enthusiasm as they did today. They are dedicated and practise regularly. All did so well and were much appreciated by their audience.

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*One of the pupils who did so well at the All Saints Music Assembly*

# CAROLS AND HOT CHOCOLATE



EP 'Carols on the Green' was held at school due to inappropriate conditions on the Village Green. Instead, children sang carols for the parents at school, whilst the latter enjoyed their hot chocolate.

## NATIVITY KEY STAGE 1



Kenny Lynotte, Jack Ledger and Kasey Thomas

It is an achievement to have 90 children involved in a Nativity play, but this was so at the Nativity performance of Key Stage 1 in the EP school in December 2012. Everyone had a part to play and played it very well. The choir were in very good voice and had obviously had to learn many words for their performance, but it was excellent. We know that the Nativity Scene is of prime importance in telling the story of Christmas, but there are many other aspects of Christmas which we enjoy. These

were depicted in this Nativity Play staged by Key Stage 1. There was Santa and his reindeer. Santa's Christmas Elves, Christmas Trees, Christmas Dinners, Christmas Presents, Robin Redbreasts, Christmas Bells, Angels and Stars who appeared when the song was sung 'The stars come out for Christmas' Indeed the stars had come out that afternoon because everyone who took part in that Nativity was a star. Fitting into the narrative were the familiar stable figures, Mary and Joseph,

Baby Jesus, stable animals, Shepherds, Angels, Stars and the three Wise Men. There were beautiful costumes mainly made by the staff and even the choir who represented Carol Singers all wore a scarf and hat and gloves so that they looked the part. The narrators were dressed very smartly too in their own clothes and did their part very well. Ninety children to dress up to make a tremendous performance - incredible! Thank you children for a lovely afternoon. Brenda Craddock

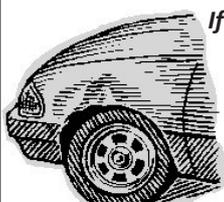
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# THE FOUNDATION STAGE NATIVITY



It is always a delight to see the Nativity performed by the very young children. They enjoy having an audience especially when it is made up of their parents, and grandparents, or their childminders and friends. There were waving hands and beaming smiles everywhere in the really packed school hall, which all added to the excitement and delight of the performances for all of the children. The action had been very cleverly adapted for the understanding and level of performance which these very young

*An important figure in the Nativity*

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*Little angels*

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nursery and reception the shepherds, the pupils could give and the angels, stars, and finally The Three Kings. A lively recorded tape of music contributed to the very nice singing and many children had obviously learnt every word of every song very conscientiously, which was very good indeed. Members of staff helped and guided the children through a beautiful, charming, authentic performance. Well done! Brenda Craddock

# EP SCHOOL NATIVITY AND CHRISTINGLE

The nativity entitled Silent Night began with a lively introduction of 'Come join the Celebration'. This theme was followed throughout the service beginning with the explanation by the children of how and when the carol was written. The performance was exceptional with word perfect acting. It involved hide and seek with the children really enjoying running about the church, followed by a cleanup session performed with

similar enthusiasm. The costumes looked authentic Germanic/Austrian, as was the excellent dance routine, reminiscent of our own English Morris dancing. At times the carol singing was in German, (Germany being in the current Comenius project). Silent Night sung by a little girl was an absolute delight. The nativity was serene with all attired in white whilst melodic singing of the participants embraced the occasion.

Candles were lit at the font and the children from year 3 slow marched around the church nervously clutching their Christingles. It was truly an emotional experience. Some of the parents were moved to tears. However the mood soon lightened when Rev Rupert Kalus included the children in his delightful, amusing explanation of the Christingle. The animation of not just the children but the whole

congregation was a joy to witness. Thanks and praise were given to the Head Teacher and the children by the vicar before Mrs Davis went to the lectern to thank the children, particularly those in year 6 and year 3 who took part in the service. Mrs Davis included Rev Rupert Kalus and her staff as well in her emotional

speech. She concluded by asking everyone to pray for Mrs Jarvis, a teacher for many years at the school, who is very ill. The service ended with the singing of 'O Come all ye Faithful' before Rev Rupert Kalus gave the Blessing. It was simply a wonderful Christmas afternoon - a joy to be there.



*The nativity - Silent night*



*Children proudly carrying their Christingles as they marched around the church*

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# ENTERPRISE DAY AT THE EP SCHOOL

What a wonderful, industrious day the Years Five and Six pupils had on the Tuesday afternoon of December 4th. It was Enterprise Day and representatives from the 'Durham Education Business

Partnership were in school. The partnership, based at Newton Aycliffe aims to prepare pupils for life after school.

The team of five adults presided over the two sessions. Their leader, Sandra Stephenson,

was accompanied by a former chief works manager for Northumbrian Water Company, a retired Secondary School Teacher who had taught children food technology and needlework, a person

from 'The Identity and Passport Service'; and a 'Durham Victim Support Counsellor'. The morning theme for the younger children was 'Duck Day'. The children enjoyed their session enormously and the ducks they created were wonderful.

The afternoon session was a challenge for the older students when they had to work as a team. The topic was 'Eco Houses' and the pupils had to pretend they were builders and architects who had been given a piece of land for building houses.

The pupils or 'architects' and 'builders' had all sorts of ideas and wonderful

representations of their plot of land began to emerge. The hall was totally alive with conversations and activity. It was interesting to listen to their discussions, especially their ideas of 'Eco Friendly' houses. There was certainly good use of solar panels.

Each group appointed someone to give a presentation of their work. The confidence and prowess in presenting skills was excellent. It is true to say that every pupil was fully engaged in this enterprise and would obviously benefit greatly from it. It was a very productive afternoon.

Brenda Craddock



*Team work produces good results*

## MESSY CHURCH

Our new vicar Reverend Rupert Kalus has introduced 'Messy Church' to the Parish Church. It is a fairly new initiative for church ministry, and is essentially a once monthly time when families come together to enjoy being together, making things together, eating together and celebrating God together. It is not just an ordinary fun, activity day, because it is an event for children and their carers or parents together and there is an

element of worship underpinning it all. Any family from Lanchester community is welcome to attend and in the three months of its existence 40 children with one or two adults have attended and there have been very positive comments.

It is held in the Chapter House, on the last Sunday of the month, from 3.45 pm-5.45 pm, (December excepted). We would love to see you and your children there.

Brenda Craddock



*Messy Church, Busy Church*



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# NEW YEAR'S EVE CEILIDH

Once again Elaine Williams of the Wildlife Group organised a superb New Year's dance in the Community Centre. The music was provided by

The Angels of the North Ceilidh Band. The caller Noel Jackson got everyone up to dance and enjoy themselves. They were entertained by some fine

Appalachian clog dancing, fed by a sumptuous faith supper and enjoyed a few bevvies. Is there a better way to see in the New Year?



Angels of the North Ceilidh Band



Dancers enjoying the ceilidh on New Year's Eve

## WILLOW BURN NEWS

Happy New Year from the Income Generation Team. We have had an extremely successful December and are looking forward to a fantastic 2013! Many thanks to everyone who came along to our Light up a Life service at St Bede's. It was enlightening, uplifting and a huge source of comfort. All of the generous donations, received in memory of loved ones, amounted to nearly £11k, which is up by a third on 2011 ... and we are still receiving money! Our Tree of Remembrance too, was a great success in 2012. We need to thank Matalan and Lanchester Nurseries for supplying such a beautiful tree, but we also need to thank the public for helping us to raise over £4,000. Again this is a brilliant increase

over last year's donations. We had so many one-off donations from individuals, groups and companies, who gave in lieu of Christmas cards over the festive season - the total sum will run into thousands of pounds. What a simple but fab fundraising idea! Maybe you could organise a similar scheme to run at your workplace or in your pub/club in 2013? Our sincere thanks go to trustee, Paul Jackson, who raised nearly £3,000 by way of a 'work's do' at Lumley Castle - his unceasing loyalty and commitment to Willow Burn is a blessing to members of staff, volunteers and patients alike. Hospice staff and volunteers who helped with the Durham Shopping Extravaganza 2012, were thrilled to hear

of the success of the project, as Willow Burn received a cheque for £6000 as part of the proceeds. As well as making £112 from the sale of Xmas cards, the hospice was also in receipt of matched funding from the County Durham Community Foundation amounting to £600. Again, grateful thanks to everyone who took part. Our new Events Diary will be published in a couple of weeks. If you would like a copy so that you can add dates to your calendar, please tel. Danielle on (01207) 529224. If you'd like to help raise money for the hospice or would like any advice or support in organising an event, please contact sfox@willowburnhospice.org.uk or tel. (01207)523295.

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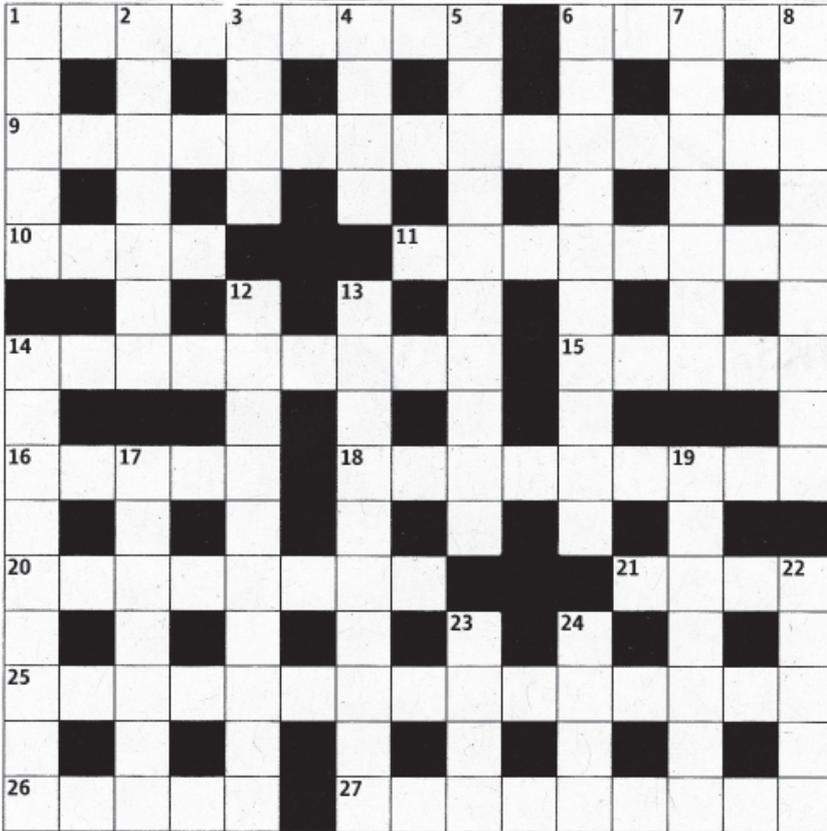
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# CROSSWORD 81



- ACROSS**
- Sweet odour (9)
  - Cheek (5)
  - Stargazer (3,7,5)
  - Aggressive boys (4)
  - Interrogation (8)
  - Representation got a crimp (9)
  - Feel (5)
  - Having the edge (3-2)
  - Trust (7,2)
  - Where Moses was discovered (2,6)
  - Saga (4)
  - Now (2,4,3,3,3)
  - Enemy state in Asia (5)
  - Baptismal sponsor (9)
- DOWN**
- Suspicious (5)
  - Oxygen dependent (7)
  - Wander (4)
  - Point to first zoo for spy (4)
  - Geological feature (10)
  - Naïve (10)
  - Ideal (7)
  - Always verdant tree (9)
  - Understanding pointer I take on (10)
  - Bloodhound perhaps (7,3)
  - Nearness (9)
  - Correction (7)
  - Redeem ape exit (7)
  - Box (5)
  - Ogled (4)
  - Lost civilisation found in Cambodia (4)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 80

- ACROSS**
- trivia
  - slipshod
  - not bad
  - it is said
  - turn of speed
  - Rwandan
  - laconic
  - categorical
  - sunbeams
  - stroll
  - emotions
  - heresy
- DOWN**
- Mikado
  - fly the flag
  - episodic
  - tincture
  - interval
  - head
  - duds
  - sanctimony
  - anecdote
  - ice lolly
  - deceit
  - rotter
  - isle
  - undo

## CROSSWORD 80

There were 16 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to Barbara Irvine of Deanery View who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

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## SUDOKU

There is just one simple rule in Sudoku. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. See next month for answers.

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

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# WI

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed members to our first meeting of 2013 before Jean Forster gave the reading. Subscriptions were taken and tickets given out for the ballet and Mousetrap. Members were asked if they would be interested in forming a WI darts team, there was a good response so if you are interested please see Angela or Heather. The list was out for members to help with raffles, readings and votes of thanks. Barbara Sproat won the raffle and the competition winners of hats made with paper

and 6 pins were Ann Carr and Jennifer Macdonald. Our speaker this evening was Jim Russell who stepped in at very short notice. Jim who is quite a recent arrival to our village entertained us with poetry written by himself, friends and Gervase Phinn. The poetry ranged from the very funny to serious and thought provoking, a poem about a gentleman telling his son and new wife he would come and live with them, acting as his son had at home, had us laughing out loud, as did the children's nativity play. Others such as poems

written by an 85 year old in an old people's home and Jim's own poem on prison visiting made us stop and think about how we see others and how they see themselves. We really enjoyed all Jim's poems and look forward to hearing more in the future. Thank you Jim. Jennifer gave the vote of thanks and the evening ended with Jim joining us as we enjoyed two delicious homemade soups made by June. During December members attended the WI Carol Service in Durham Cathedral along with other Durham WIs, a wonderful Christmas event.



Speaker and competition judge Jim Russell with Ann Carr, Jean Forster, Jennifer Macdonald, Ann Grosvenor, Angela Velleman and Heather Muir wearing their competition hats.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Vegetable Soup

- 2 Carrots
  - 1 Parsnip
  - Small Turnip
  - 1 large Onion
  - 2 large Celery sticks
  - 1 Leek
  - 25g/1 oz Butter
  - 900 ml/1 1/2 Pints Water
  - 1 Vegetable or Chicken Stock Cube
  - Salt and Pepper
1. Cut the carrots, parsnip and turnip into small pieces. Chop the

- onion, leek and celery sticks.
2. Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the vegetables and cover the pan.
3. Fry very gently without browning for a few minutes shaking the pan frequently.
4. Pour in water, add stock cube and bring to the boil. Lower the heat and simmer gently

- until the vegetables are soft.
5. Remove from heat, pour into liquidiser and blend until smooth.
6. Return to saucepan and add more liquid (if necessary) for the required consistency.
7. Reheat to serve (can be frozen to use when required). Season with salt and pepper as appropriate.

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## ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

## Country Market

On Saturday 2nd February, 10am-12noon, come along to the Country Market in the Community Centre for your fresh produce, cakes, pies, jams, chutneys, eggs, plants, etc.

## Lanchester Social Club

Saturday 2nd February, CHRIS JAMES, Clubland Award Winning Vocalist  
Sunday 9th February, JOLENE, Super Vocalist  
Saturday 16th February, GARY JAMES, Vocalist (pop swing soul)  
Saturday 23rd February, HAYLEY STORM, Stunning Young Vocalist

## Sunday Bridge

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon playing Bridge in the Community Centre on February 3rd from 2.00 pm. Only £3. Everyone welcome.

## Lanchester Bridge Club

The club has a friendly atmosphere with a few club rules. We have very enjoyable meetings while playing the best card game ever. If you are not a Bridge player already it might seem to be a confusing game, but once you learn the basics, you can spend a lifetime improving your game. If you can play bridge, however rusty or sharp you might be, we can accommodate you, or if you are ready to learn the basics, lessons are running in the Community Centre on Thursdays. Contact may be via the secretary Jan Vasey on 521948 or m.07802721003 or email janvasey@aol.com.

It isn't just for silver tops, and it really does help to keep your brain active and it doesn't cost very much to have some good clean fun. Go on what are you waiting for?

## Paradiso Club

The next Social will be on Sunday February 3rd, 7.00 - 9.15pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be a Raffle, Refreshments and the opportunity to see the film 'THE ARTIST'.

Described as 'a witty and moving homage to the silent movie era, an exquisitely judged, gloriously funny and aching tender film'.

It is a beguiling love story, a miracle of entertainment. The romance is gentle and passionate ... an older established movie star helps a talented young woman on the path to fame only to see his career decline as she hits the big time. The film got rave reviews, do come!

Entry £2.50 for members, £3.50 for occasional visitors, £2 for young persons, This covers the raffle, refreshments and film.

## Craft and Chat

This will take place in the Community Centre on Monday 4th February, 7.00 - 9.00 pm, £10 to include all materials. Telephone 01207 521275 to pre-book a place.

## WI

The next meeting will be held in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 4th February starting at 7.00 pm.

The speaker will be Jane Pegram on Preserves and Farmers Markets, and Lynn Howarth, a Nutritional Therapist. The competition will be a decorated jam jar. If you would like to come along as a visitor please do, you will be sure of a warm welcome.

## Open House

The next Open House will be on Thursday 7th February, 11.30am-1pm in the Chapter House when a light lunch will be served.

## Durham Dramatic Society

At The City Theatre, Durham, between Sunday, 10th February, and Saturday, 16th February. 'The Constant Wife' by Somerset Maugham, a comedy depicting relations between the sexes, where understanding and tolerance prevent disaster. Performances start at 2.30pm on Sunday and 7.30 pm on Monday to Saturday. Tickets cost £6.50 and are obtainable from the Gala Theatre Box Office, Durham. Telephone no. 0191 332 4041 Concessions are available on Sunday and Monday at £5.

## New Plays

Local playwright Tom Casling is such a prolific writer that Chester-le-Street Theatre Group are producing two of his plays in the same week. On Mon, Wed and Fri 11th, 13th and 15th February 'An Honourable Man'. Patrick has kept the local brass band going after the miners' strike to raise money for good causes while his brother, a parish priest, has got himself into a spot of trouble. A tale of sibling rivalry and misunderstandings with plenty of comedy.

On Tues, Thurs and Sat 12th, 14th, 16th February 'Frozen Assets', a riotous comedy with a plot that hangs on a misguided lie and its consequences. Curtain up at 7.15 pm. Tickets £7 or both plays for £10. Telephone 0191 388 3778 or 0191 388 5957 or pay at the door.

## Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 12th February, at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre, Rachel Hepburn will give a talk on 'Care of Hedgehogs'.

# WHAT'S ON?

## Junior/Family Wildlife

The next meeting will be on Sunday 17th February at Malton. Meet in the car park at 10 am.

## Mothers' Union

This month's meeting is on Ash Wednesday, 13th February and there is an Ashing Service in church starting at 7 pm. Afterwards we will hold a short meeting in the Chapter House.

## Kids' Club

On Mon 18th February, the film 'Lorax' will be shown from 2-4 pm in the Community Centre. Only £2 per person. All welcome.

A Crafternoon will be held on Friday 22nd February from 2-4 pm in the Community Centre with the theme 'Mother's Day', £3.50. Please ring 01207 521275 to book a place.

## Lenten Lunches

Lenten lunches will be held at The Methodist Church on Tuesdays, 11.30 am: February 19th, February 26th, March 5th, March 12th, March 19th.

Please bring lunch to share between 11.30 am - 12.00. Tea is provided.

12.00 - 1.00 pm, we will be following the York Course, 2013, 'Glimpses of God'. Everyone is welcome.

## Flower Club

On Wed 27th February in the Main Hall of Lanchester Community Centre at 2 pm, the 40th AGM will be held, followed by a demonstration 'Sugarcraft' by Ann Holmes of Stanley.

## PACT Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th February at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

## Thursday Club

A few days before Christmas, 21 members turned up to reminisce about Christmases long gone, sing carols and enjoy mince pies and sloe wine - a lovely relaxing amusing companiable afternoon spent with friends. By the time you read this we shall have enjoyed our New Year party at Deanos. On 21st February in the Small Hall of the Community Centre at 1.30 pm we will hear Glynnis Grainger telling us all about 'Mata Hari - the spy who never was'. I look forward to seeing you all there.

## Music with Canon Spence

Why not join us for one of the great musical evenings to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Ordination of Canon Robert Spence. There's something for everyone.

'Concert of Sacred Music' Handel, Haydn, Vivaldi, Faure and Jenkins, Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society, Friday 1st March, 7.15 pm, All Saints RC Church, Kitswell Road. Soloists will be Elizabeth Woods, Kathleen Ireland, Richard Woods and Ian Gray. Refreshments afterwards in the Parish Centre. Tickets £8 01207 520172 or 01207 521458.

'Golden Harmonies' A medley of folk, blues and country from the last 50 years, Ray and Terry, Saturday 9th March, 7.30 pm, Lanchester Social Club. Tickets: £5 to include pie and pea supper 01207 528488.

'An Evening with Vin Garbutt and Friends' A gala bill of folk including folk legend Tom Gilfellon and MACK. Wednesday 24th April, 7.30 pm, Gala Theatre Durham. Tickets: £10 (£9 conc) Box Office 0191 3324041.

## MUSICAL MINIS

Every Friday afternoon a delightful session takes place in the Community Centre for tiny tots. These little tots all enjoy a valuable, musical experience, led by an experienced leader. 'Musical Minis' is a company which has been in existence for 22 years but came to Lanchester in 2010. Mrs Jackie Stedman owns the Franchise and she has one other helper, namely Mrs Ruth Adamson who lives in

Chester-le-Street. It is Ruth who takes the sessions in Lanchester. Sessions are taken every week throughout the school term, and in Lanchester there is one session on a Friday afternoon, 2.00 pm to 2.45 pm. The musical programme is very well organised and allows the children to hear and respond to varied patterns of music, through action rhymes and through playing instruments eg, tambourines, drums, and mini glockenspiels. There is also the use of storytelling and puppetry, which is good training for listening and

imaginative skills. The children enjoy it enormously and their happy faces are always a joy to see.

The success of the sessions is due, to a large extent, to the leader, Ruth, who has an excellent rapport with the children and shows infectious enthusiasm for this work. It is really true to say that the mums, grandmothers, grandfathers and childminders enjoy it as much as the children!

Why not give it a try? Ruth would love to see you. We all would! You won't be disappointed. Brenda Craddock



*Adam and Charlie enjoying percussion*

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## YOUTH, JUSTICE AND PEACE AT ST BEDE'S

**Continued from page 24** Usually people come for help a couple of times until they are back on their feet. In these tough times, the charity is emptying its shelves on a daily basis. The Youth Justice and

Peace team, touched by this message, resolved to make a difference before Christmas. At every mass in the nine parishes in the deanery, students spoke very confidently to parishioners about the

need to support the poor in our own community. The response from every parish was overwhelming and on Friday, 14th December, representatives joined us in a celebration of the

mass and then joyfully received the food. They were very emotional at what our students had achieved. They were touched by the generosity of the young people and on behalf of all those who

would receive the food. On behalf of all in our community, 'thank you' to the many parishioners who contributed to this wonderful charity. This is the true message of Christmas.

---

## LATEST FROM THE CRICKET CLUB

The Christmas Feast was held at the brilliantly transformed club on the 22nd December and was a great night. Tables were

bedecked with winter flower arrangements, table cloths and crackers, whilst the club was suitably decorated with

tree et al. The feast was a four course affair. Gary Welford provided a choice of starters, with Irene Cooper creating a

winter vegetable broth for the second course. Crinnions kindly cooked the beef and turkey and loaned the hot plates to keep everything warm for serving. Jeff Wingfield carved the joints whilst everyone helped themselves to the vast array of vegetables, with every option available. Jacqueline McConnell home produced the dessert options that gave everyone a difficult but extremely pleasant choice at the end of the meal.

When the food was eaten and the tables cleared, a raffle and game of stand up bingo preceded the evening's vocal

entertainment provided by Pete McDonald. A big thanks to Jim Potts who was instrumental in getting the event organised.

January is a quiet time for the club as plans are made to arrange net practice sessions and lay the foundation for the forthcoming season. The new nets at the Louisa Centre will be given their first airing by the club starting Sunday 27th January, between 2 and 4 pm. This will be the first time juniors and seniors will practise alongside each other thanks to Louisa Centre having five lanes. Here's wishing you all a Happy New Year.



*A very festive Cricket Club, ready for their Christmas Feast*

# TABLE TENNIS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Members of the Lanchester Table Tennis Club including winners of the annual 'Open Handicap Knockout Tournament, 2012'. About 30 people attended for a Christmas Party with a buffet and Awards Ceremony. Those proudly holding their trophies in the photograph are: John Cook, Joe Hume, Sam Hume, Lauren Cook and Jacob Days.

## YOUTH, JUSTICE AND PEACE AT ST BEDE'S

On Thursday, 22nd November, students at St Bede's launched their own Justice and Peace group, in Lanchester Parish hall. Every year group and every parish in this deanery was represented.

The group was the initiative of students who had been confirmed this year and who wanted to do something for the poor in their community. Father David Smith, curate at St Joseph's Stanley and St Patrick's Dipton, Mrs Hutchings, RE teacher at St Bede's and Kirstie, our school chaplain supported the students who decided that it was time to put their faith into action.

At Thursday's meeting, two ladies from the Food4U group in Consett, spoke to the students about their charity which is based in Consett and Stanley. Food is collected and then distributed to people who have lost their



The Youth, Justice and Peace Team from St Bede's with the vast array of food they had collected to help the local charity, Food4U.

jobs; their benefits have either been stopped or delayed or they are struggling financially. Food4U aim to provide three breakfasts, three lunches and three evening meals to people in need. ....Continued on page 23

### NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any articles for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 12th February. The deadline for adverts is 10th February.

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