

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 15

Lanchester, December 2014

For contact information, see page 2



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BIG SWITCH ON



The Big Switch On with Olivia Tones, Joseph Purdom, Ossie Johnson, Judith Lund MBE, Georgia-Kate Brunton, Luke Young.



Lanchester Choral & Operatic enhanced the event so well with their wonderful singing of carols.



Enjoying the mulled wine on the village green.



Lanchester Brass Band who complement the choir so well.



A typical crowd scene at the ceremony of the Christmas Lights Switch On.



Eager little hands searching for presents!



A lovely view of the Christmas tree lit up on the green – now grown to a good size. Full story on Page 8.



Dear Village....

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

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Letter removed on request

Dear Village Voice
Reference the article in the October issue of the Village Voice about the Coast to Coast Tractor run, Ian Suddes would like to explain that his donation to Macmillan and Great North East Air Ambulance was made possible by the following: Lanchester Dairies; farmer, Davy Vipond; Richard Lawson Plant; Davies Tractors, Hexham; Mark Watson Farm Machinery; Brian Watson Roofing, and the Suddes family who gave goods for auction at Carlisle with auctioneers H&H Auctions waiving their commission. Thanks are given to all of the above for their generosity. The final amount donated was £428 to Air Ambulance and the same amount to Macmillan.

DAVID BEGG
Our heartfelt thanks to Reverend Rupert Kalus for the beautiful service on 17th November, and his thoughtfulness shown to us as a family during this difficult time. We would like to thank the doctors and staff at Lanchester Medical Centre for the care given to David over the years. A big thank you to Crescent Carers for their kindness and attention. All the girls were wonderful. But most of all to the staff at Willow Burn Hospice; not only did they give David the best of care, but looked after us as a family as well. He had a long and happy life and will be greatly missed. Dorothy Begg, daughters, son-in-law and grandchildren

funds for Pancreatic Cancer UK which is a cause very close to our hearts, and also to highlight the work of the charity as November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness month. A country wide event called "Purple Lights for Hope" occurs on November 1st so it felt appropriate to attempt to raise funds for this great cause.

Thank you to everybody who supported our event and to those who have subsequently donated money to this cause especially Lanchester Wines and also Alan and Michael at The Salon in Langley Park who kindly donated prizes. We managed to raise over £250 on the night through various competitions.

If anybody reading this feels inspired to donate then log on to www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk

Next year we will be continuing our fundraising efforts for this charity.

Kathryn, Kevin, Joe, Sam & Grace

Dear Village Voice
We would like to thank our friends and family for supporting a charity night we hosted on November 1st in memory of Philip Massey. The event was to raise

How to contact the Village Voice

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AFRICAN DRUMMING

My music lessons were never like this! Year 3 in All Saints' Catholic School are learning about African drumming, led by Shaun Abbot from Durham Music Service. Skills such as listening, working together, and learning about rhythm and tempo are involved and pupils love participating.



We're having great fun!

BUTSFIELD & DISTRICT YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

The AGM for the Club was held in October and the new officers for the year have been selected. Our New Chairman is Richard Darlington and our Secretary is Ashley Lambert. The annual Bonfire was kindly hosted this year by the Smith family of West Shields Farm. Thank you to everyone for their attendance and especially the Smith & Johnson family for their hard work in building and hosting us for the evening. Meetings to follow include Diary Judging and Carol Singing. We are having our

CHRISTMAS COMES TO ALL SAINTS'



Young and not so young joined in celebration of Christmas when the choir of All Saints' School visited the Monday Club. The old traditional carols blended with more modern songs in an excellent programme from the children and their appreciative audience thoroughly enjoyed their evening.

Christmas Dinner this year at the Brown Horse on December 5th. If anyone is interested in joining in with YFC and are between the ages of 10 & 26, or would like any information about the club please ring Ashley on 07468 592995 or Richard on 07792 039065.

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CHRISTMAS AT THE WI

parcel which caused much laughter as no-one understood the rules. We then enjoyed our delicious supper before the choir joined us and entertained us with their wonderful singing, they get better every year. Angela gave the vote of thanks to the choir and Jennifer invited them to join us for supper and a social time together. We had the answers to the Quiz and the committee set up the Chinese Raffle which as always was enjoyed by everyone with 15 lucky ladies taking home a prize. This was the end of our special Christmas meeting and a big thank you everyone, you were as always so generous with food, prizes and time, everyone coming and making this a lovely Christmas evening full of fun and laughter. Also a special thank you to Jennifer and the committee who worked so hard setting up and arranging everything.



Members spoilt for choice trying to decide what to have from the wonderful faith supper.

Before our Christmas party members enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine provided by the Crafter's Hub who had invited us to join them as they displayed and sold their beautiful wares, a big thank you to them.

The committee set up the tables and the faith supper was placed on the food table, what a feast. President Jennifer Macdonald then explained about the open evening on 27th March, reminded members about

their subscriptions and voting slips then congratulated the darts team who played Wolsingham WI in a friendly match and won. The list is also out for signing up for raffle prizes, readings and vote of thanks.

The Christmas celebrations then started. Carol Troy had prepared a Christmas quiz to be answered throughout the evening with answers at the end but before that we started with passing a

ONE HUNDRED YEARS NOT OUT!

In 2015, the Women's Institute Movement in Britain will celebrate its centenary. Its origins were in Canada when, in 1897, groups of women from isolated communities began to meet to discuss rural issues. In 1915, the Women's Institute was founded in Britain, to revitalise rural communities and to encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the War. In the 1920s, the organisation began planning programmes of activities to suit members who came from all walks of life. These women, working together, helped to break down social barriers. Women over 30 had achieved the right to vote, and the National Federation of Women's

Institutes wanted members to become active and valued citizens. Since then the organisation's aims have broadened, the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK, currently with 212,000 members. The movement has a proud history of campaigning on issues that matter to members and their communities. Equal pay, climate change, concerns about the midwifery service, the plight of the honey bee, the fate of city centres - the WI has supported a wide range of challenges, building a reputation as a practical and articulate organisation, wanting to change things for the better. In 1948, Denman College was opened, providing educational

opportunities for members, and the chance to attain new skills. Recently, there has been a resurgence in the WI movement, and numbers of members are increasing. WI traditional values, and its progressive ethos fit in with modern ideals. Our branch in Lanchester was founded 90 years ago and we are a flourishing, lively group, with a large membership. Our book club, quiz and darts groups are thriving, we enjoy theatre visits and outings to places of interest. We are entertained by interesting speakers, and we value the friendships made. Next March, we are hosting an Open Evening - entry is by ticket only, and details will be available next month.

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AUTUMN FAIR 2014

The Parish Church Autumn Fair is always held at the end of November in the Community Centre and is an important annual event in the Church Calendar. This year Mrs Edith Pierce, a very well known and loved veteran of our church, declared the fair open. Edith is a member of Mothers' Union and being a beautiful needle woman herself, she no doubt contributed to their stalls. Mothers' Union has a working party who sew and knit throughout the year, to provide very nice articles for their stall. They are also responsible for a mouth watering cake stall and delicious preserves. In addition there are a variety of stalls: tombola, toiletries, jewellery, Men's Forum, bottle stall, Church Wives, Christmas Stocking Fillers, all a

bargain at £1, 2015 diaries and the list goes on. Everyone loves a bargain and they were there to find. The total raised was over £2000 and stall holders can be very proud of that. The Grand Draw is just that- GRAND, with amazing prizes. Our vicar Rupert drew the winning tickets amid the excitement and anticipation which a well stocked raffle always brings. If and when you were tired of shopping, you could retire to the small hall for tea, coffee and cake and a chat to your friends. The fair was once again a very enjoyable occasion and Rupert thanked everyone as he always does, for the time they had given and the work they had done for yet another successful Autumn Fair. Brenda Craddock



Edith Pierce, now 98, asked by the vicar, Rupert, to open the Parish Fair. She did this admirably. Well done Edith.

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CRAFTER'S HUB FAIR

The first Crafter's Hub Fair took place in the hub (Newbiggen Lane entrance) of the Community Centre on Monday 1st December from 6pm - 8.00pm. This area that has been modified by Alison Boyd, Manager, and Jackie Anderson,

Clerical Assistant at the centre, who also has a craft shelf in the hub. There were 10 stalls on display of varying types of crafts which included those in the Coffee Room as well as the permanent displays in the hub. It was a good opportunity for the

people who rent shelves in the hub to meet up for the first time. The evening was extremely convivial, with mulled wine and mince pies available free to all those who were there, which gave the Fair a lovely Christmas atmosphere.



Jacqueline, of JBow Jewellery, with Jackie Anderson. Looking at the products are potential customers, Ann Wingfield and Ann Reed.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2014 at 7.15pm

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting on 11th November 2014 – approved

Planning Committee on 11th November 2014 – approved

Finance Committee on 26th November 2014 – approved

Police Report – November and December – discussed and received

Neighbourhood Warden Report – October – discussed and received

Correspondence War Memorials Trust magazine – received

Durham County Council/ Durham Constabulary – Fly Tipping Campaign – poster to be displayed in notice board

Letter of thanks from Durham County Council for the Parish Council's contribution to the village

centre improvements Letter from Durham County Council – bowling club – agreed that a copy of the letter be given to the bowls club

Durham County Council – information received on removal of BT public call boxes in the County

Area Action Partnership (AAP)/Parish Councils Committee (PCC) Members were updated on the last meeting of the group.

There were no nominations for the County Durham Association of Local Councils executive committee.

Joint working arrangements were discussed.

Village Green Bus Shelter Members were informed

that the anti-climb paint and signs had been supplied by the Police. The paint would be applied in the New Year.

Car Park in front of the Church Members considered a request from the Parochial Church Council to improve/extend the parking area. Members discussed the restrictions that a Village Green site brings along with the need

to protect it. Members felt that there was nothing that could be done at this time.

Durham County Council – Budget Consultation 2015/16 Members considered the correspondence received

Financial report - discussed and approved

Accounts for Payment – approved

Christmas Lights Members commented on the lovely Christmas Lights display on the Village Green and the successful switch on event. Thanks were passed to the volunteers who worked on the event.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 13th January 2015 at 7.15pm at Lynwood House

POLICE REPORT

Our current PACT priority for Lanchester is antisocial behaviour especially in the area of Front Street, Durham Road, Station Road, The Garths and The Green School. Large groups of youths are frequenting the village, with the majority not residing in the village, to meet up with friends and cause a nuisance to residents.

Current issues include damage being caused at the rear of The Green School and youths repeatedly kicking over wheelie bins on Durham Road awaiting bin collection the following morning. Local officers and Neighbourhood Wardens are regularly patrolling the village during peak times to engage with youths and discourage them from causing problems. PCSO

Lisa Jackson is currently working alongside Consett Churches Detached Youth Group who are looking at visiting the village on a weekend to conduct some outreach work with youths in the area. Officers are actively monitoring the village and where necessary conducting stop searches on youths believed to be in possession of alcohol and/or drugs. This month a 21 year old male was arrested and charged with assault following an altercation whereby the male was setting fireworks off in the street.

Every winter officers from Consett Neighbourhood Policing put an initiative together called Operation Snow Angels. For the last 5 years local officers have

offered free snow clearing services and food hampers to the elderly and vulnerable across the Consett area. With the risk of snow soon upon us we are also beginning to organise this year's operation. As part of the initiative we would like to invite volunteers across the village to come and get involved, either with snow clearing, conducting welfare visits or distributing food hampers. If this is something you would like to get involved with please email PCSO Lisa Jackson on lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk or telephone me on 101.

Our next PACT priority is due to take place on Tuesday 6th January 2015 at 6.30 pm in Burnhope Primary School.

APPEAL FOR INFORMATION

Police are appealing for information after several vehicle owners woke on Saturday 6th December to find their cars had been vandalised. During the Friday night, vehicles parked on Briardene, Broadoak Drive, in Newbiggen Lane car park and as far across as Deanery View had wing mirrors broken from their mounts. These expensive and pointless criminal acts have left owners annoyed and out of pocket just before Christmas. Someone will

know who is responsible, who was out till the early hours or has boasted about the acts. Do you have any information which may be linked to these damages? Do you have CCTV which may have picked up any persons who may be involved? Or have you been part of a group whose members have caused damage and you feel this is wrong and that YOUR Community should be respected and looked after?

Please contact police by email Consett@durham.pnn.police.uk or telephone our 101 non-emergency telephone number. The officers dealing with the enquiries are PC 1161 Patterson and PC 2058 Nelson. Alternately you can contact North East Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111. This information can be passed on anonymously. Many thanks for your support.

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LANCHESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - YOUR ISSUES

As reported in the last Village Voice, work continues on the preparation of a Neighbourhood plan for the Parish and January is the month for you to inform the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group of your concerns and issues. You can do this by filling in a short questionnaire. Copies of the Questionnaire can be collected from Lanchester Community Centre, the Library, the Post Office and from the Parish Council office at Lynwood House. Members of the Working Group are: Fiona Green, Jill Gladstone, Elaine Hogg, Steve Bailey, Colin Burton, Terry Coult, Mike Gladstone, Keith Harrison, Eric Hepplewhite, Michael Horsley, Paul Jackson, Ossie Johnson, Ann Cook,

Brian Naylor, Chris Phillips, Joe Ridgeon, Stuart Walker and Mike Wardle. It will help them considerably if you can share your concerns and ideas about development in the Parish, protection of green spaces, leisure provision, shopping improvements and other concerns you may have. The working Group will have to turn your ideas into hard Planning Recommendations and it will help them if you can have this in mind when completing the questionnaire. There will be further sharing of those recommendations with residents once they are formulated. Members of the group will also be approaching leaders of many of the Parish Organisations to ask them

to consult their members for ideas too so there may be more than one opportunity for you to take part. Members of the working group will also be very happy to discuss the questionnaire with you individually if that would help.

Questionnaires will be available from 2nd January 2015.

Completed questionnaires can be placed in the boxes at Lanchester Community Centre, the Library or the Post Office or can be posted back to: Lanchester Parish Council, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester, DH7 0LS. Questionnaires need to be returned by Friday 30th January 2015.

We look forward to receiving your completed questionnaires.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

This month I had the absolute delight of opening the new Lynwood House supported living complex on Durham Road. For those of you who have not yet seen it, it is well worth a visit. It is made up of 34 x 2-Bed Apartments (of which 4 are fully adapted), 21 are available to rent and 13 are for sale although following a very successful open day many of these have been sold. I understand that all of those for rent have been let and there are over 100 on the waiting list. There are also a treatment room, a resident's lounge, an IT suite as well as very attractive indoor and outside sitting areas and the whole centre is a credit to Derwentside Homes. The individual apartments are fabulous, really high spec with en suite facilities and

balconies. They are just the kind of quality accommodation that we would want for ourselves and therefore exactly right for our older friends and relatives.

I remember the anger and pain that was felt in the Village when the County Council first announced the closure of the old Lynwood House care home. I attended a public meeting in the village and heard for myself the views of the community. This was long before I was the MP but as a villager I shared many of the concerns raised by the families of residents. However, I was aware even then that there were plans to create something better on the site, something that would meet the needs of an ageing population in the 21st century.

Lynwood House owes its very existence to the inspiration and vision of

a wide group of people, Lanchester Parish Council who co-ordinated so much of this, Lanchester Partnership who worked with the community to get behind the project, Derwentside Homes for making it happen. This is a new and very welcome addition to the Village and I was so proud to open it.

I was also on the Village green a couple of weeks ago when the new Christmas lights were switched on. The new LED lights, paid for by the Parish Council, look great and cost a fraction of what the old lights cost to run. Once again Lanchester village green Christmas lights and tree stand out from the rest. I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. Pat Glass MP

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON
 This real village type of event which sets the scene for Christmas, now draws a very large crowd and this year was no exception. The weather was mild which helped the occasion. However, this annual gathering organised so well by Sally Laverick, Clerk/Lead Officer to the Parish Council, is now established on the village calendar. Lanchester Brass Band, together with the Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society enhanced the evening with a lovely half an hour performance of carols and Christmas music. Beforehand, and whilst the concert was in progress, everyone was able to warm themselves and get in the Christmas spirit with some really excellent mulled wine, mince pies and cakes, from the nearby gazebo. For children there were presents, water, and fruit drinks. Councillor Ossie Johnson stood at the plinth with children, Luke Young and Georgia-Kate Brunton, from EP Primary School, and from All Saints RC Primary, Joseph Purdom and Olivia Tones. To be selected for this prestigious duty is quite an honour and the four children should be congratulated for carrying out this duty. Speech time was very short! Ossie Johnson outlined what was available on the green for everyone, courtesy of the Parish Council, and offered thanks to the Lanchester Choral & Operatic, Lanchester Brass Band, and volunteers serving at the gazebo. Judith Lund MBE who was helping the children to switch on the lights was included in his thanks. Then it was count down time! Eager hands were placed on the button. Ten, nine, eight and so on - then to rapturous applause and cheering, the lights flooded the village green and Christmas tree. Christmas season had begun! Pictures on front page

**LANCHESTER PUBLICATIONS LTD,
 THE VILLAGE VOICE ANNUAL
 GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM of the Village Voice was held in November 2014. There have been a number of changes in personnel recently. Ian Reece, Compiler, Company Secretary and Gardening Columnist decided to retire. Ian was thanked for his diligent service over the past nine years. His wife had supported his work and also contributed the paper's recipe column. Frank Redfearn replaces Ian as Compiler, assisting our Editor with this arduous task each month. Ken Todd, Treasurer, has agreed to take on the responsibility of Company Secretary. The new address for Lanchester Publications Ltd is now registered at his home, and we thank Ken for taking up this responsibility. Maisie Raine, Reporter, volunteered to become Minutes Secretary. All members of the Village Voice team have worked extremely hard over the past months. It is expected that the newspaper will continue at 20-24 pages over the coming period. It is anticipated that advertising will take up about 20% of the space. We now have almost 60 advertisers in our portfolio, and they are contracted with the paper for varying periods. We currently print 2700 copies for distribution in Lanchester and the surrounding areas. The size of the newspaper will depend on the availability of news, and the advertising revenue covering operating costs. The efficiency of our accounting has been improved by encouraging advertisers to use electronic banking and postage has also decreased by sending out issues by PDF to some advertisers. The uncertainty in the country's economy has meant that much business is unpredictable, but up to the current time, we have not been seriously affected. The Village Voice is for the local community and depends on the local community. Thanks are due to everyone involved in its production, to the contributors, advertisers and deliverers, and to Durham County Council Design and Print of Tanfield Lea, for without their combined efforts, the paper could not exist.

PRISONERS ABROAD



A Coffee Morning was held at the Methodist Church on Saturday 22nd November. Catherine Mulvie has been interested in this cause for some considerable time and is trying to promote it in our area. Many prisoners, both guilty and innocent, are held in appalling conditions whilst serving their sentences in prison abroad, not only but especially, in third world countries. Teas, coffees and a cake stall were available to raise funds for this worthwhile humane cause, which came to an excellent £150.

Catherine Mulvie (centre), with Diane Emerson and Elaine Hedley serve the teas and coffees.

‘OPEN CHURCH’

The Methodist Church, with its new minister Rev Stuart Earl, is introducing an initiative called ‘Open Church’ to make the Methodist Church premises more available to the people of the village. So as well as having its regular coffee mornings on Saturdays, a new step will be to open the church, which is in the middle of the front street, between 9.00 and 11.30 am on Thursday mornings. This will begin on Thursday 8th January. The Church says ‘We hope to provide a facility for people to come in and have somewhere to sit and relax when they are in the village and have some refreshments.’ The

Church hopes that this will be attractive to parents or carers having dropped children off at primary school, so there will be crèche facilities available for young children. Also perhaps shoppers will welcome the opportunity to come in and chat and meet friends. The Church also intends a Thursday morning to provide the opportunity for the community to have a ‘drop off’ point when people can bring along a contribution to the ‘Food 4 U’ and ‘People’s Kitchen’ appeals, both of which aim to help those people in our area in desperate need. Of course the worship area itself will be there as

a place where those with problems on their minds can have somewhere quiet to sit. In these and other ways the Methodist Church seeks to provide a useful community facility, and hopes the village will welcome and support this initiative.

Cracker Jokes

What does a frog do if his car breaks down? He gets Toad away.	How did the beaver get on line? He logged on.
What did Adams say to his girlfriend on December 24th. It's Christmas, Eve	What do you give a railway station master for Christmas? Platform shoes.

BAR ASSOCIATION MOCK TRIALS COMPETITION ST BEDE'S ARE REGIONAL CHAMPIONS!



The successful St Bede's students pictured at Newcastle Crown Court

A group of students from St Bede's Sixth Form College in Lanchester are celebrating success following months of hard work and preparation for the Bar Association Mock Trials Competition. The students competed against sixteen other high performing schools from the North East at Newcastle Crown Court in November, where they had to demonstrate their well-honed skills in both the prosecution and defence of cases. St Bede's team consisted of four Barristers (Katie Spence, Scott Beard, Marnie Byfield and James Colwell), four witnesses (Shannon Anderson-

Scott, Rebecca Swinney, Abigail Simons and Danielle Brown), a Court Usher (Lucy Spence) and a Court Clerk (Emily Jobson). The students' preparation of the cases heard at the competition was exemplary – they had become extremely proficient in their roles. Throughout the course

of the day the students performed faultlessly in their prosecution and defence of the different cases and as a result, they were rewarded with a place in the regional final against St Leonard's Catholic School. The final case of the competition was a hotly contested battle

between the two teams, but after a valiant effort and considerable deliberation from the judges, victory was handed to the Defence, namely Team St Bede! The students now have a place in the national finals, which is a fantastic achievement and one in which they should all feel very proud.

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EP SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR



The Angels in the Attic stall looks very attractive

Business was very brisk at the EP Christmas Fair on Friday December 5th. Every stall was busy. There was a great variety of stalls and plenty of opportunity to do some Christmas shopping. Santa Claus was there and as popular as ever. There was a very long queue to see him. The pupils manned every stall very competently and their enthusiasm was catching. Spending was a pleasure every time!

The 'Angels in the Attic' stall was kept busy. The contents were all hand made. They were small

pieces of wood cut into a heart shape, with a variety of sayings hand written on them, eg 'The only thing better than having you as my Mother, is my children having you as a Gran' or 'Our family stied together with Heartstrings' or 'Love came Down at Christmas'. It was a super afternoon, and it is so great seeing Children, Teachers, and Parents and Families all working together to create such a happy afternoon for everybody and one which was full of Christmas Cheer.

Brenda Craddock

THE EP SCHOOL SINGS AT TESCO

Everyone shopping in Tesco on Wednesday morning, December 3rd, must have really enjoyed their shopping, to the strains of the EP school children. singing lovely carols and songs. They were accompanied by teacher Mr Johnson, on the guitar and Mrs Davis was there singing too. The children were obviously enjoying the experience and each one of them seemed to sing with a smile! Parents and members of staff were invited to join in where

they could but everyone was too captivated by the children to join in. There is something so special about young children singing so earnestly, especially when every word sung is so clear and in tune. The onlookers applauded these children after every song and at the end of their performance there was loud appreciative applause. They also put money into the buckets to raise money for 'Help the Heroes' These lovely children had successfully



EP School children entertaining shoppers in front of Tesco

brought a smile to many faces. At the end of their programme they sang 'We

wish you a Merry Christmas' to Tesco's shoppers and that is what

everyone present wished for all these young children and their families.

THE FIRST SCHOOL NATIVITY AT THE EP SCHOOL



Nursery and Reception class children presenting their first Nativity Play

The Nursery and Reception Class children were absolutely brilliant when they presented their Nativity Play entitled 'Whoops a Daisy Angel'. It was hard to believe that these very young children could perform with such confidence and aplomb! Everyone was dressed for the occasion - boys as shepherds, and girls as angels and there was a real sense of theatre as they took their places on the staging. There were a number of narrators who had to speak into a microphone and their

words were spoken with such clarity and confidence. A number of songs pertaining to the title of the play were sung and again the words were clear and sung very earnestly. 'The Whoops a Daisy Angel' who found it difficult to do the right thing, triumphed in the end after she visited the special Baby Jesus. The children obviously understood the words and mood of the songs, in the way they sang them. The whole performance was enchanting. Well Done everyone!

OUTING TO LUMLEY CASTLE

On Wednesday 26th November the Club set off on a very dreary, wet morning for our Christmas outing to Lumley Castle. The Castle was beautifully decorated with Christmas trees, candles and floral arrangements which lifted our spirits. On arrival we went into the lounge for tea/coffee until 12.00 noon when the Christmas Bazaar opened. Plenty of 'retail therapy' with a variety of goodies for foodies, chocoholics, tipples, perfumery, something for the man in your life, even designer outfits for pampered pooches and

more. At 1.30 it was time for afternoon tea. Every window in the room was home to a gorgeous Christmas tree. We were served with a glass of mulled wine or a soft drink and then the afternoon tea. There were a couple of hiccupps but these were quickly resolved. The castle ladies entertained us with carols but it was a little disappointing that they could not be heard very well above all the chatter, however, what we did hear was really beautiful. We arrived back in the village at about 4.45 pm following a most enjoyable afternoon.

2014 A YEAR OF FUN AND ENJOYMENT FOR THE THURSDAY CLUB

Our aim is to have fun and enjoy ourselves during the year but also do our bit to help charity and this year has been no exception. Good speakers with a great sense of humour. Our 34th Birthday party in March - glitz all the way. May saw us off to Holy Island and then on to Doxford Hall for afternoon tea - a great day out. We did have one or two panic attacks when, due to unforeseen circumstances, a couple of our speakers were unable to make it.

Our thanks to Pauline and Bernice for stepping in at a moment's notice - literally. It all adds to the excitement! Our October meeting ended with Janet Tulip reading out a very poignant letter, which was sent from her father to her mother, during his time at the front in the First World War. His letter began "My Darling Girl" - heart wrenching. We asked Janet if she would like to represent us and lay a wreath at the Memorial on Remembrance Sunday which she did with dignity. November also had us off to Lumley Castle and in December we will be 'Meandering thro' France' with Olive. Our 2 coffee mornings raised an incredible

£643.73 for the Great North Air Ambulance. 2015 starts off on 15th January when we will be enjoying a Buffet Lunch at Crinnions. Please let Liz have your name and payment by end of December. For our outing to Leyburn and visit to Tennants Auction House in May we also need names and £10 deposit by the end of December. Please contact Liz on 521682 if you wish to go to either of the above. Our aim is to keep membership subscriptions to £12 (or maximum £13). If any ladies fancy joining us you will be guaranteed a warm welcome. We would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

COTTAGE PIE WITH ONE OR TWO EXTRAS

The cold, dark days of winter call for warming, tasty foods such as cottage pie. This recipe has some extra ingredients - the cinnamon really brings out the full flavour of the mixture, and the leeks, potatoes and cheese make a lovely topping for the pie.

To serve 4 people
 1 lb cooked minced beef (450 g)
 2 medium sized onions, chopped
 1 large carrot, chopped into very small pieces
 1 level tablespoon flour
 Half teaspoon mixed herbs
 Half teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley
 Half pint hot beef stock (275 ml)

1 tablespoon tomato purée
 Oil for frying
 Salt and freshly-milled black pepper
 For the topping
 2 lb potatoes (900 g)
 2 medium leeks, chopped
 2 oz butter (50 g)

Salt and freshly-milled black pepper
 Cheddar cheese - enough to grate over the top of the pie

METHOD
 Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 6, 400°F, 200°C.

1) Fry the onions in the oil until they are soft, add the carrot and minced meat, and cook for about 10 minutes, until the meat and carrot has browned a little.

2) Season with salt and pepper and add the cinnamon, mixed herbs and parsley. Stir in the flour, mix the tomato purée with the hot stock and add this to the meat mixture. Bring to simmering point.

3) To make the topping, boil the potatoes and cook the leeks gently in the butter. When the potatoes are done, cream them and stir in the cooked leeks and their butter. Season to taste.

4) Put the meat mixture into a greased baking dish, spread the potato mixture over the top. Finish off by grating the cheese and using it as a final topping. Bake for 25-30 minutes.



*More houses decorated for Christmas
 Above:- the garden of the house in Deanery View.*

Left:- Hunny gets out to play again this year and brings a huge smile to match those in Alderside Crescent.

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www.westlandsdentalstudio.co.uk**

A BENCH WITH A VIEW?

How creative writing is generating funds for a local hospice

The Benchmark creative writing competition is a unique fundraising collaboration between Willow Burn Hospice and North East writer Rachel Cochrane. It is inspired by Rachel's latest online radio play Benchmark which in turn took its inspiration from the 'In Loving Memory ...' plaques found on benches, usually situated in a place of beauty or of special significance to those commemorated. This competition, however, is to celebrate the living and reflect the ethos of Willow Burn Hospice - improving the

experience for all of those living with life limiting illness, when it really counts.

We are asking people to think about their lives as they are now and consider if they had a bench with a plaque on it:

What would it say on the plaque? Where would it be? Why have you chosen that particular place?

The competition is open to all UK adults aged 18 years and over and can be expressed as prose or poetry. We are looking for heartfelt, genuine pieces, rather than for perfect grammar. In the competition guidelines, there are even some hints and tips and a written

example to get people started.

The Benchmark writing competition, #mybenchview, is now open and the closing date to receive entries is 19th January 2015. The entry fee is £5 with 40% of that going towards Willow Burn Hospice. Details can be found by visiting www.rachelcochrane.com where you can also listen to Benchmark, the play.





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LANCHESTER BRASS BAND HAS BUSY TIME OVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Pictures on next page

The band has been in demand this Christmas, and we have played in a number of venues, the coldest being on Consett Middle Street and Stanley Front Street On December 3rd they did a concert in the Parish Church, which as last year was very well received. The Deputy Conductor, James Draper of Lanchester, led the concert very competently, after three young members of our church family opened the evening by singing 'Away in a Manger'. Lucy and Anna Eastwood were

dressed for the occasion, as an Angel and a Star and very lovely they were. Chrystal Cheung helped Lucy and sister Anna and sang very beautifully. Freya Kalus was also part of the programme. She played her Oboe very beautifully, as she always does. And Mark Draper, was solo Cornet for a rendering of 'Over the Rainbow'. Despite a smaller audience this year, the amount raised for 'The Children's Society' was £216. (absolutely great) Thank you so much!
Brenda Craddock.



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PICTURES OF THE BRASS BAND'S PARISH CHURCH CONCERT



Lucy, Chrystal and Anna sing beautifully



Freya Kalus plays the oboe



Mark Draper wields his baton

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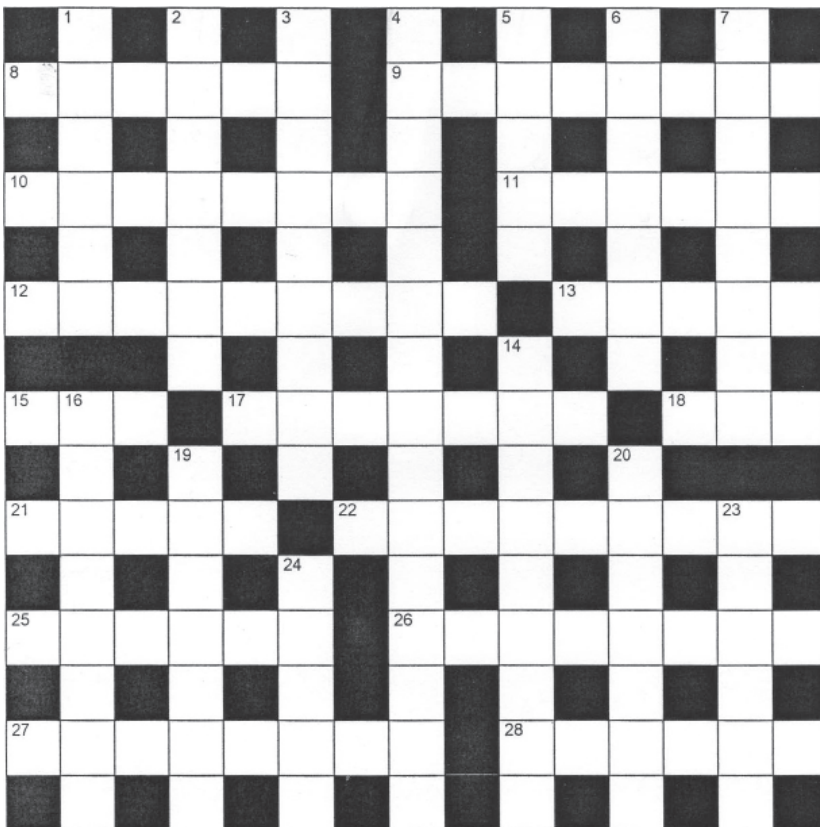
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CROSSWORD 104



Name _____

Address _____

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

LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

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CROSSWORD 103

There were 17 entries to last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to D F Westley of Victoria Terrace who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 103

- ACROSS**
6. stringent
 7. crass
 9. mend one's fences
 11. exit
 13. enterprise
 17. vagrant
 19. Corsica
 20. not for sale
 23. chic
 24. enough is enough
 27. tacit
 28. See 16.
- DOWN**
1. item
 2. linnet
 3. ignore
 4. intent
 5. talc
 7. creeper
 8. sustenance
 10. heaven-sent
 12. ingot
 14. notes
 15. excel
 16. Irish tricolour
 18. amongst
 21. absurd
 22. eunuch
 23. couple
 25. ouch
 26. haul

SUDOKU

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

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

LANCHESTER TABLE TENNIS CLUB NEWS

Both of Lanchester's Primary Schools from years 5 and 6 enjoyed afternoon sessions of fun table tennis in the Community Centre accompanied by school staff on the 5th and 12th of November. Bob Russell and Frank Clarke organised the events where the pupils showed much promise. Some individuals' efforts were rewarded with 'sweet treats' by winning their mini leagues on the day. Both schools were invited to create picture posters depicting the activities. These were judged independently and two pupils from each school were presented with new bats (paddles) as prizes donated by the club. We hope that some of the players may be keen enough to take advantage of the coaching sessions run on Wednesdays and Fridays currently between 6 and 7 pm. The club's two teams are doing well in the league with our 'A' team leading the pack and our 'B' team playing well. Outstanding performances in the Sunderland Annual handicap have seen them progress into the next round by winning their games against highly placed 1st division teams! We hope to continue to give club and team information through our website - Lanchester Table Tennis Club.

Our latest new member in the Veteran section, Mr Bill Minto has rediscovered his talents honed in his youth and has made marked progress over the last few weeks. Finally, we hope to encourage juniors, seniors and veterans of both genders to take advantage of what is offered by their local club and would welcome any adults who may want to participate in a voluntary / administrative capacity on either Wednesdays or Fridays in the New Year.

Happy Christmas,
Frank Clarke, Chairman



Evie Cox, aged 10, from All Saints Primary School, alongside Chairman of the Table Tennis club, Frank Clark. Evie won a poster competition about publicising the Table Tennis Club at the Community centre. Sarah Holmes, also from the same school came second, but was unavailable for the photograph.

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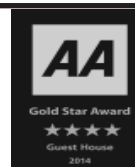
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WHAT'S ON?

WI

Our first meeting of 2015 will take place in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 5th January starting at 7.15.

Gwen Davis will be speaking on Hypnosis and Hypnotherapy and the competition is Keep Calm ... so we can use our imaginations on this one! June and Maisie are making delicious home made soup for the refreshments.

Subscriptions of £36 are due at this meeting, cheques if possible please and your resolution forms from WILife can be handed in. 2015 is our 90th birthday year and as part of the celebrations we are having a open evening (tickets only) on Friday 27th March in Croft View where there will be a talk and demonstration on Renaissance costumes by Julia Soares McComick, entertainment and light refreshments. Tickets are £5 each and are for sale now, a list and more details at the meeting.

Lanchester WI wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Paradiso Social Club

The first Paradiso Club Social of the New Year will be held on Sunday January 11th at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and nibbles followed by a film.

The film we are screening is 'SUNSHINE ON LEITH'. A film designed to lift the January mood! A jubilant heartfelt musical about the power of love, home and family, it is tender, funny and a big-hearted delight. Home is where the heart is for best pals Davy and Ally returning from duty in Afghanistan to their lifelong residence in Leith...

All are welcome.

Tickets: members £2.50
Non-members £3.50

Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th June at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre. 'Serendipity to Sri Lanka' with Noel Jackson.

Lanchester Flower Club

Our next meeting will be on January 28th 2015 in Lanchester Community Centre at 2 pm. The speaker will be Julian Harrop from Beamish Museum his theme will be "Snooping at Snaps" Everyone is welcome come along and join us for a relaxing and pleasant afternoon.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PACT meeting

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

Vintage Tractor Club

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th January at 7.30 pm in Crinnions.

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

January 18th, Meet in the Malton car park at 10.00am. If you are a member, please bring your card.

New Year's Eve Ceilidh

This popular event, organised by Lanchester Wildlife Group will be held again in Lanchester Community Centre on Wednesday 31st December.

Doors Open 7.30pm, first dance 8.00 pm.

Faith Supper, bring your own drink and glass. Tea or coffee provided at supper break.

Tickets £7.50 Adults. Children under 16. £5.50 No admittance after 8.30 pm unless by prior arrangement.

To book tickets please ring 01207 520063, leave name and telephone number.

Short Circuit Walks

3rd January, 10.30 am. Segedunum (Wallsend to Newcastle).

A linear walk taking in the ever changing scenery of the north bank of the river and ending at the quayside.

Car park at museum in Wallend; return by metro at end of walk.

The Next Folk Concert

Please note that the second Folk and Country Music Concert will be again in the Community Centre, on Saturday 25th April. The line up will consist of Phyllosan, Kidders Luck, Copperhead Duo, Jim & Marilyn Gibson, Jeff Grant, and Chris Kelly. Any proceeds will be shared between Henry Dancer Days and the Lanchester Community Centre. Tickets will be on sale soon, priced again at £4. For further information please telephone myself (Ian Tute) on 07889 037102 or 01207 529286.

Community Centre Coffee Morning

The Community Centre will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 8th January from 9.30 - 11.00 am.

Sunday Bridge

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon playing Bridge in the Community Centre on 11th January at 2.00 pm. Only £3.

Satley Christmas Fair

Christmas Comes to Satley Satley Christmas Fair is always a popular venue, and the crowds flocked there on the morning of November 29th. The Great North Air Ambulance, the Retired Greyhound Charity, and 'Daniel's Dream' were all represented, and there was a good selection of arts and crafts on sale, besides seasonal flower arrangements and wreaths. A tombola proved popular, as always, and there was a good trade in home made jams and chutneys, hand made cards and carved wooden items. Hot drinks and bacon sandwiches were

The Village Voice Page 18

popular on the cold, damp morning, and organisers Janice and Enid hoped that the church maintenance fund would benefit through the generosity of the Christmas shoppers.

Picture on back page

Kasher Christmas Party

A very lively party for almost 100 children was held at the Social Club on Sunday afternoon, 7th December. It was organised by Stephanie Watson in memory of her sister, Kelly Kasher. Margaret was running the disco, and Maureen Wright sorted out a lovely buffet. Many of

the people there were dressed for the Christmas season. Santa Claus made a visit and was kept very busy seeing all the children. There were eleven babies under the age of one at the function and most of these appear in the photo below.

There were lots of games, dancing and great fun was enjoyed by everyone. The noise was quite deafening at times.

The £231 raised is being donated to North Durham University Hospital Chemotherapy Day unit.

Picture on back page

Lanchester Flower Club

"Fantastically Festive" On Friday 28th

November we held the second of our two Open Evening Meetings in Lanchester Community Centre. As in other years the support was very good. Everyone enjoyed a lovely evening; the demonstrator was Linda Fraser who completed some beautiful arrangements bringing the festive spirit of Christmas. She also kept everyone enthralled with her stories and anecdotes. The flower arrangements were raffled to the delight of the winners. Then we all enjoyed mince pies with tea or coffee. Gillian Harrison

supported us with an excellent home produce stall. Janet Ringrow also supported us with a gifts stall. We would like to extend a big thank you to Gillian and Janet on behalf of the club.

Our next meeting will be on January 25th, 2015 in Lanchester Community Centre at 2 pm. The speaker will be Julian Harrop from Beamish Museum, his theme will be "Snooping at Snaps" Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for a relaxing and pleasant afternoon. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Picture on back page

WILLOW BURN FAIR



Christmas and folk music performed by acoustic musicians Fool's Gold at their very best.



Featured handing over a bag is 14 year old Kay Mckinnell, who had her hair completely shaved off just under a year ago, with the £205 raised going to Willow Burn

This had a lively beginning with hundreds of Willow Burn supporters arriving for the opening. Santa and Elf were situated at the entrance which gave that immediate Christmas feel about it. Once inside the choice of spending

money was enormous. Every stall was well labelled which made it easier to make those important buying decisions. There were about twenty stalls all of high quality standard. Cakes, crafts, foodstuffs were among them, as well as several tombolas and

raffles. The morning was enhanced by Terry and Ray who sang and played guitars with a great variation of Christmas and folk music. This was followed by Acoustic Musicians, Fool's Gold, who played and sang in their own inimitable style,

original music in the folk tradition with a mix of Christmas songs. The whole Fair was a lovely occasion with a super Christmas atmosphere which raised a massive £5200. Willow Burn staff would like to thank all those who supported, helped and

contributed to this very successful event, and would like to assure people that the money raised will be put to good use for the patients in their care. They will continue to provide all the necessary services to the best of their ability. *Picture on back page*

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KASHER CHRISTMAS PARTY



Santa Claus with most of the 11 babies under the age of one at the children's party at the Social Club (see article on Page 18)

WILLOW BURN FAIR



Little Jessica Coleman visits Santa along with family. The elf is Crystal Booth, from Willow Burn. (see article on Page 19)

LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB



A Fantastically Festive Display (See article on Page 18)

CHRISTMAS COMES TO SATLEY



Shoppers at the very busy Satley Christmas Fair (See article on Page 18)

SPECTACULAR CHRISTMAS HOUSELIGHTS



An incredible display at Deanery View once again

NEXT DEADLINE

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

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