

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 4 Volume 15

Lanchester, April 2014

For contact information, see page 2

## VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN



*Jill Gladstone and co line up before the hard work begins*

Saturday March 29th was dull and drizzly, but not raining, when the Lanchester Partnership set up 'base camp' on the village green. 55 Lanchester folk of all ages came and then spread out to give the village its annual spring clean, and 56 big blue bags of rubbish were filled. Since

then other people have been clearing areas such as Maiden Law Bank and now the village looks sparkling clean. Big thanks to them all, and to the County Council for its support.

Dave the village handyman and many residents regularly pick up litter throughout the

year and theirs is a very big contribution to the attractiveness of our village.

Incidentally, a bicycle that had been dumped on Durham Road was picked up. Does anyone own it? Please ring if you do. Jill Gladstone, Tel. 01207 528114.

*More pictures, page 3*

## TRACTOR RALLY



*Lanchester Vintage Tractor Club's first outing on 13th April*

*Story and more photos, page 4*

## EASTER CROSS



*The beautiful cross made of daffodils, placed by children from the EP School at their end of term service in the Parish Church.*

*Full story on page 8*

## 'LIVING EGGS'



*The children of All Saints' Catholic School were able to watch first hand as 10 tiny chicks emerged from their eggs and came into the world. The chickens will stay in school for two weeks, moving from the incubator where they had hatched, into a second, larger home. The children were greatly excited, tracking their progress regularly. Our photo shows Melissa Martin, Lucy Houghton and Johnathan Bunting checking the chicks!*



# 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 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 and residents of Lanchester, I am writing with regard to the Community Centre particularly to those who frequently use the Fire Door Emergency Exit. This is a specialised door for a particular purpose. When I go to the Community Centre I often find this door is open and unattended. I know that it is used as a normal entrance particularly to the car park. There are 2 perfectly good entrances to the building. I would urge users of the Community Centre to be a little more considerate when accessing and leaving the building. If the fire door is constantly in use it may well be costly to replace it. Please leave the fire door for its intended purpose.

Yours sincerely,  
Sue Harkness

### Campaign for the Protection of Rural Lanchester IMPORTANT NOTICE

Housing Developers Story have posted on their website that they have applied for planning permission for Newbiggen Lane to Durham County Council. Notices should go up around the area of the site and people close to the site should receive a letter asking for opinions and objections. Once these letters have been received we will take further action. It could take a few days or even weeks before any notices appear and if the County Council are not happy with parts of the proposal they may ask Story for clarification before even posting them so please be patient but vigilant.  
Eric Hepplewhite

### Memorial Seat

Lanchester Parish Council maintains a number of seats in the Parish. It has come to our attention that the memorial seat located in front of the King's Head public house near to the junction of Station Road and Durham Road is in a poor condition.

The seat is dedicated as follows: 'In Memory of Doctor Jack Fox'. We would like to make contact with any members of the family so that we may discuss relocating the memorial plaque to a suitable alternative location. Please contact Sally on 01207 521957.



The memorial plaque

### The Prince's Trust receives £75K grant to get young people into business

County Durham set up businesses throughout the UK. The substantial £75,000 grant was made possible thanks to generous County Durham Community Foundation donors Jonathan and Jane Ruffer, who are passionate about supporting skills and opportunity initiatives here in the local community. To find out more about the grants offered and to apply, visit [www.cdcf.org.uk](http://www.cdcf.org.uk) or phone 0191 3786340. There are also County Durham Community Foundation Facebook and Twitter pages which are regularly checked.

### Found

In Lanchester Front Street on Thursday 3rd April lady's/girl's pink purse with a motif on front containing a small amount of cash. Loser please contact Clive Turner, 11 Greenwell Park, Lanchester. I have put a notice in the Post Office but as yet no one has claimed it and it has been reported to the Police at Consett. Thanks, C R Turner

### Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for March is 29. The draw was made by Alison Boyd, the new manager of the Community Centre.

### How to contact the Village Voice

#### To advertise:

Contact John Hurren, Advertising Manager  
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Email: [villagevoiceadverts@talktalk.net](mailto:villagevoiceadverts@talktalk.net)

#### General and news enquiries:

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#### By email:

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

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*Lara Madeley with daughter Hana, at the pathway to Deanery View, helping to pick litter.*



*Sarah Hill (left) and Rebecca Wilson, picking litter at the shelter on the green with Matthew and Emma Hill.*



*The bicycle that had been dumped on Durham Road. Do you know who it belongs to?*

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*For more details contact any member of the Fitness 4 U staff or phone Alison Boyd (Community Association Manager)*

**Tel: 01207 521275**

# LANCHESTER VINTAGE TRACTOR CLUB RALLY

This newly formed club got off to a good start on Sunday morning 13th April. It was a cool day and starting to get windy with black clouds gathering and the likelihood of rain showers. About thirty members took part with an amazing variety of interesting tractors mainly driven by farmers, though some of the participants own tractors as they simply enjoy driving them.

The morning began at the Queen's Head with Fiona Wilson, of Crinnions, distributing hot drinks to all those assembled before the start. The club holds regular meetings at Crinnions who also sponsor Lanchester Vintage Tractor Club.

This first event was a Charity Rally to support Great North Air Ambulance. Setting off at about 10.30 am the route took in: Peth Bank to Burnhope, on to Charlaw Fell, Sacriston, Edmondsley, Holmeside, Peartree, South Moor, off road to Maiden Law,



*Vintage Tractor rally going through the village*

continuing off road to Greencroft Woods, Iveston, Bogglehole, Knitsley and on to Satley for lunch at the Punchbowl. The run was scheduled to end back at the Queens at about 3.00 pm.

Club members are grateful to Paul Jackson for use of the car park and to Fiona for the hot drinks. The day went well with £193.71 being raised for North East Air Ambulance.



*Bernard White and Jane Parker with her son*

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*Local farmers with their vintage tractors*

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# LANCHESTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2014

At the AGM in March I made a presentation to John Wilson who left as our Manager after making a tremendous contribution during the past 8 years. Alison Boyd has been appointed to replace John and she will perform this role as well as continuing to be an Exercise Assistant.

I was pleased to report that 2013 was a very good year; we made a profit of £6,000 of which £5,000 was transferred to our reserve funds for building work and new equipment. Following my appeal in January I am delighted to report that we received donations of over £1,000 from the public and from two of our Groups. I am overwhelmed by the generosity shown but, if you can, please keep the donations coming in as we are still facing difficult times because of the discontinuance of some services and competition

from other providers of rooms in Lanchester. Unless we can find new business our income will be reduced by £10,000 and I have had to make savings. I have restructured the staffing and finances, saving £5,000 per year. However, our anonymous lender of £38,000 has made an offer that could not be refused.

The outstanding loan is £25,500 and he proposed that if this was repaid in full, he would make a donation of £12,750 which would amount to £16,000 with gift aid. This offer was accepted and all debts have been repaid but there will be a net cost of £9,500 in 2014.

Grants have been received for the refurbishment of the two halls: £3,500 from County Durham Community Foundation, £2,500 from the Area Action

Partnership, £350 from Sunday Bridge and £700 from the community. Although this is still £2,000 short of the £9,000 target, it is intended to start work on the project in May of this year. Any group or individual who would like us to complete this project is welcome to make a donation, no matter how large or small. In the last four years we have been successful in obtaining grants totalling £32,000. We have succeeded because of the quality of the applications but also by demonstrating the level of support we receive from the people of Lanchester. The more Members and Friends we have helps us a great deal when making applications for grants, so please consider becoming one and you will be doing your bit for the community.

**Arthur Maughan MBE,**  
Chairman

## LANCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTRE CAR PARK IS A PRIVATE CAR PARK

Many people believe the Community Centre's car park is a public car park. This is not true; it is a private car park for members of the Community Association and those using the Community Centre. The upkeep of the car park is very expensive and the Community Association is currently trying to raise £20,000 for the necessary resurfacing work. When parking please do so in a responsible manner, not like the person who parked on the ramp (see photo) or those blocking the entrance to the overspill car park.



*Inconsiderate parking on the Community Centre ramp, but it could also be dangerous.*

# easyfundraising

.org.uk

It is easy to help Lanchester Community Centre just by shopping online. Instead of going directly to the shop you want to buy from, go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lanchestercc](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lanchestercc) and log in. Easyfundraising will then redirect you to your required shop and when you make your purchase, the Community Centre will receive commission on that purchase.

There are over 2700 shops in the scheme who are willing to give commission to charities, including lots of big names - John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Amazon, Tesco, Currys, Argos, Boots and Sainsbury's are just a few. So, before you shop online, please think whether you can help raise funds for the Community Centre. It won't cost you a penny.

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# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

## Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 8th April 2014

**Minutes**

Ordinary meeting held on 11th March 2014 - approved.

Planning meeting held on 19th March 2014 - approved.

Finance, Development & General Purposes Committee on 26th March 2014 - approved.

**Neighbourhood Warden Report** - this was received.

**Correspondence**

Durham County Council - War Memorial Maintenance Policy - resolved that the forms be completed and returned.

Letters of thanks for donations were received from: North East War Memorial Project, Great North Air Ambulance, Durham County Brass Band Association, Willow Burn Hospice.

Local Councils - Spring publication - received.  
**Area Action Partnership and Parish Councils Committee**

Members were informed that the Area Action Partnership are to move to Langley Park. A presentation on Community Emergency Plans had taken place at the last Parish Councils

Committee meeting. A meeting has been arranged to progress the Lanchester Community Emergency Plan.

**Royal British Legion - Lanchester Branch Standard**

Correspondence received from the Parish Church confirms that they would be pleased to have the standard laid up in the Church. It was agreed to progress the matter with the Royal British Legion.

**Neighbourhood Planning**

It was agreed that a Neighbourhood Plan be progressed, that a

representative working group be formed to progress the plan and that the first meeting be arranged.

**Hanging Baskets**

It was agreed that the hanging baskets be supplied by P Snowdon for the forthcoming year.

**Policies** - the following policies were reviewed and agreed:

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy, Public Participation Policy, Training - Statement of Intent, Publication Scheme, Grants Policy, Community Engagement - Statement of Intent, Complaints Procedure.

**Financial report** - discussed and received.

**Financial Year 2013/14 - End of Year Accounts**

The Council agreed the financial position for the end of year and accepted for certification the Annual Return - Accounting Statement and the Annual Return - Annual Governance Statement.

**Accounts for Payment** - approved.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 13th May 2014 following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which will commence at 7.15 pm.

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## EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

### Don't forget to vote

Elections for Members of the European Parliament will take place on Thursday 22nd May. There are 3 seats available in the North East constituency and MEPs will be elected using the party list proportional representation method. At the last election in 2009, one Labour MEP, one Conservative and one Liberal Democrat were elected. The candidates for 2014 (as at 16th April) are as follows:

BNP	Lady Dorothy Brooks Peter Foreman Martin Vaughan
Conservative	Martin Callanan Ben Houchen Andrew Lee
English Democrats	Kevin Riddiough Sam Kelly John Lewis
Green Party	Shirley Ford Alison Whalley Caroline Robinson
Labour	Judith Kirton-Darling Paul Brannen Jayne Shotton
Liberal Democrat	Angelika Schneider Owen Temple Christian Vassie
UKIP	Jonathan Arnott Richard Elvin John Tennant

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## POLICE REPORT

At the PACT meeting held on Tuesday 1st April the community decided to introduce speeding near Ornsby Hill as the PACT priority. Over the following month officers will be deploying our Community Speedwatch and Laser guns to identify any vehicles speeding in the location.

Local officers have been continuing to address issues of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour in the village. As a result of a no tolerance approach, reported incidents of anti-social behaviour have significantly reduced and two teenage males aged 13 and 15 have admitted to causing damage within the village.

In March local officers took part in Operation

Snowdrop following information that cocaine use was on the increase in some of our licensed premises including The Black Bull. On Saturday 8th March local officers, dog section and Deputy Chief Constable Banks took part in walk-throughs whereby customers and toilet areas were checked for evidence of drugs. During the visit no persons were found in possession of drugs however evidence of drug use was found in the men's toilets. Since then staff from The Black Bull have taken part in additional drug training and officers will look at conducting further walk-throughs in the near future.

A current issue ongoing within the village is

parking in the area of Peth Bank, Deneside and Durham Road due to the increase in parked vehicles because of the building work taking place. Local officers and Civil Enforcement Officers are actively monitoring the hotspot areas and issuing £30 obstruction fines where necessary. A site visit has also been conducted with Traffic Management Officers to offer further advice and assistance to help address these issues. If anyone would like any further information please feel free to come along to our next PACT meeting due to take place on Tuesday 6th May 2014 at 6.30 pm in Burnhope Primary School.

PCSO 6780 Lisa Jackson

## SPRING IS HERE POLICE ADVICE

Now is the time to ensure sheds, allotments, garages and out-buildings are secure to protect your property. As the weather improves, criminals are aware that tools and other expensive items will be more frequently used and stored in sheds, garages and outbuildings.

### TOP TIPS:

- Ensure property is secure at all times.
- Lock and alarm your shed, outbuilding or garage. Look at the vulnerabilities of your shed ie, those with windows/weak hinges and ensure they are as secure as possible.
- Ensure all valuable items are property marked and serial numbers noted - this will assist

officers with the identification of items, allow us to recognise stolen items, make arrests, and return items to their rightful owner.

- Think about using gravel on driveways and in gardens. This is loud and is a deterrent to opportunists who don't wish to be heard.
- Consider access to your garden. Are side gates locked? Where do you store your waste bin? Could this be used to gain access over high fences?
- Install dusk till dawn security lighting which will illuminate your garden at all times should you hear a noise outside. Motion sensor lighting is often

activated frequently by numerous things including pets and often ignored.

Report suspicious activity to police at the time via our 101 non-emergency telephone number. If we don't know about it, we can't do anything!

Why not set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme where you live, it can take up as much or as little time as you have to offer. Benefits include: regular updates regarding crime and your community. You may also be entitled to a reduction in your home insurance premium. We are looking for street co-ordinators where you live. For more information, contact PCSO Vikki Ord by calling 0191 3752455 or via email: victoria.ord@durham.pnn.police.uk.

## Traffic Chaos on Peth Bank



Contractors from the Lynwood site are now parking on Peth Bank near the Vets and Deanery View causing chaos for drivers. At least one accident so far, at the time of writing.

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# EP SCHOOL EASTER SERVICE

## From Tragedy to Triumph

This very moving Easter presentation is always very well done by the EP School. It took place on April 3rd in All Saints' Parish Church. The whole school from Nursery to Year 6 came to take part and so it was in a very well filled church for this annual presentation. Reverend Rupert Kalus welcomed the children and also all the many parents, family members, childminders and friends who had come to support the children.

This special Easter service opens with a stark wooden cross at the front of the church. Various items which are symbolic of the events of the week leading up to Easter (Holy Week) are brought forward by

the pupils and placed around the cross. Words of explanation and readings from the Bible are spoken by the pupils and appropriate songs are sung. The cross stands surrounded by the artefacts, which include a hammer and nails, a whip, a crown of thorns, 30 pieces of silver, and a cockerel, all signs of the cruelty and betrayal surrounding the death of Jesus on a cross. This is the tragedy part of the play and a reverend silence

descends but as the artefacts are taken away from the cross the Triumph begins to emerge.

With some clever stage-managing on behalf of the staff each pupil is given a daffodil to place



*A packed church*

on the cross. Reverend Kalus asked all the congregation to take part in making a very beautiful cross of daffodils (photo on front page). There was some very nice singing by the pupils, of

specially chosen Easter songs, as the daffodils were put in place. It was no longer a stark wooden cross but a beautiful symbol of Light, Beauty, Hope and Love.

'Jesus is Alive, He has risen from the dead' is

the joyful message Easter brings and with readings from the Bible, lovely songs, activity and reverence the EP School had conveyed this to us. It was an excellent presentation. Brenda Craddock

## EASTER PLAY AT THE EP SCHOOL

It was once more a pleasure to see the Nursery and Foundation Class children aged 3, 4 and young 5s give an Easter presentation, for a large audience of parents, grandparents,

childminders and friends. Their teacher Mr Irwin directed the performance with other members of staff helping with the practicalities. These children are so young but so confident.

They have an excellent rapport with Mr Irwin and all eyes were upon him, as he guided them through the Easter words and songs. There were no costumes but each was wearing a

lovely Easter hat, which they had made at home. There were some very colourful and creative hats, some of which were worthy of Ascot!

The songs were delightfully sung by

these young voices beginning with 'We're here to praise the Lord' followed by 'All Creation Praise the Lord'. Another song was based on the Bible Story of Jesus and the children, when Jesus said 'Let the little children come unto me for of such is the Kingdom of God'; the song had a special message for everyone present. 'Jesus loves me Jesus loves you, He even loves grown-ups too'. There were an awful lot of words to learn for the songs but the children knew them all. As the children marched past the audience to leave the hall, we were able to have a closer look at those lovely hats, which they wore so proudly. Parents can be justly proud of all those delightful, very young children.

Brenda Craddock



*All ready to perform*

# THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

On March 26th, pupils from All Saints' Primary School settled down to watch a performance of the classic tale 'The Railway Children'. The students were familiar with this well loved story, and the talented young performers from M and M Productions once again acted several roles and obviously enjoyed the interaction with their young audience.



*The station master issues tickets for the railway. Who wants to ride today?*

## TRAGIC TALES OF TIME!

On Monday 3rd March, All Saints' RC Primary School's Class 6 pupils experienced a fantastic day all about Ancient Greece. Two Education Officers from the Museums of Durham University - Ross and Paddy - kindly came into their class all day to teach them about the Greeks. The day began with detective work. The children passed around Greek replica artefacts and had to guess what they had been used for. The artefacts included a hoplon (shield); a gigantic helmet; lots of delicate pottery and some metal items. After looking at the

artefacts, the children were told about the uses of each item. Next was Greek Theatre. Ross and Paddy explained how important theatre was to the Ancient Greeks and described how plays were either comedies, tragedies or satires. The children had great fun re-enacting a play while Ross narrated the story of 'The Wax Axle'. In the afternoon the children looked at the Ancient Greek alphabet and compared to the one we use today. Was it the same as ours? Some letters were very similar but others completely different. The children wrote election

posters using the Ancient Greek alphabet and decided they preferred using ours! To end the day the children designed a Greek clay pot (amphora). Each child was given a different god or goddess and they used the symbols associated with the god or goddess to decorate the pot. At the end of the day, everybody agreed they had had a great day. Eva, aged 10, said, "I really enjoyed trying on the helmet - it was comfortable despite being big!" All Class 6 said a huge thank you to Ross and Paddy for an interesting and enjoyable day.

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The dispensary is closed between 13.00-14.00 therefore collection of prescriptions are unavailable at this time.



## SUPER-SOUP MORNING

Mel Somersall and friends decided to support Christian Aid by putting on a Super-Soup morning on Wednesday 2nd April, at the Methodist Church. There were 8 super soups on offer together with 4 delicious puddings and a hot drink. All this for £5 - definitely a good deal! The morning was very well attended and an amazing grand total of £580.60 was raised.



Mel Somersall stirring the soup with Geoff Martin wiping dishes.



Super-soup serving ladies, left to right: Jennifer Nairn, Sue Somersall, Judith Brown and Diane Emmerson.

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## HANLEY AND SWINBANK EXPANDS

Business has been so brisk and the original shop so full at times, that it seemed inevitable that with the former Flower Shop next door empty, the logical move would be to take on those premises as well. With the extra space John and Neil have

decided to sell wet fish in the original shop. In the new premises which are now joined into one shop they have introduced a good selection of cheese with a quirky poem on the wall to advertise it. In addition they are now doing outside catering, a bigger selection of cold

meats, and have transferred all pies, quiches, hot foods, cakes etc to the delicatessen side. Meal deals which include a hot drink are now also on offer. With the extra space they hope to offer customers a much quicker service.

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The new combined premises of Hanley & Swinbank which shows staff in the delicatessen part of the shop.

# FOOD FESTIVAL

Community Centre staff are full of good money raising ideas these days, one of which came to fruition with a very successful Food Festival. They managed to secure bookings for about a dozen people to come and show their products. There was an extremely good variety of homemade produce to choose from. Exhibitors came from far and wide including Gluten Free Products of Bishop Auckland and a lovely selection of Spanish olives, oils, vinegars and meats brought by a gentleman from Matfen, who also lectures in Spanish at Northumbria University. It was interesting to see as near as Blackhill, and bison and venison on sale from one of the two butchers. Local

Swinbank, represented by Anouska, brought along a good range of products. Local baker, Carol Emerson of Emerswood Bakery, had a wonderful selection of breads; Mrs Bees, from Maiden Law displayed a super range of jams and preserves; Kaffeehaus Amadeus provided some delicious looking delicacies on their display. There were cheese stands, cup cakes, gluten free products, but unfortunately space available prevents a mention of every exhibitor. It was an excellent festival which will surely take place again sometime in the near future. A tempting raffle plus money from teas and coffees resulted in an excellent profit of £272 which will go into Lanchester Community Centre funds.



*A family from Stanley visits the Gluten Free Products table, from Bishop Auckland.*

*Right, a family from Conssett and Howick enjoy visiting Mrs Bees on her table, nicely set out with jams and preserves etc.*



# PLAYGROUP MONEY RAISER

Lanchester Playgroup chose the Methodist Church hall for their mini fair on Saturday,

29th March, to raise money for the group funds. There is always a guarantee of people in

the hall on a Saturday morning for coffee, so those together with supporters of the

Playgroup, made it a worthwhile exercise. There was a cake stall in the main hall with children's clothes, jams and preserves in the room at the back, together with face

painter, Kate Kelly, who kept the children occupied, with some lovely results. It was a busy morning which raised a much needed £190 for the funds.



*A local family perusing some clothes at the Playgroup Fair*



*Kate Kelly painting the cute little face of Millie Daniels*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

I have been dealing with a huge variety of issues from the global to the very local that have an impact on us all and I wanted to give you just a brief flavour this month.

'Fracking' in the US is contributing to the collapse in the global price of coal. You might ask what that has to do with North West Durham but UK Coal has been forced into liquidation and the government has had to step in with a multi-million pound loan to wind up their existing operations.

Yet despite this it seems that UK Coal still has the resources to press ahead with an appeal against a public inquiry that Durham County Council (DCC) won last year against an application to opencast in the Pont Valley, one of the most beautiful and ancient woodlands in the region. The most recent public inquiry report (there have been 3 to date) said that open casting would result in the loss of this valley to a generation and yet DCC is having to face and fund yet another appeal.

Dealing with DCC is an essential part of my work as a MP and whilst I don't always agree with individual decisions of the County, in this case I cannot fault the way they have worked with local community organisations and yet despite their best efforts ultimately it maybe that the energy policy of the US may have more influence than the justness of the cause.

I have also been working with the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) where on a number of occasions

constituents have waited hours for an ambulance after dialling 999. We know that NEAS are stretched to the limit so whilst individual staff do a remarkable job and NEAS continue to hit more 'red' call-outs than almost any other ambulance provider, problems are escalating. There are more and more 999 calls for non-emergency (some not even medical) reasons and increased 'banking' (ambulances parked up outside hospital A&E

departments all over the region unable to deliver patients because of pressures on A&E). So again, public servants doing their very best but their ability to deliver adversely affected because of connections beyond their control.

We live in a connected world but increasingly pressures on public services, many beyond their control, are leading to systemic difficulties that we are all increasingly feeling.

Pat Glass MP

## WI NEWS

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed everyone and did the reading. A list is out for a mini trip to the Oriental Museum on June 17th. One darts team has made it through to the WI darts finals and one quiz team has been entered into the WI quiz competition. Jennifer and Ann went to the handing over of the WI centenary baton which is going round the country. The resolution this year is to increase organ donation, details are in your WI magazine and will be voted on next month.

Our speaker this month was Sally White who stepped in at very short notice and entertained us with her experiences as a market researcher. Sally was a young mother with two when a friend asked her to help out with market research and started many years of asking the public

their opinions. She never interviewed in her own area so the hours could be long and unsociable as she had a set quota of a cross section of society; you had to do it right as firms paid a lot of money for this information. On one occasion she had on a lovely flowered dress, entered a ladies' home and discovered the ladies' curtains were the same pattern so she really blended in!! Sally had great fun taking work seriously but not herself. Raffle winners were Vee Wintrell and Janis Suddes and the competition winners were Ann Grosvenor and Jill Gladstone. Jennifer gave the vote of thanks and the meeting ended with refreshments. Thank you everyone who helped and supported our very lively and successful coffee morning.



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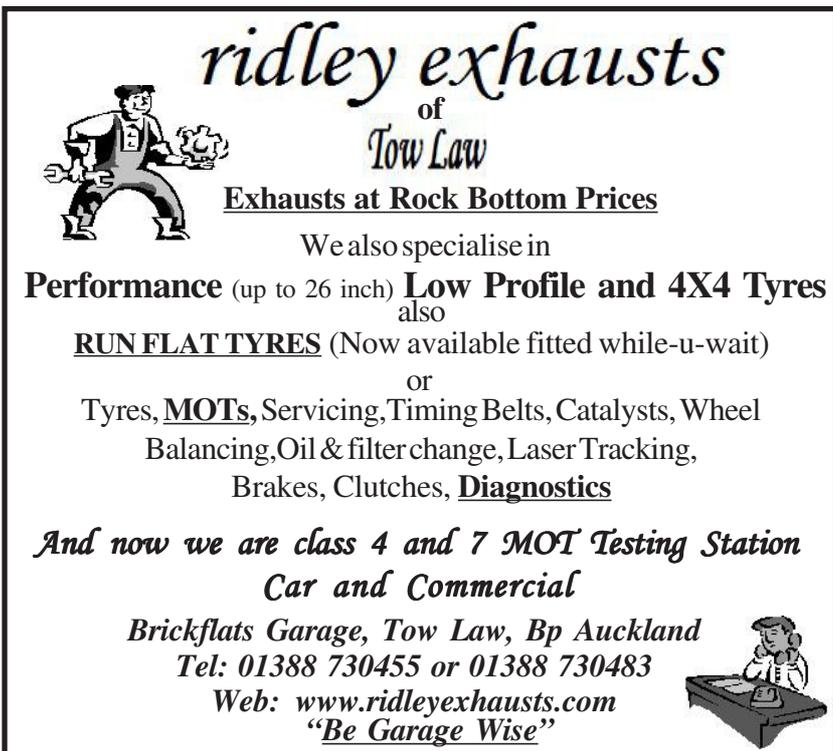
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Marie Murphy with the entries for the egg head competition

## the 'Gathering'

Crisp white cloths adorned with green napkins and bright yellow daffodil flower displays along with gentle piano playing greeted guests as they arrived for the first 'Gathering' of 2014.

Mel, with the help of Olna, Geoff and John had been busy in the kitchen from early morning preparing lunch. The main hall had been prepared by Martin, Sam, Richard, Rhoda, Eileen, Jean, Liz and Olive. It was not the brightest of our March days but inside the Community Centre as folks gathered together all was warm, cosy and abuzz with the sound of congenial conversation.

Once guests had been greeted and the very talented Michael Quigley had been thanked for his piano playing it was almost time to eat but not quite. Rhoda Joyce had very kindly come along to help on her birthday so the whole hall sang 'Happy Birthday' to wish her well.

It was then down to the serious business of eating and Mel and his team had prepared Chicken Chasseur with seasonal vegs followed by a Sherry trifle - all professionally presented

(the team had been well trained) and absolutely delicious.

Betty, Janet, Ellen, Chris, Jill and Mavis had put together a super raffle including donations from Crinnions and Country Homes and Gifts which was drawn at the end of the meal along with some ticket numbers to win the table decorations. Then Mel was brought into the hall and thanked profusely for his efforts. Finally Mick Gladstone had a word about the Lanchester Partnership's role in overseeing and running the Village Bus, explaining what a vital role it plays in many people's lives and he thanked all the folks involved in the 'Gatherings' fundraising effort.

The first of our 'Gatherings' was a huge success and we are well on our way to reaching our target at Christmas. The plan is to hold 3 more throughout the year and the Summer one will be on Tuesday, June 17th when Mel will be preparing a Cold Table followed by Strawberries and cream. Please remember we will be providing glasses and water on the table; if you wish bring your own bottle of whatever.



*Mel and team hard at work*



*Happy 'gatherers' awaiting lunch*

Tickets can once again be obtained from Sue Somersall, Liz Smith 521682, Maureen Barker 520960, Marie Harrison 521983, Karin Bravington 520784, Jill Gladstone 528114, Rhoda Joyce and Olive Simpkins 520229.

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## LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Helen Tomlinson our Chairperson welcomed everyone to the March Meeting. A very warm welcome was extended to the Demonstrator Pam Greenhill who gave us a very interesting and a most enjoyable afternoon's entertainment. Her theme for the arrangements was 'Beauty

of Glass'; she brought along with her so many different shapes of glassware both old and new and transformed them into some beautiful flower arrangements. These were raffled so we had some very happy winners. Everyone then enjoyed tea/coffee and biscuits.

Our next meeting is to be a Cream Tea Social afternoon with a showing of the arrangements done at the Durham Cathedral Flower Festival in 2013. We hope to see a good attendance for this and everyone is welcome to come along on 21st May at 2 pm in Lanchester Community Centre.



*Pam Greenhill with her flower arrangements showing the 'Beauty of Glass'*

## Gardening in May

Last month I suggested that April was an important and exciting month in the garden due to the amount of preparation needed. This, however, is continued into May which for me also involves containers: these include baskets and pots which not only provide such a grand gesture in your garden but provide achievable results from design to planting to reward in hours.

**In the Flower Borders**  
Harden off half hardy plants by leaving them outside in the day and bringing them back under cover at night for 7 to 10 days before planting outdoors. Also harden off dahlias for planting as soon as the risk of frost has passed. Trim back spreading plants

such as aubretia and allsuum after they have flowered to encourage new growth. Tie in climbing and rambling roses leaving horizontal stems to help produce more flowers and tie in sweet peas to encourage them to climb. Give your permanent pot plants a top dress of new compost and plant up pots and baskets with summer bedding like begonia and harden off before placing them in position next month.

**In the Vegetable Plot**  
May is the time to thin out direct sown vegetables such as spinach, carrot and lettuce seedlings and, when thinned, give the remainder a good watering. Plant out brassicas and leeks to their final position. Pinch out the growing tips of broad beans as soon as

the first beans appear at the bottom of the plant to prevent blackfly attack. Harden off outdoor tomatoes and courgettes at the end of the month before planting them out in June.

**General**  
I find rhubarb a very rewarding plant. This month you can harvest most varieties by picking only a third of the total amount of stems. May is a good month to plant the new autumn maturing variety, Livingstone, which does not become dormant in the summer. Rhubarb is a perennial plant which, when established, will benefit from some well rotted manure or compost every winter and will provide you with excellent crumble puddings for several years.

# FARM TO FORK



Children from year 1 and 2 at Lanchester EP School looking for 'healthy eating foods' at Tesco's, Consett.

This intriguing title leads to a very interesting and important project which has been embarked upon by pupils from the EP School.

Children from years 1 and 2, supervised by teacher, Mrs Startup, have made visits to Tesco's, Consett, to learn about healthy eating. Tesco's guide, Kirsty Lawrence, takes the children around the store and they take notes about the various foods that would be

included in a healthy eating diet. Not only are they linking up to their topic of 'healthy eating', but they are thoroughly enjoying themselves as well, taking copious notes on their clipboards. Hopefully when they accompany their parents to do their family shopping they will recommend some of the foods they have learned about on these visits. Full marks to Tesco as well for providing this service.

## AN EGGCITING DAY!

Lanchester EP school ended their term with a cracking display of decorated Easter eggs. Many children painted and embellished eggs, and a large number of parents added their contributions. The eggs were displayed in the school hall, and during a special assembly, winners were announced and then the pupils had the chance to view the dozens of imaginative works of art. There followed a coffee



parents and grandparents imaginative and colourful symbols of Easter. to have a look at the

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# RELAUNCH OF LANCHESTER LIONS

Lions Zone Chairman Elect Peter Oakley was delighted at the number of people who turned out to show interest in the reforming of Lanchester and District Lions on Tuesday 11th March in the Social Club. Thirteen people turned out on the night, with a further seven showing interest and wanting details of the Lions (some had divided loyalties as there was an important public meeting about the possibility of 150 new houses being built at Newbiggen Lane which they also wished to attend). One previous member of the old Lanchester Lions emailed from the USA, where he is

based, to ask if he could become a member as he would like to take part in events whilst in Lanchester. Those present enjoyed drinks and nibbles

whilst watching a short DVD on the work and history of Lions. Members of Durham Lions and other Lion clubs were present to discuss their experiences of being Lions with guests. A presentation of £300 raised at a recent Race Night was made by Durham Lion Keith Vear to Paul Jackson,

representing Willow Burn Hospice. He thanked businesses in Lanchester who had been so generous in their support of the event. If anyone is interested in the Lions and in attending future meetings please contact Lion Peter Oakley on 07551 659619.



Potential new Lions at the relaunch meeting



Paul Jackson (right) receives the cheque for Willow Burn Hospice from Durham Lion Keith Vear.



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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Summer Sausage Rolls

The recipe makes 20 rolls

#### Ingredients

2 large skinless chicken breasts  
1 garlic clove, crushed  
3 rashers streaky bacon, thinly sliced  
4 sundried tomatoes, chopped  
handful of basil leaves, chopped  
375g pack ready rolled puff pastry  
flour for dusting  
1 egg yolk, beaten  
25g/1oz sesame seeds

#### Method

1. Whizz the chicken and garlic in a food processor until the chicken is minced. Tip in the bacon,

tomatoes and basil, and pulse for 5 secs to just mix through. Season well.

2. Roll out the pastry a little on a lightly floured surface and cut in half lengthways. Spread half the mixture along the middle of one pastry strip, then roll-up pinching the ends together to seal. Using a sharp knife, cut into 2.5cm long pieces. Repeat with the remaining pastry and mixture.

3. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Place rolls on a large baking sheet. Brush with egg and sprinkle with the seeds. Bake for 20 mins until golden.

# NSPCC CONCERT BY LANCHESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR

The committee of the Lanchester Branch of the society are very appreciative of the time the Male Voice Choir give to their cause. Mrs Christine Dunn, committee member, the daughter of John Wills who is chairman of the choir, gave voice to their gratitude. She also introduced a member of the National Committee, who was attending the concert and he in turn spoke about the society, stressing that there are children in great need in our society and these children must be looked after. The Newcastle Service Centre is where the NSPCC gives children in the North-East the help and support to overcome their traumatic experiences. They also work with children and families to protect children from further abuse. They rely on public donations for around 85% of their funds and in the North East they need to raise over

£900,000 to fund their work. Mrs Dunn asked us to look out for events concerning the NSPCC particularly in the month of May which is their allocated month for fund raising. They would be very grateful for our support.

The choir were in fine voice and gave the excellent performance they always do. Harry Carr as conductor and their pianist Noreen Bridgewater led the choir very competently. Harry's enthusiasm is always infectious and the applause showed how much his work with the choir is appreciated. Their programme included a soloist, Selina Mankin who is the daughter-in-law of Kenneth and Dorothy Mankin. She has a beautiful voice and sang several songs from well known west end shows. Thank you Harry, Noreen and the choir for once again providing us with a very enjoyable evening. Brenda Craddock



*Christine Dunn, NSPCC representative and Selina Mankin soloist receive the applause of the choir*

## IT'S HERE!

### NSPCC Fundraising Month! May 2014

Please support this important Charity!

In last month's Village Voice we told you about our Fundraising Month in Lanchester for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). The money we raise is used to help children in need in the North of England and is vital in keeping them safe, and helping them to lead happier and fulfilled lives.

During May you will see NSPCC collection boxes in many of the businesses in and around Lanchester, and we hope that you will be able to contribute by donating your small (or bigger!) change as you shop.

We are hopeful that our local schools will support our Fundraising Month by holding a sponsored event, or similar, to contribute to the funds.

If anyone out there would like to do their own sponsored event, or fundraise for the charity, during May, we would be delighted to hear from you.

For those of you who may not be able to visit the village in person, we have a Just Giving Text Number for you to make a donation directly to the charity. Just text the number 70070 and type in our code

NSPCC61 together with the amount you wish to donate (eg £2).

On Saturday morning, 31st May, we will be holding a Coffee Morning in the Methodist Chapel in aid of the NSPCC, to round off our month of fundraising. Please put the date in your diary and come and support us if you can.

And finally, a big Thank You! The concert kindly performed for us by Lanchester Male Voice Choir in March, raised the magnificent sum of £697 for the NSPCC. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.



*Harry Carr (conductor) and Noreen Bridgewater (accompanist)*



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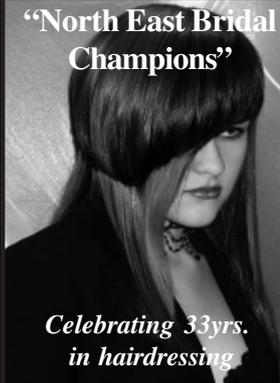
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## NORTHUMBRIAN EVENING A Bandastic Night

'It was a super night.' 'Thoroughly enjoyed it.' 'A Wonderful Evening.' 'Wasn't that young conductor great?' 'I hope they have another concert soon.' These were all comments heard, as the people left the Community Centre on Saturday March 22nd. The concert to which they were referring was the Lanchester Brass Band Northumbrian Evening. The hall was full which was very encouraging. Lewis Wilkinson, the conductor compered the evening extremely well, with his musical expertise and talent as an entertainer, and his appropriate stories and monologues. The programme of music included many well known

Northumbrian songs such as 'Blow the wind southerly' and 'Water of Tyne' and the audience were asked to join in when 'Blaydon Races' was played by the band. James Draper, the assistant conductor, played the main tune solo on his Euphonium. Pete Bradshaw sang the verses of 'The Lambton Worm' and everyone sang the chorus with him. Dr Ian Brunt, who is a very talented musician, played several Northumbrian tunes on his Northumbrian pipes and was given very appreciative applause. There was a short interval when Northumbrian cheeses and biscuits were served with coffee and tea. At the end of the evening

it was obvious by the prolonged applause that everyone had enjoyed the evening, which was exactly what the band intended. Thank you, Lewis, for all your hard work with the band and your enthusiasm and endless patience. Long may this continue. Lewis would love to talk to anyone interested in learning to play an instrument. During the concert, Mr Mark Draper played with a youngster, Max Densmore, who has cornet lessons after band practice on a Sunday afternoon. This service is available for anyone interested in any instrument and you are even given an instrument on which to learn. Brenda Craddock



*Lewis conducts the band*

## LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The subject of the talk and photographs shown on Friday, 4th April, in the Community Centre, was truly local history. The subject was architect

Ignatius Bonomi and Mr Andrew Everitt entertained members with a very interesting talk, accompanied by photographs of the many buildings, particularly churches, which Mr Bonomi had designed. These included St Oswald's C of E church and St Cuthbert's R C church in Durham. Indeed, Mr Bonomi who was Roman Catholic, married his C of E wife, Charlotte Fielding, in Lanchester Parish Church and then they were married again at St Cuthbert's and they lived in Alington House, Durham. Mr Everitt told

us about the background of Mr Bonomi (1787-1870), who also did a lot of charitable work. Chairman John Thompson thanked Mr Everitt, saying that architecture was his favourite form of art and how much he had enjoyed the evening. The next meeting of the Society, on Friday 2nd May at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, will be the last indoor meeting of the season. President John Gall is showing old photographs of Lanchester. Everyone is welcome to come to this meeting which I am sure will be very interesting and entertaining.

## LMVC PATRONS' EVENING

The Patrons' Evening, presented by the Lanchester Male Voice Choir is always a popular and enjoyable evening. They always open the evening by singing a good selection of songs, interspersed with solo performances by members of the group. Gordon Knighton, Peter Bridgewater and Ian Tute all sang and the latter had composed and written the words of his humorous song, accompanying himself on his guitar. Jim Russell gave a humorous monologue, with a similar theme to Ian's, which could be named with tongue in cheek 'The joys of growing old'. Many of us present could identify with that!! Oh Dear!! Noreen Bridgewater, who is a brilliant pianist, played a beautiful piece of music by Elgar. Later Harry Carr praised Noreen saying how indebted the choir was to Noreen, their accompanist, who has always shown great commitment to the group and is invaluable to them. The programme ended with a lovely rendering of 'Can't Help Falling in Love with You'. Having well and truly sung for their supper the choir were able, with all their guests, to fully enjoy the delicious buffet supper, courtesy of Crinnions. After the buffet, sheets of 'Dingbats' were given out and guests divided into groups to solve these tantalising puzzles. It was not easy and judging by the concentration on people's faces everyone was agreed on that. Results were given and it was then time to go home after a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Brenda Craddock

## CHORAL SOCIETY GOES TO TOWN!

The Choral Society's summer show on 18th July is to be 'An Evening at London's West End Theatres'. We hope to introduce you to some of the stories behind the famous theatres as well of course singing music from the famous shows which have played there. Big names have been

shows like Les Misérables, Oliver, My Fair Lady, Lion King and of course all the Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals. We are always on the look out for singers, so if you think this is the music for you, why not come along on a Friday evening, 7.15 pm in All Saints' RC Junior School on Kitswell Road. We are quite happy to welcome folks who just want to join for this show - we don't give you a life sentence! As usual it will be performed in the Methodist Church with a live band. Just come along or get further details from 520427 or 520172.



*Lanchester Male Voice Choir with Harry and Noreen*

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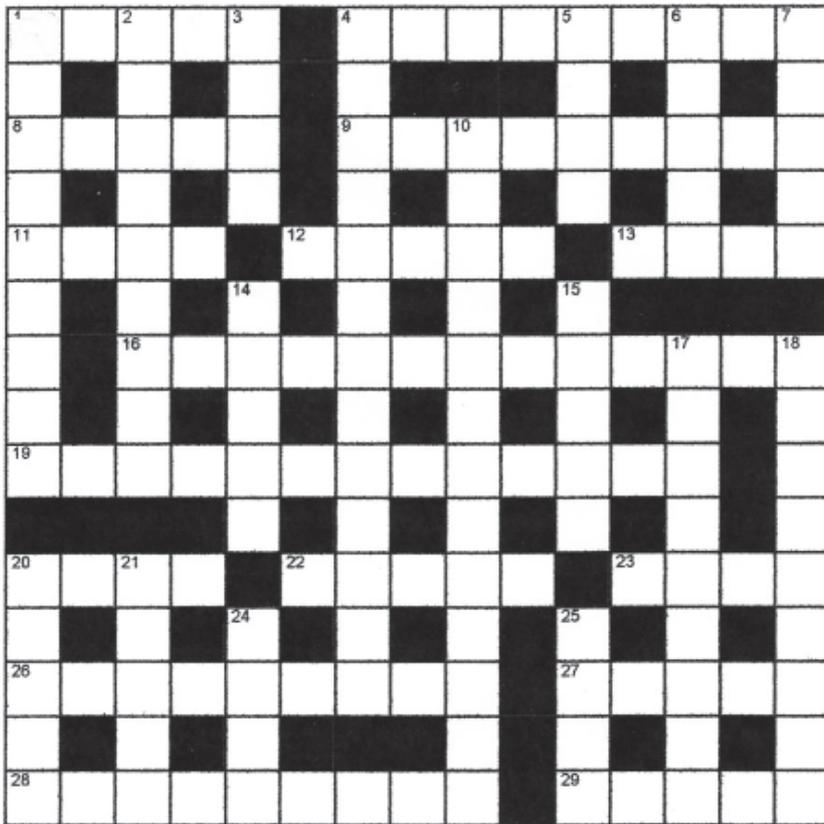
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# CROSSWORD 96



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

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## ACROSS

1. Different (5)
4. Innumerable (9)
8. Magic servant (5)
9. Extraordinarily (9)
11. Timber dresser (4)
12. Specify taste change (5)
13. Exaggerated publicity (4)
16. Meterman's bras produce unease (13)
19. 19.02.'15 to 07.02 '16(4,2,3,4)
20. "\_\_\_\_\_ and the Man", play by G B Shaw (4)
22. Virile (5)
23. Help (4)
26. Broken-down (9)
27. Calm (5)
28. Train rave report (9)
29. Paler shade of pale! (5)

## DOWN

1. Mean (9)
2. S. American country (9)
3. Dregs (4)
4. Fight back (7-6)
5. Shade (4)
6. Instruct and improve (5)
7. Elegance (5)
10. Spread EEC ghee at cost (7,6)
14. Head monk (5)
15. Royal racecourse (5)
17. Found (9)
18. Three sports in one (9)
20. Protective garment (5)
21. Charades player (5)
24. Islamic sect (4)
25. Continent (4)

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 95

### ACROSS

9. off colour
10. Rodin
11. voucher
12. concoct
13. laity
14. briquette
16. Shetland Islands
19. ethically
21. opt in
22. deboned
23. basmati
24. See 23 down
25. satanical

### DOWN

1. convalesce
2. effusive
3. poshly
4. soar
5. proclivity
6. tranquil
7. adroit
8. unit
14. Bangladesh
15. essentials
17. licenses
18. nuthatch
20. hubris
21. on song
22. dank
23. bête noire

## CROSSWORD 95

There were 16 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to Helen Hedley of Fenhall Park 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.

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

# AN EXCITING NEW BOWLING SEASON AWAITS

Did you not believe us? I know it sounds too good to be true but a season of sport for only £10! In last month's Village Voice we made this offer to join our club and play as much as you want all summer for only £10. Surprisingly we have had very little response to this fabulous offer. We have strategies to get new bowlers up and running and playing regularly so why not give it a try? Bowls is a game for all whether you want a friendly roll-up with new or old friends or to take it more

seriously. Our green is open in the morning, afternoon and evening seven days a week and with the minimum of instruction you can be playing in one of our league teams if you want to. There will be members at the club on Bank Holiday Monday May 5th at 1.45 pm to greet potential new bowlers and there will be another session on Thursday 15th May at the same time. Alternately email us at [lanchesterbowlingclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanchesterbowlingclub@yahoo.co.uk) or just come down to the green on a fine

afternoon and see if anyone is around. All you need is a pair of flat shoes and introductory sessions are free. Members have been busy in the close season treating the pavilion and benches with preservative and cleaning the pavilion. Many thanks to those involved. When you read this the green will be open for practice, and league matches start on Saturday 3rd May. Members please get your names down to play so we can get off to a flying start.

## TENNIS NEWS AT THE NET

As the days lengthen and the weather becomes warmer, the thoughts of the tennis club members turn to playing on the grass courts along Ford Road. With fingers crossed for good weather, the new grass court season gets under way on the weekend of 26th April. A full social calendar is planned with the annual strawberry tea and BBQ, but also a FREE tennis day will be take place on Sunday

18th May from 1 pm to 4 pm. This is part of a national campaign to involve more children and adults in sport and all equipment and coaching will be available free of charge. The first official coaching session on the grass will be on Monday 28th April. Ages and times as follows:  
**Under 8 year olds** 4.30 to 5.30 pm  
**9 to 12 year olds** 5.30 to 6.30 pm

**13 years and adults** 6.30 to 7.30 pm  
 Cost will be £3 for members and £5 for non-members. Refreshments will be available on request and equipment if required. The popular weekly competition night will also return on Wednesday 30th April from 5.30 pm. For more details and information about the club, please contact Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278.

## LADIES WHO LUNCH

It was not our intended destination but last time out, we had lunch at the Black Horse at Beamish, somewhere we have always enjoyed. It's situated in a lovely spot, the staff were as ever warm and welcoming. As we were going in, there looked like afternoon teas out on some tables and they looked absolutely delicious. It seemed an odd time to be having them but, if you're just

after a 'lite bite', afternoon tea will fit the bill - so we inquired about them. Disappointingly for some of us we were told that they had to be pre-ordered - you have been warned folks! So for us it was back to the main menu + the specials board which has a 2 course for £11.95 option. Finally we opted to sample for starters a prawn cocktail, and peppered mackerel with potato and

beetroot salad. Main courses were beef and Bombardier pie, vegetable curry, and fish + chips. We had mixed reactions to the meal with not everyone thinking it was as good as usual. Having said that the fish + chips were totally delicious, some of the best I have ever tasted. As with everything in life, it's swings and roundabouts!  
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## ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

# WHAT'S ON?

## Open House

Everyone is welcome in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 1st May, 11.30 am to 1.00 pm for a light lunch.

## Local History Society

The next meeting will be on Friday, 2nd May at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. President John Gall will present old photographs of Lanchester. Everyone is welcome to come to what is sure to be a very interesting and entertaining meeting.

## Country Market

There is a change of venue for the Country Market. The next market will take place on Saturday 3rd May from 10 am to 12 noon in the Methodist Church.

## Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 3rd May, JACEY TAYLOR, Ex Extraordinary Ladies  
Sunday 10th May, HOWIE B, Great Male Singer  
Saturday 17th May, KENNY, Superb Vocal Entertainer  
Saturday 24th May, CONNOR, Knockout Male Vocal  
Saturday 31st May, NICOLA BROWN, Delightful Young Singer

## PACT meeting

The next PACT meeting will be on Tuesday 6th May at 6.30 pm in Burnhope Primary School. All welcome.

## Mothers' Union

The May meeting is on Wednesday 14th, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House when Roger Norris will talk about the Freemen of Durham.

## Short Circuit Walks

May 10th, Penshaw Monument and Country Park, 5 miles. Meet at the car park at East Herrington Country Park, off roundabout on A183, Chester Road, NZ336542.  
May 24th, Angel of the North, 5 miles. Meet in the car park on west side of N-bound carriageway of A167 from Eighton roundabout, NZ 264578. Walks start at 10.30 am.

## Ghost Hunt

On Saturday 10th May from 9 pm to 3 am in the Community Centre. Tickets available from the Centre or ring 01207 521275.

## Lanchester Vintage Tractor Club

A new club has started in Lanchester. Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm in Crinnions.

## WI

Our next meeting will take place in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 12th May (second Monday) starting at 7.15 pm. The topic is 'The history of silk in Fashion today' and the speakers will be Tricia Stainsby and Anya Simpson. The competition is a silk item.

Visitors are always very welcome, the fee for the evening is £2 and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Our summer outing to Sizergh Castle is on 16th July and cheques for the full amount of £23 for non-National Trust members and £14.50 for National Trust members need to be brought to the May meeting.

## Paradiso Club

The final social of this season will be held on Sunday 11th May at 6.30 pm in the Community Centre. There will be the usual refreshments, raffle and film, which this month is 'Anna Karenina', starring Keira Knightley and Jude Law. Entry fees: £2.50 for members, £3.50 for non-member visitors and £2 for young persons. Everyone welcome.

## Family/Junior Wildlife

The next outing on Sunday 11th May will be to hear the Dawn Chorus. Meet at Malton Car Park at 6.30 am to enjoy the wildlife and birdsong.

## Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 13th May at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, Simon Frances will present 'Wildlife Photography'.

## Family Community Art Workshop

Organised by Lanchester Miners' Banner Group on Saturday 17th May, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. Free entrance. Everyone welcome and stay as long as you like.

Make Flower Hair Garlands, Flags, Badges, Stained Glass Window Pictures, Decorative Letters.

We hope to make some items to use at the banner celebration event in June. For further information contact Sally on 01207 521957.

## Flower Club

On Wednesday 21st May at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, there will be a social afternoon with the showing of the Durham Cathedral Flower Festival CD.

## Wet Nose Day

This year's 5 mile sponsored walk will be on Sunday 11th May. Last year we raised well over £3000 to help pay for vet bills for the many stray and abandoned dogs that come into Deerness Kennels Rescue Centre each week. Let's see if we can beat that total this year! Sponsorship forms are available from Deerness Kennels Rescue Centre, Langley Moor, and are also available as a download from <http://sosad.co.uk>.

You can also come down on the day and make a donation. Registration normally takes place from around 12.30 pm with the walk starting around 2 pm. There will be lots to do for all the family and dog when you return to the Kennels with our annual Dog Show, doggy tombola and raffle with lots of SoFAB prizes for you and your dog. Refreshments will be available too. We all look forward to seeing you there. You'd be barking mad to miss it!

## Respiratory Awareness Afternoon

"Breathe Easy" (British Lung Foundation) will be holding a Respiratory Awareness afternoon on Thursday June 12th, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. Come and meet your local group and learn more

about different lung conditions. Specialist respiratory nurses will be present to answer questions, and information booklets will be available. Refreshments too! For further information phone Jill Gladstone 528 114.

## KILLHOPE GRIMPEUR

Dave Cummins of Houghton Cycling Club was the organiser of this huge cycling event which left Lanchester Community Centre from 8.00 am on Sunday 30th March. Last year's event was cancelled due to bad weather but 8 cyclists did turn out and completed the course.

This year there was mist and some rain which greeted the 89 riders who took part. The weather must have put off some as there were actually 113 entrants which included both genders. Although the majority came from the North East Region some did come from far and wide including one from Swansea and another from Portsmouth, such is the popularity among seasoned cyclists to take part.

The route was certainly picturesque and hilly passing through:

Muggleswick, Edmundbyers, Blanchland, Allenheads, Nenthead, St John's Chapel, Brotherlee and Crawleyside before heading back to Lanchester. Some riders were still arriving between four and five in the afternoon having had a thoroughly enjoyable day. The event was well marshalled with lots of check points with information about a bike repair shop, certain traffic signs, dodgy cattle grids, toilets etc. Total distance was 102.5K, with a maximum elevation of 602.07m and a total ascent of 1379.4m.

It was certainly a pleasant but extremely gruelling ride, but such was the enthusiasm of those pictured (see back page), it would seem that they cannot wait for next year's event.

# LANCHESTER BOYS BRIGADE - ENGLISH CHAMPIONS

*Continued from back page*

It was at this point that the strength in depth of the Lanchester team shone through. They won the next 3 games and finished the match as winners by 6 games to 3. All the players are members of Lanchester Table Tennis club and all the practise they had put in over the last year certainly paid off!

The other semi-final was won by the hosts Nottingham who beat Burton in Kendal with a similar score line. After a short break for refreshments the final began. Lanchester came out of the blocks like an express train and

dominated the first 2 matches. They applied pressure in all the matches with some great individual performances. Nottingham never got a look in and Lanchester romped to a deserved victory at 8 games to 1. This victory makes Lanchester the English champions and booked them a place in the UK final.

Unfortunately the team are unable to attend the UK final in May in Southampton as it is just before Joe's GCSEs and it's also Ali's 40th birthday on that day. A shame but they are still English and Welsh champions.

# LANCHESTER GOLFERS HONoured

*Continued from back page*

Club Captain Richard Burton said "there have been Lanchester Golfers in the past who have held these positions but this is the first time in our 102 year history that all 3 captains have come from Lanchester in the same year".

Golf is a game that can be played by all ages and abilities and it's never too late to start. Richard explained that one of the highlights of the year is the money raised by the club for charities. Last year £7000 was raised for the Air Ambulance and £2500 for 'Help for Heroes'. This year we

will again support the Air Ambulance and the Captains' charity will be Parkinson's Disability. If you are interested in competitive golf or socially there is a great opportunity to play your golf at Consett, any new member would be welcome. Adrian Evans (Seniors Captain) explained that in the Senior Section the ages range from 60 to 90+, in fact another Lanchester golfer recently celebrated his 90th birthday and he still regularly plays golf. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday so if any existing member, or new member,

would like to join us just come along at 9.00 am and ask for me; you would be more than welcome. Pat Burton (Lady Captain) said that the Ladies group is very active and would also welcome any new members to their fold. If you are a non golfer you could still enjoy the club's facilities as there is a very pleasant club house and restaurant which is open to the public. If you would like to contact Consett Golf Club please ring Club Secretary Vince Kelly 01207 502186 or you could just call in to the Golf Club and see for yourself what's on offer.

## LATEST FROM THE CRICKET CLUB

Hopefully all being well with the weather, the season will have started when you read this. Let's hope for lots of sunshine to make it a pleasant occasion. John Bell has been slaving away on the field, particularly once the rain stopped, to make it look as pristine as possible. Following our clean up day on 12th April, everything has had a fresh coat of paint to get ready for the season. Our overseas player Rhys Jones arrived on 23rd April with a few days to acclimatise before facing off against Ashington.

The juniors start in the days following the first and seconds, with the under 13s starting on the Sunday morning at Ryton. The under 15s kick off at Leadgate on the Monday night.

The following night the under 18s start against one of their toughest opponents at Shotley Bridge, but the side have a good shot at the title with good batting depth and loads of bowling options. On the same night the under 11s will entertain Shotley Bridge.

The last team to start their campaign will be the 3rd team who start on May 4th in the Bob Langford Cup at Tantobie. The 3rds will welcome back former first teamer Mark Small, who has been out of the game for ten years and James Robson after a two year absence, however they will miss former vice captain Stu Beaumont who is not playing due to work. So keep an eye on the fixtures and come along and enjoy a glass of beer in the sun.

## BEER FESTIVAL 2014

The great news is that the Beer Festival is going to happen!! Sat 24th and Sun 25th May are two great days to look out for. The event will be sponsored by Durham Gate, with Crinnions sponsoring the glasses and Turner and Townsend sponsoring the programmes. Many thanks to some of our local sponsors, Talking Heads, Alby Driving, Lanchester Dairies and Mark Hind. There are still some s p o n s o r s h i p opportunities available to sponsor a beer or cider. If

you are interested check out the Lanchester beer festival website for details or contact us through [Lanchestercc@outlook.com](mailto:Lanchestercc@outlook.com). Tickets and drink tokens can be bought in advance through a link to eventbrite on the website home page. You can buy a single day ticket for £6 and a weekend ticket for £10 in advance. Ticket numbers are limited by licensing regulations, so if you are interested please get them early to avoid disappointment. You can only purchase advance

tickets until 21st May. Tickets will be available on the day at £8 per day. A ticket gets you a commemorative glass, programme and two drinks tokens. Both days will have two live bands providing musical entertainment, including Burning Worlds, The Hazels and The Buskers. Crinnions will be selling hot food throughout both days. The event will take place under canvas so you won't get wet. This should be a great event so get your tickets now!

## BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS 2014

The survey results are in and no surprises that everyone would like the event to happen again this year. The majority would like an earlier bonfire/fireworks time and the majority also liked the fairground, the live music and the hot food. A couple of people offered to help out this year and I would ask that you contact us

via email [Lanchestercc@outlook.com](mailto:Lanchestercc@outlook.com) and leave us your contact details so that we can utilise your offer later in the year. Some people pointed out the problems of last year's event but gave a balanced view in light of the weather. However, one individual was extremely negative, but we welcome all feedback and offer that

individual the chance to chair the organising committee for this year's event so that they can see all the hard work and willing volunteers it took to stage the event. Should the Lions become viable we will gladly work with them to host the event. Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey.

# LANCHESTER BOYS BRIGADE - ENGLISH CHAMPIONS



The winning team: Joe, Matthew and Sam

On Sunday 30th March previous rounds and were three boys from the 14th Lanchester Boys Brigade battalion headed down to Nottingham for the combined semi-finals and finals of the Boys Brigade annual table tennis championship. Matthew Grimes (aged 11), Sam Hume (aged 12) and Joe Hume (aged 16) had made it through the

looking forward to the challenge ahead. In the semi final they would meet Kempston who knocked them out in last year's competition. The match started off in a very tense fashion with the scores neck and neck and after 6 games the teams were 3 all.

*Continued on page 23*



Joe's match against Ed Simms from Kempston who was the only player to have any success against the Lanchester trio.

## KILLHOPE GRIMPEUR



Some the many enthusiastic cyclists who had just completed the long, hilly Killhope Grimpeur which set off from Lanchester Community Centre on 30th March. *Story on page 22*

## LANCHESTER GOLFERS HONOURED



Left to right are Richard Burton (Club Captain), Pat Burton (Lady Captain) and Adrian Evans (Seniors Captain)

Consett and District Golf Club have honoured 3 golfers from Lanchester; they have been selected to be the Captains for 2014. To make this even more unique the Club

Captain and Lady Captain are husband and wife, this should lead to some interesting discussion over breakfast.

*Continued on page 23*

## SPORT RELIEF AT EP SCHOOL



Ms Hughes and Foundation Stage children join in the fun of Sport Relief Day. The whole school took part in this non-uniform day, with the money raised going to the charity.

## NEXT DEADLINE

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

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