

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 2 Volume 15

Lanchester, February 2014

For contact information, see page 2

KUNG HEI FAT CHOI Happy New Year

This is the 'Year of the Horse', and the Chinese celebrated in their usual cultural style with the Lion Dance which is thought to bring luck and dispel evil. New Year in Taiwan is decided by the Lunar Calendar and is the beginning of a significant Spring Festival. Gifts are exchanged and special food prepared, fireworks are set off and families have reunions and dinners together. Employers give end of year bonuses.

After a gap of a couple of years Guang Cheng and Winnie Wu from The Golden Valley were able to obtain the services of their good friend Shaka Brown and his group of Kung Fu students to perform the Lion Dance in Lanchester on Saturday afternoon, 1st February. The event which lasted nearly half an hour took place in very cold, windy, rainy conditions but that did not detract from the large crowd of families who turned out for this spectacular performance.



The Lion teases the crowd

Shaka, a regional coach, trains people in Kung Fu at Oceans Apart, Newcastle, and other venues in the region. He has been involved in the sport for some 26 years beginning at the age of four.

This year there were spring rolls and fortune cookies available in the shop and some hot Chinese tea which was

very welcome on such an inclement afternoon. Included for the children was a face painter, who created some delightful little faces adorned with painted dragons.

The procession from the car park was really amusing. The 'Lion' was led by a flag carrier and followed by a drummer. The latter performed enthusiastically with a

loud rhythmic sound throughout the dance. The 'Lion' paused outside Ray Emmerton's shop and 'attempted' to smell the flowers and 'eat' the carrots. The dance in front of the crowd was both energetic and exhilarating - tiring too for the dancers who made quick slick changes frequently. Towards the end of the ceremony as is

the tradition, the 'Lion' devoured the 'Lucky lettuce' hanging from the entrance of the Golden Valley. Having shredded the lettuce he scattered leaves to the onlookers so that those who picked them would have luck in the Year of the Horse. It was all good fun which those who attended seemed to thoroughly enjoy.



The Lion about to eat the lettuce



The Cheng family with Shaka Brown and his students together after the Lion Dance



Dear Village....

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

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

Dear Village Voice
Village Vandalism
I am saddened to witness the constant damage that is being waged on our bus shelters on Durham Road. As quickly as the Council effect repairs the situation is repeated. If the perpetrator is reading this, or if you happen to know his identity, can I please implore you to make this cease please. The shelters are for the travelling public and the council has better things to do with the money raised from our taxes. Thank you
Name withheld on request

Dear Village Voice
As a village resident, it has been good to see the ongoing drainage improvement work being done for Lanchester by Durham County Council, the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water. This hard engineering system concentrates on getting flood water away from the village once it has arrived. However, I was very interested to read of soft engineering methods of flood prevention used successfully nationwide by the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency. This well-researched system consists of installing comparatively low cost leaky dams, barriers and the planting of trees in upstream areas, which allows the normal drainage flow rate off the land, but in

times of heavy rainfall, holds back flash floods thus reducing flow rates into towns and villages, enabling normal well maintained drainage to cope. Government money is available to compensate land owners for any temporary flooding upstream from the dams. For further information see:
www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/urgc-7QJDH7
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/129472.aspx
www.pickeringcivicsociety.btik.com/Campaign/Flooding
I am aware that further underground engineering is planned, but this can only do so much and I hope that the seemingly inexpensive and successful soft engineering flood prevention system above can be implemented locally to avoid further devastation to Lanchester homes and businesses.
David Gardiner

Dear Village Voice
Brian, Philip and Christopher Jackson of Burnhopeside Avenue would like to thank their family and friends for their support, sympathy, cards and flowers on the sad loss of their dear Wife and Mum Carol Jackson.
Many thanks, Brian Jackson

LEN BLADES - A LIFETIME LOCAL MAN

My Mother and Father, Joan and Leonard (Len) Blades, raised all four of us in Lanchester from 1948 onwards. We lost our Mother Joan Blades in 2007. She was a former Nurse at the original site of Leehill Hospital and then District Nurse after the closure. Our Father Len Blades worked at the old Ransome and Marles Factory until it closed and was a member of the secretarial board at Lanchester Social Club for many years. Our Father's health deteriorated badly after the death of our Mother and we've worked tirelessly trying to keep him safe in his own home but sadly it has come to an end. Our much loved Father, Leonard Blades,

of 38 Deneside, Lanchester, died at 12.40 am at Willow Burn Hospice on Tuesday 18th February 2014 surrounded by the very best care from the staff and us. We can't thank them enough. Willow Burn Hospice is a vital service to the local community and we feel blessed that our Father was able to die there safely, with the most beautiful view over the village he loved, Lanchester, and where our Mother is buried at Kitswell Grave Site. Also can we thank Dr English at Queen's Road Surgery, Blackhill, Consett for supporting us at the end. Mrs Karen Patterson, Middle Daughter

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for January 2014 is 33. The draw was made by Chris Affleck of Durham Community Action Group.

How to contact the Village Voice

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Telephone: (01207) 520288
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General and news enquiries: (01207) 520559

By email:

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

By post:

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WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

The sun shone brightly on 29th December 2013 for the wedding of Jane Elizabeth Smith (formerly of Lanchester) and Phillip Roy Topham at All Saints' Church, Hertford. The bride wore a full length dress of ivory silk taffeta, by Alan Hannah, with a chapel length veil and carried a bouquet of ivory roses and purple Calla lilies. Matron of Honour was Claire Myers (bride's sister), Flower Girl was Lilly Rose Myers (bride's niece) and the bridesmaids were Emma Saunders, Jo Shrowder, Jo Williams, Jo Wynn, Michelle Moore and Sarah Bell, all friends of the bride. Phil's friend

Pete Williams was best man and Ant Myers, Kobie van der Westhuizen, Mark Moore, Richard Topham and Tom Woodford were ushers. A fabulous reception followed at The Tythe Barn, Tewin Bury Farm Hotel, Welwyn, Hertford. A perfect day of celebration was enjoyed by all.



Jane and Phillip outside the church after their wedding

BURNS CELEBRATIONS IN LANCHESTER



Staff at Hanley and Swinbank celebrate 'Robbie Burns' in some style. Left to right John, Anouska, John Stafford (Piper from Consett), Mel, Neil and Michelle.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2014

Minutes
 Ordinary meeting held on 14th January 2014 - approved.
 Finance & Development meeting held on 29th January 2014 - approved.
 Planning meeting held on 29th January 2014 - approved.

North Durham Community Engagement Project
 Louise Harlanderson and Chris Affleck from Durham Community Action attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the above project which aims to involve members of the community in health decisions in the North Durham area. It was agreed that the Parish Council becomes a member of the project so that regular updates and information may be received.

Police Report and Neighbourhood Warden Report
 Chris Hindmarch the Neighbourhood Warden attended the meeting and presented the report. In addition he informed Members of the following:
 (i) a County wide dog fouling campaign is taking place over the next month and Kitswell Park has been identified as a key area for attention.
 (ii) there has been an increase in the number of fly tipping incidents in the County resulting in a delay in getting them cleared.
 (iii) operation 'Whitehall' is taking place to target illegal scrap dealings.
 The Police Report and Neighbourhood Warden report were received.

Healthwatch-membership
 scheme - it was agreed that the Parish Council becomes a member so that regular updates may be received.

Banner Celebration Event
 Working Group - minutes and update received.

Royal British Legion - Lanchester Branch Standard
 - It was agreed that work should continue on securing the return of the Standard to Lanchester.

Durham County Council-Implementation Plans
 Members considered the information received and agreed a number of amendments to forward to the County Council.

Financial report
 - discussed and received.

Accounts for Payment
 - approved.

Grass Cutting Contract 2014
 Press and public were excluded from this item.

Members agreed the contractor for 2014.
Grassed Area - Lanchester Valley Railway Path - between Station Road and Newbiggen Lane
 In 2013 the County Council had stopped cutting the grass in the above area and the Parish Council had stepped in to pay for a number of grass cuts. Members considered whether the Parish Council should cut the grass in this area again in 2014 under a similar licence arrangement. It was agreed that a licence agreement be entered into with the County Council for 2014 to cut the grass and that a review of these arrangements takes place at the end of the season.
 The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 11th March 2014 at 7.15 pm.

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POLICE REPORT

Our last PACT meeting was held on Tuesday 4th February. Over the past month positive work has been conducted on Durham Road to address speeding concerns. Over this period we have issued 19 verbal warnings to drivers, 16 Traffic Offence Reports issued which include a £100 fine and 3 points on their licences and one female was arrested for drink driving and possession of a controlled drug. Current crime and disorder trends in the village include an increase in criminal damages on the weekend of 24th January. During the weekend we received approximately 5 calls regarding plant pots or stones being thrown at windows which resulted in a number of windows being smashed. Local officers are now conducting high visibility patrols on an evening to identify those regularly roaming our streets with the intention of conducting stop searches and educating people that behaviour of this nature will not be tolerated. Anyone with information regarding these crimes or who may be responsible please do not hesitate to contact PCSO Lisa Jackson on 101.

New for 2014 is Operation Spoke, a new initiative to tackle theft of bicycles. Over the coming months Police will be looking at organising local events on the Lanchester Valley Walk and within the village to offer residents the opportunity to have their bikes security marked. In the meantime if you would like your bike marked you can pop into Consett Police Station or contact PCSO Lisa Jackson on 101. The date of the next PACT meeting will be Tuesday 4th March at 6.30 pm in Burnhope Primary School, Langley Avenue, Burnhope.



operation SPOKE

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NEW SERVICE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

A new service is being launched in County Durham to support people living alone and going through chemotherapy. Funded by Macmillan Cancer Support, the Durham Not Alone Direct Volunteering Service has emerged following reports of isolated patients declining chemotherapy as they were unable to cope. The aim of the service is to provide practical support and a listening ear. The service is provided by Macmillan-trained volunteers. Jackie Easton, from Esh, is one of the service's lead volunteers. Jackie, 61, has had cancer twice and also seen her husband and daughter have to face the disease. She is now using that experience to help others. She said: "I'm really excited about this new project. When I was receiving chemotherapy, I was fortunate enough to have friends and family around me who were able to provide support. For the people who don't have someone, I cannot begin to imagine how difficult that is. Chemotherapy affects people differently but it's common to feel fatigue, to the point where you don't have the energy to even get out of a chair. During discussions among local people affected by cancer, we were hearing that some were actually refusing treatment because they were alone and unable to cope. Macmillan has provided funding and training to get this project underway and we're looking forward to getting started." The service is for anyone undergoing chemotherapy and lives alone, or a carer, from the Lanchester Valley area. Support is available during treatment and up to six weeks afterwards. Support could include light housework, shopping or simply being there to listen. For further information about the service, contact Jane Mielniczek on 07912 308 152 or email jmielniczek@macmillan.org.uk

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LIONS RACE NIGHT

Everyone was under starters orders at a very enjoyable 'Re-launch Lanchester Lions Club' Race Night held in Lanchester Social Club recently.

Those attending found out that becoming a Lion should be fun, particularly when FUNdraising.

The outcome was that over £300 was raised for Lanchester's Willow

Burn Hospice and equally important was the spreading of the message that anyone can become a Lion if he or she wishes to make a contribution to community life, helping others both near and far. Members of nearby Lions Clubs were on hand to answer questions from prospective Lanchester and District Lions; however the main

purpose was to enjoy the evening.

Durham Lions Club members Mary Pearce and Peter Oakley are leading the re-launch and have been encouraged by the level of support within the Lanchester area - particularly local businesses that so generously sponsored the Race Night.

In the meantime you might spot some Lions prowling your street delivering a leaflet

announcing the re-launch meeting of Lanchester & District Lions Club. This will take place on Tuesday, March 11th - again at Lanchester Social Club on Newbiggen Lane and starting at 7.30 pm. Mary and Peter would like to emphasise that anyone interested need only turn up - there will be no personal invitations as such. The aim of the meeting is to determine how prospective

members would like their Lions Club to develop.

Membership of the new Club will be open to anyone - male or female, young or old - who genuinely wants to help others, enjoy the social aspect and put something back into their community.

For more details, please contact Mary Pearce on 0191 3735076 or 0845 8335957 or email; lanchesterlionsclub@gmail.com.



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Lion members and racegoers

CONSETT MUSIC FESTIVAL BOWS OUT IN STYLE

Consett Music Festival has sadly called an end to 90 years of promoting Northern choral and instrumental talent. Until about ten years ago it was difficult to fit all the entrants into the two weekends of this popular event, but over the last few years the number of entrants has declined. Finally it was decided, with great regret, that 2013 would be the last Festival.

However, what would have been the 90th year will now be marked by a bumper Celebration Celebrity Concert to be held at Consett Empire Theatre at 7 pm on Saturday 17th May 2014. Performers will include a

host of past festival winners, representing many of the classes for which the Festival was famous. Many of those who will be joining the cast have become well known artists in their fields. Leading the special guests will be internationally renowned opera singer, Graeme Danby. Graeme was born in Consett, where he began his musical education, entering and winning both vocal and instrumental classes at the Consett Festival. Since those early days he has risen to the top, and now performs in many of the major opera houses of the world. However, he has never

forgotten his local roots - he will be remembered by many, rallying the Newcastle faithful at St James' Park with his wonderful rendering of 'The Blyadon Races'.

Many past friends and supporters of the Festival have already accepted invitations to join the Celebration. There are some tickets remaining for the general public, and anyone who would like to be part of the audience for what promises to be a fantastic evening, can obtain these free tickets from the Consett Empire Theatre Box Office.

You are invited to come along and help the festival bow out in style.

WI NEWS

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed members and visitors before Pauline Griggs and Ann Carr gave readings. DCFWI have asked for scarves to sell at the April Council Meeting, these can be brought to the next two meetings.

A list is out for a mini trip to the Oriental Museum, Durham on 17th June and the County Meeting on Tuesday 29th April. If you are interested in darts, ladies meet at 7 o'clock on Thursdays at the Social Club. Carol Troy is the lady to see about the Quiz team and Heather Muir the Book Buddies. There is a box

for any suggestions members have for trips and outings. Our speakers this evening were from Fruitful Durham, a social enterprise to use spare local fruit so avoiding food waste. This was started in 2012 by volunteers who were given spare fruit which would go to waste and they made products such as fruit juice and jam which was shared with the community and donors and the rest sold to plant more fruit. People also offer land to be used to plant and grow fruit trees and as they get free juice from your surplus fruit or land



Jennifer Macdonald pressing apples under the watchful eyes of the speakers

everyone is a winner. schools where the They also go into children help to press

and make juice which is sold back to the school who sell it to the parents.

If you would like more details you can email: info@fruitfuldurham.co.uk, Tel: 07779672370 or www.facebook.com/fruitfuldurham.

Maureen Barker and Kathleen Morris won the raffle and the competition winner was Ann Grosvenor with Jennifer Macdonald second.

Jill Gladstone gave the vote of thanks and the meeting ended with refreshments including freshly pressed apple juice which was delicious.

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING

A Coffee Morning for Christian Aid, organised by Isabel Appleton, which included a Cake Stall and Tombola, was held in the Chapter House on Wednesday, 12th February. Despite the first light fall of snow this winter which fell on the previous night and was still lying around, attendance was good, raising £332.10 for this worthy cause.



Left, Mary Richardson with Ann Hunter. Anyone for cakes?

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WILDLIFE GROUP MEETING

On Tuesday, January 14th in the Small Hall, the Wildlife Group held a very interesting meeting, with four specially invited guests. This group was formed 30 years ago. It began as the Junior Wildlife Group and some of the adults present, began and developed their interest in Wildlife there. One of these was Rachel Hepburn (née Jackson), who was present on Tuesday

having had a part in organising the meeting. The speaker Mr James McVey is the founder of Feathers, Fluff and Fangs, offering animal experiences and talks to schools, groups and private parties. He certainly gave an excellent talk on the subject of Falconry. Falconry is an ancient pastime of the aristocracy. Henry VIII is known to have enjoyed the sport.

In the Middle Ages only the Lords were allowed to take part in Falconry but later it became the means of offering food for the peasants. Crusaders brought birds and skills from the Middle East to Britain. Today, the



The speaker, Mr James McVey, with his Kestrel



Rachel Hepburn with Harris Hawk

'sport' of birds is tightly governed and no wild birds can be used. Captive birds can be bought and kept privately and can cost up to £185,000 to buy. Some well used phrases of the English language have their origins in Falconry eg 'End of your tether', 'On the cage', 'Under the thumb', 'Old Cadger', 'Hoodwink'. Birds of prey are only interested in humans for the food they can cage from them.

After the talk it was time to get acquainted with

the 'invited guests'. There were four Birds of Prey present. The speaker had brought his small Kestrel, who sat so still and quiet on his tether during the talk. Rachel had brought her own bird. He is a big Harris Hawk, but Rachel described him as sociable. Harris Hawks came to our country in the late 60s and they are good birds to train. A Peregrine and a beautiful barn Owl were also present with their owners, who had some good anecdotes

to share with members of the club, as they gathered round the birds.

Visitors (two legged variety of course) are always welcome at the Wildlife meetings. They meet in the Small Hall on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm. A junior group meets monthly on a Sunday morning and if you would like further information you may contact Rachel by email - rachel.hepburn@yahoo.co.uk

Brenda Craddock

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YEAR 6 BOY BEATS SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

John Menzies, a MagiKats student studying maths for over four years, has beaten all of the County Durham MagiKats students who recently took part in their Tables Challenge.

Lorraine Stephens, the Principal, said: "It just shows how a little regular extra practice can give the edge to students. He was incredibly fast and scored 100%." His Mum agreed that attending the classes has given John

more confidence in his maths. As for John, although proud of his result, he said, "I enjoy attending MagiKats and have made a lot of new friends."

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John Menzies with Lorraine Stephens, Principal of MagiKats

DORA'S WOOD



This is the scene at the centre of Dora's Wood. A fire has obviously been lit probably just to keep the culprits warm but could have been potentially dangerous. Thanks to Denis Laycock, the mess has now been cleaned up.

GYPSY CARAVAN



This Gypsy caravan was an unusual sight at this time of the year. Guess who won the race?

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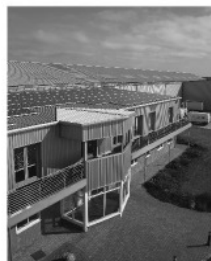
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LANCHESTER ARMS TO ... BLUEBELL COURT

As many of you will know, the first four new houses on the site of the old Lanchester Arms are nearly finished. The project started back in sunny July 2013 with the demolition of the old pub and rear out buildings. As many had anticipated, the building was found to have numerous structural issues caused in part by previous modifications. Following careful demolition, work began in earnest on the new build in September 2013 and the freshly rendered building was 'unveiled' at the end of January 2014. We are now working on the internal finishes and the external parking, access road and gardens. Many thanks for the numerous encouraging comments I have received during this project and

also for the patience everyone has shown with regards to the inevitable disruption to the surrounding roads and

footpaths - hopefully the worst is nearly over! The new properties have been named Bluebell Court (thanks to Mrs

Graham for filling me in on the history!) and anyone interested in viewing the properties can contact J W Wood in

Consett (01207 502109). Viewings are planned for the end of March. Miriam Johansen (BlueSky Developments (NE) Ltd)



Artist's impression of the new Bluebell Court

NEW CHALLENGE FOR JEFF

It is just over 7 years ago that Jeff Jaques moved to Consett after meeting then marrying a local girl, Hilary Jaques. Since that time Jeff's life has completely changed. After working for most of his life in aero-space engineering, Jeff saw an opportunity to change his career as he had always

had a keen interest in health and social care. He then decided to completely change tack and retrain as a support worker. His first roles were in domiciliary care and then later in supporting people with learning disabilities. It became a passion for Jeff as he strongly

believes that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect. Jeff was shocked to find that some people that depend on support workers to remain independent in their own homes, were often visited by lots of different support workers in a week.

There seemed to be a distinct lack in continuity of care. It was for this reason, amongst others, that Jeff decided to start his own company. As & When Domiciliary Care & Support Services have been in business for over a year now and have steadily grown their

customer base, whilst attaining registration with the Care Quality Commission. Jeff puts his success down to the fact that he always endeavours to match the client with a support worker that is right for them. "This is vital to build confidence with our clients", Jeff said.



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ALL SAINTS SAVERS

The whole school assembled to listen to Rob Mackay of Prince Bishops Community bank, Stanley. Rob gave a really lovely and informative presentation to the children about the importance of saving, and helping others, whilst outlining the benefits of a Community Bank. He managed to accomplish this mainly in a question and answer style which brought lots of positive responses, some from even the youngest children.

The little white 'Piggy Banks' on display really appealed to the children throughout the school and the idea of saving even just small amounts excited them as well. The scheme is being promoted in school by the School Council.

Every week someone from the bank headquarters in Stanley will come to the school and collect money from those who have saved. Each saver would have their own account and special number with a paying in book. Teachers are prepared to take this administration on board.

The bank has a simple philosophy. It is basically a savings bank which also gives loans with a very low interest rate. The 'up 2 16' savers scheme is the perfect way for young people to learn how to save. Hopefully, parents will become involved in saving with the bank as well and anyone employed by Durham CC can make payroll deductions. Some private companies are also in the scheme and



All Saints School Council with Deputy Head, Mrs Conlin, and Rob Mackay of Prince Bishops Community Bank with the front row showing the piggy banks

others may be able to join if a request is made. It is far more beneficial to borrow from a Community Credit Union Bank than from doorstep lenders or PayDay lenders seen

frequently on TV advertisements, so those who do save with the bank may be helping those less fortunate in society. Money deposited is covered by the Financial Services

Compensation Scheme which means the government provides 100% protection of savings. To find out more visit www.princebishopscommunitybank.org.uk or phone 01207 232351.

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BOYS' BRIGADE HELPS HENRY DANCER DAYS



Members of the Boys' Brigade with Paul Knowles (Battalion Chairman) and Henry's mother Jane Natrass

The North West Durham Battalion of the Boys' Brigade to which Lanchester is affiliated, has chosen 'Henry Dancer Days' as this year's charity and donated the proceeds of the Founders Day

and the Carol services to this very worthy cause.

The presentation was made recently at Lanchester by Paul Knowles, Battalion Chairman to Jane Natrass, Henry's

Mam. Henry was a member of Lanchester Boys' Brigade for several years and close links still exist between the current Boys' Brigade members and his family.

Gardening in March

So far we have not really had much cold weather and no snow but plenty of rain. March (in like a lion and out like a lamb) is the beginning of Spring: it is where hope abounds for a bumper gardening year. It is the beginning of the great spring rush. After months of dark afternoons the sun begins to shine brightly bringing new shoots in our gardens.

In the Flower Borders

This is the month when the light levels get brighter and the nights less cold. Wait until the middle of the month to sow half-hardy annuals such as Antirrhinum, Cosmos and Marigold. Plant dahlia tubers and take first chrysanthemum

cuttings. It is also time to plant new roses and some herbaceous perennials including those for picking like delphiniums. Old roses should be pruned to within four or five buds from the base and two or three buds of side growth and by removing any dead or damaged stems.

In the Vegetable Plot

It is time to sow tomatoes, courgettes and cucumbers under cover and also the heat of an electric propagator can be helpful for such seeds. The hardy vegetables like leek, peas, beetroot and salad leaves can be sown in gutters to allow for ease of transplanting when the plants are large

enough to be handled. Broad beans can be sown directly outside this month and, if you cover the soil with plastic to let it dry out, you can directly sow carrot, parsnip and radish.

General

The old plants in containers such as pots and tubs need a lift this month by removing 5 cm of compost from the top to remove algae and weeds and also replacing this with new compost mixed with an appropriate amount of slow-release fertiliser. If there are many surface roots it is probably time to re-pot the plant. Dead head daffodils as they also finish flowering.

GREEN SCHOOL EVENT FOR WILLOW BURN



Megan McCabe from Willow Burn and other staff members pose for a photograph with some of the cookery students at the Green School

The Green School has decided that any monies raised from fund-raising events will be donated to Willow Burn Hospice. The afternoon timetable is now devoted to Options for the student, and these include cookery, and on the morning of 14th February the skills of the students opting for cookery, with the help of many other students and members of staff were on display. Savoury mince pies, large and small, inviting sponge cakes and beautifully decorated cup-cakes, together with heart-shaped, hand-made chocolates in pretty little bags were on sale to staff and students. The event was not advertised, but it is hoped that future, similar events will be open to the public and more money raised for Willow Burn. It was obvious that a good deal of care and effort had gone in to the production of the food, so the next event is something to look forward to. The students enjoyed

the occasion and the photograph shows some of them with Megan McCabe from Willow Burn (far left) and members of staff. Some of the delicious cakes are shown on the beautiful, mosaic-topped table which the students had made.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Minestrone in Minutes

Ingredients

1 ³/₄ pints of hot vegetable stock
400g can chopped tomatoes
100g/4 oz thin spaghetti, broken into short lengths
350g/12 oz frozen mixed vegetables
4 tbsp pesto, drizzle olive oil and coarsely grated parmesan to serve

Method

1. Bring stock to the boil with the tomatoes, then add the spaghetti and cook for 6 minutes (or until cooked). A few minutes before the pasta is ready, add the vegetables and bring back to the boil.
2. Simmer for 2 minutes until everything is cooked. Serve in bowls drizzled with pesto and oil, and sprinkled with parmesan.

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LATEST FROM THE CRICKET CLUB

Nets are underway with a good turnout. If you fancy coming along to Fyndoune, it will cost you £2.50 and the times are different to the previous report. Seniors are 11.30 for an hour with juniors following at 12.30. The Juniors will get an hour's coaching from our Level 2 qualified coaches. Nets will continue until the end of March when hopefully we should be able to move outside

ahead of the season starting in April.

The club had a successful Valentine's night and have plans for a race night on 15th March with live music also planned during the month. However, having staged the bonfire last year, the club has ambitions to host other community events and is in the planning stage of a beer festival set for the 23rd-25th May (details in

separate article below). We are seeking your thoughts on the Bonfire and Firework display and have instigated a survey to gather that information to help decide if the event should happen in 2014 and, if so, in what form. So, things are rapidly building towards the new season as well as trying new things around the club to help stimulate some active participation.

BEER FESTIVAL 2014

Plans have been instigated to create a beer festival at the cricket club for the first time. There is loads of work to do and plenty of planning and preparation. It is ambitious but there is a desire to create the event. It is scheduled for the 23rd-25th May if all goes well. The plan is to bring in 25 beers, 15 ciders and a selection of wines. We

will be aiming to cover the costs through sponsorship and are creating sponsor packages. The sponsor packages will give access to the sponsors event on the Friday night and then entry for the main two days for two people, along with drinks tokens. We will be creating a programme and the sponsor will get

advertising in that and their poster will be displayed at the event. If anyone is interested, there will be a website in the near future to check out details and make contact with the club. In the meantime, if anyone is interested in sponsorship or volunteering their time to give a helping hand, then email the club on Lanchestercc@outlook.com.

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS 2014

As you will be aware, Lanchester Cricket Club organised the 2013 bonfire and fireworks event, trying new ideas in a bigger programme. We did get some feedback at the time, but we would like to know what you

thought about that event and if we should have one this year. If we do have one this year, we would welcome your thoughts on what we did and what changes you would make. To that end, we have created a very short

survey to collate your thoughts. It is only ten questions in length which require a limited response time, so please help us and go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/WS7W7BD. Thank you.

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STARTING THE NEW YEAR WITH A BANG, A WHISTLE AND A SONG!

Was anyone wondering what the noise was, coming from Lanchester Community Orchard along Newbiggen Lane one Sunday afternoon in mid January?

Well, it was the Lanchester Community Orchard's inaugural annual Wassail, the first one due to be held last year was cancelled, because we were up to our knees in snow.

Wassailing is an ancient tradition held in orchards

all over the country to wake the trees up after their slumbers, in order to get ready for another fruitful year.

These types of events are more commonly found in the big orchard areas of Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Somerset and Kent. But we hope to have enough trees producing lots of fruit shortly that will justify adding the event to Lanchester's calendar.

Wassailing is referred to in Christmas Carols and was held on Twelfth Night. However this was before the calendars were changed several centuries ago, when we lost eleven days. It is now held on or as near to January 17th as possible.

It was an enjoyable event, with people wandering around the orchard singing songs, making lots of noise, consuming drinks and 'toasting' the trees.



Members taking part in the Wassail

A big thank-you to Fruitful Durham who organised the event. They are a group of enthusiastic people who gather any surplus fruit in

the Durham area and make delicious juices, jams and chutneys. Check out their website to see where they can be found.

INTERESTED IN THE COMMUNITY ORCHARD?

For those people who may be interested in finding out about the Community Orchard please contact the Lanchester Partnership, check out their website or contact any Partnership Trustee. The Orchard is another of the many Lanchester Partnership schemes, this one funded by a grant awarded by

the County Durham Community Foundation. Membership is open to all. In return for some healthy exercise carrying out jobs in the orchard, along with a group of very friendly people, each household membership entitles people to a share in what we grow. If you do not want to get involved with the muddy

bits there are always indoor jobs, administration and organising. People who are good at cake making are especially welcome, as orchard jobs make for hungry people. If you like the idea of the orchard but feel you do not have the time to get involved in the running of the project, this year we are offering a

Friends of the Orchard membership. Friends will be able to use the orchard as a place to visit and walk around. You will be invited to social events and all the meetings and when we do have a surplus of fruit, the Friends will be the first ones to benefit. By becoming a member you will be fully covered by

Lanchester Partnership's Public Liability Insurance. Full Membership is now £12 a year March 1st - February 28th and Friends of the Orchard pay £6 a year. Contact - Kate Wicks 01207520258 for details and Application Forms. Our next event will be Blossom Day, date to be decided.

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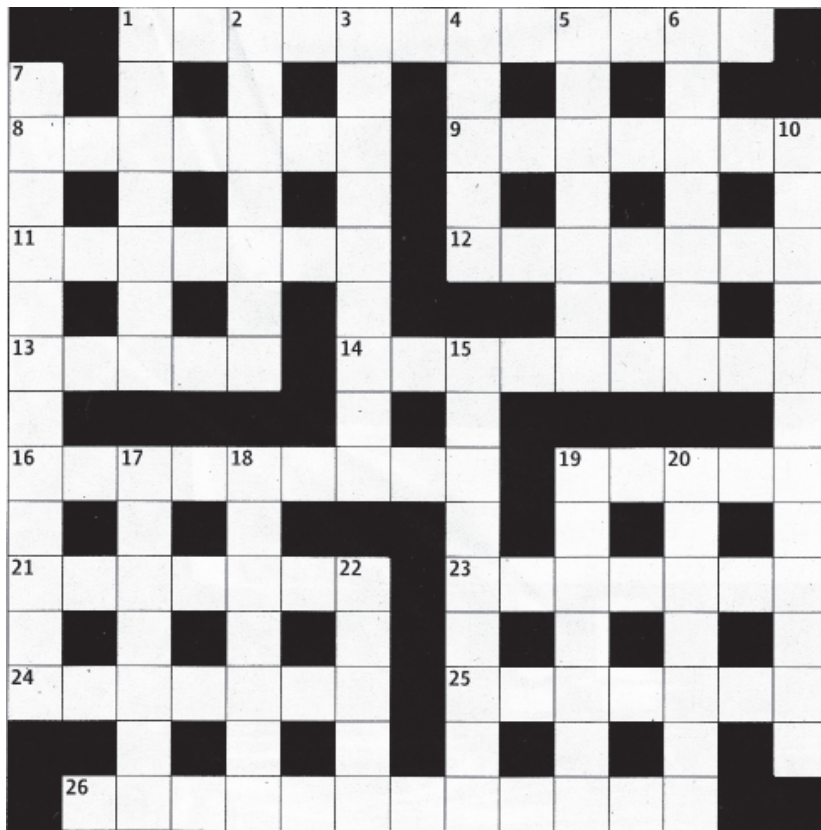
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CROSSWORD 94



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ACROSS

1. Benefit from life's experiences (4,3,5)
8. Offensive (7)
9. Pair set for trudge (7)
11. Goes with tooth, draught and head (7)
12. Bronze-age Anatolian civilisation (7)
13. Delight (5)
14. Fun (9)
16. Indifferent (9)
19. Abyss (5)
21. Comply with (7)
23. Curse (7)
24. Bad mannered driver (7)
25. Go back over (7)
26. What you are really saying is (2,5,5)

DOWN

1. Flexible (7)
2. Asian country (7)
3. Alteration (9)
4. Channel (5)
5. Spot-on (7)
6. Respire again (7)
7. Slavery (6,6)
10. Well balanced (4,8)
15. MP for Blackburn (4,5)
17. Refrain from (7)
18. Head protector (4,3)
19. Subsistence farmer (7)
20. Debt (7)
22. Goes with bald, sea and golden (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 93

ACROSS

1. editor
5. excuse-me
9. martinet
10. advice
11. awe-inspiring
13. able
14. ego trips
17. impetigo
- 18,24. fait accompli
20. indebtedness
23. See 26.
24. See 18.
25. as it were
26. ménage à trois

DOWN

- 2,4. dead ringer
3. tête-à-tête
4. See 2.
5. Entente Cordiale
6. champion
7. sever
8. meconopsis
12. abominates
15. refuse men
16. distaste
19. webcam
21. E-boat
22. slag

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

LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The first meeting of the year was well attended, which was no doubt in anticipation of another interesting talk by J Michael Taylor on his second visit. The title of his talk was 'Northumberland Railways (Brunel in Stephenson's Back Yard)'. Mr Taylor, wearing his black and white Northumbrian tartan waistcoat, with matching tie and handkerchief (some of his slides were decorated with the tartan, too), delighted his audience with his very informative talk. Contrasting the character and style of Brunel and Robert

Stephenson, great friends and rivals who died within six weeks of each other, he told us that Brunel had been asked to build a railway line from north of the Tyne to Edinburgh, but it was Stephenson's plans which won the day. Although Robert Stephenson is much less well remembered than either his father George, or Brunel, it was Robert who had an almost State funeral when he was buried in Westminster Abbey. Mr Taylor also showed us many interesting artists' impressions of the High Level Bridge, and it is hoped that he will

visit the Society again and talk about the Bridges of the Tyne. Chairman John Thompson thanked Mr Taylor for all the research which he had obviously done and the very professional presentation and said he looks forward to Mr Taylor's next visit. The Lanchester Local History Society's next meeting will be on Friday 7th March when the subject will be Dangerous Days by a surprise guest speaker. Everyone is welcome to come and see who this is!

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LADIES WHO LUNCH

We hadn't intended going too far at all in January but - we had a voucher from Vintage Inns for 25% off our food bill so it was off to The Badger at Ponteland in Northumberland, a favourite spot of ours. Fires were blazing, staff were very welcoming and we settled ourselves into a particularly warm and comfy corner of the Inn. They have a set price menu, daily specials plus an à la carte menu. We chose to sample, for our starters baked Cornish brie and onion marmalade brulée with celery and crusty bread. The main courses that we chose were aromatic

braised pork belly served on a bubble and squeak potato cake with black pudding, apple fritter and a sticky ginger beer glaze, and slow cooked game and blackberry pie slowly braised in a rich red wine gravy with thyme and sloe gin topped with a mature cheddar cheese, crème fraiche and chive scone lid served with mash and British winter greens. For our puddings, as well as opting for a full size one you can have a mini pudding plus coffee of your choice for £4.50 - we all decided to go for that option and tried

a chocolate pot with whipped cream and chocolate shavings together with a salted caramel sundae - light caramel mousse, vanilla ice cream and an indulgent gooey salted caramel sauce. We found the service to be a bit slow but the food was delicious, a lovely meal - it always is good at The Badger and quite often something out of the ordinary. For folks like us who are out for a good chat as well as a good meal it all made for a very pleasant occasion. The Badger is a permanent fixture on our places 'to go' list.

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

WHAT'S ON?

Country Market

The next market will take place on Saturday 1st March from 10 am to 12 noon. Get there early for all your fresh produce.

Build on the Rock

Churches Together in Lanchester and Burnhope-Lent meetings with shared lunches at The Methodist Church. Five Tuesdays in lent: March 11th, 18th and 25th, April 1st and 8th, at 11.30am until 1.00 pm. Do come along - everyone welcome.

Short Circuit Walks

March 1st, Beamish and Grange Villa, 4.4 miles. Meet at Eden Place car park, turn right off A693 from Chester-le-Street at roundabout for Beamish Museum, NZ218537. March 15th, Keelmen's Way from Newcastle to Bill Quay, linear, 5 miles. Start under the Tyne Bridge on the north side. Return via bus or metro. NZ252638. March 29th, Bolam Lakes and Shaftoe Craggs, 6 miles. Park at Visitors' Centre (pay at meter), NZ082820. All walks start at 10.30 am.

Social Club

Saturday, 1st March, FAYLEY, Multi Award Winning Vocalist
Sunday, 8th March, SONIA MICHELLE, Sensational Vocalist
Saturday, 15th March, HARLENE, First Class Vocalist
Saturday, 22nd March, DAVID McKENNA, Popular Vocalist
Saturday, 29th March, JENNIFER JONES, Super Young Singer

Fruitful Durham

Grafting Workshop, Sunday March 2nd, 9.30-3.00, £30, at Brandon Miners Welfare Hall, Brandon Lane, Brandon, DH7 8PU (parking available or take bus 49A from Durham).

This very practical workshop will provide you with the skills to grow and graft edible fruit trees. You will need: Pen, Paper and a Stanley knife with a new blade. Places limited. To book email us at info@fruitfuldurham.co.uk or call 07779672370.

WI

Our next meeting will take place in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 3rd March starting at 7.15 pm. The speaker will be Helen Cormie talking about the history of Lakeland Plastics and the competition a favourite kitchen gadget. Visitors are very welcome; the fee for the evening is £2 and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Our spring coffee morning will be held on THURSDAY 10th April and items for the sales table and raffle can be brought to the next two meetings or to the coffee morning.

PACT Meeting

The next PACT meeting will be on Tuesday 4th March at 6.30 pm in Burnhope Primary School. All welcome.

Food Fair

On Saturday 29th March, 10 am - 2 pm in the Community Centre. Free entry. A wide variety of food stalls will be offering their goods.

Sunday Bridge

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon playing Bridge in the Community Centre on 2nd March at 2.00 pm. Only £3. Everyone welcome.

Traidcraft Coffee Morning

A Traidcraft Big Brew Coffee Morning will be held at Lanchester Parish Church on Wednesday March 5th, at 9.30 am - 11.30 am. There will be a raffle, cake stall and Fairtrade products on sale.

The competition this year will be the best knitted/crocheted teapot cosy; prize for the winner! Please come and support the work of Traidcraft.

Parish Church Open House

Everyone is welcome at the Open House in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 6th March, 11.30 am to 1.00 pm for a light lunch.

Annual Women's World Day of Prayer

Lanchester Methodist Church is the venue for this year's interdenominational service that has been prepared by the Christian women of Egypt. Women's World Day of Prayer will be celebrated in over 170 countries on Friday 7th March.

All are welcome to join us from 2 pm for an hour of worship and reflection on the theme 'Streams in the Desert'. Our guest speaker is Ann Sinclair. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

Lanchester History Society

The next meeting is on Friday 7th March, 7.30 pm in the Community Centre, when the subject is 'Dangerous Days' by a surprise guest speaker. Everyone is welcome to come and find out who this is.

Paradiso Social Club

The next meeting of the Paradiso Social Club will be held on Sunday March 9th at 6.30 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre.

There will be the usual Raffle, Refreshments and an opportunity to watch a film on the Big Screen. The film screening that night is 'ARGO'. This won Oscar Best Picture and Bafta best film awards in 2012. Starring Ben Affleck, Bryan Cranston, Alan Arkin and John Goodman, the film is a drama based on the Iran hostage crisis when during the Iranian Revolution the US Embassy was taken over. It is described as a drama of nerve-shredding tension! Entry to the Social is £2.50 members, £3.50 occasional visitors, £2 young persons. The entry ticket covers the Raffle, Refreshments and film. All are welcome, do come!

Junior/Family Wildlife

The next event will take place on Sunday 9th March at Malton. Meet in the car park at 10 am.

Lanchester Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 11th March at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, Ruth Starr Kettle will present 'The Importance of Flower Rich Sites'.

Mothers' Union

At the meeting on 12th March, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House there will be a Scripture Market with the proceeds going to the MU charity Away From It All.

Coffee Morning

The Thursday Club are holding a coffee morning in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance on Thursday, March 13th at 9.30 - 11.30 am in the Dining Room of the Community Centre. Tickets are £1 for you to be able to indulge in scrumptious homemade cake/scone + tea/coffee + plenty of gossipy chat - in fact - an ideal morning out.

NSPCC Concert

On Thursday evening 20th March at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Methodist Church, the Lanchester Male Voice Choir will perform a concert in aid of the NSPCC Lanchester Branch. Guest artist will be soloist Selina Mankin. Tickets cost £7.00 and are available from members of the NSPCC Committee or the Male Voice Choir, or by telephoning 01207 520175. Please come along for an evening of musical entertainment while supporting this very worthy charity.

Thursday Club

The March meeting of the Thursday Club will be on March 20th at 7.15 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. It will be our 34th birthday and we shall be having a Faith supper, a beetle drive and a competition to find our 'most glitzy lady'. Look forward to seeing you all there in all your glitzy glory!

Northumbrian Evening

Following their very successful Christmas Concert, Lanchester Brass Band are presenting a Northumbrian Evening in the Community Centre on Saturday March 22nd at 7.00 pm. The main programme is presented by the band but there are other Northumbrian touches.

Dr Ian Brunt has been invited to play his Northumbrian Pipes and Pete Bradshaw will sing and lead the audience in well known and loved Northumbrian songs. Tickets, £5 which includes refreshments, are available from Brenda Craddock (01207 520749) or at the door.

'the Gathering'

You are invited to a community lunch, 'the Gathering', aimed at raising funds for our

amazing Village Bus (run by the Lanchester Partnership) which is a lifeline to many of Lanchester's older inhabitants. It will take place on Tuesday, 25th March in the Main Hall of the Community Centre at 12 noon for 12.30 pm and we shall also be holding a raffle on the day. Tickets priced at £6.50 are available from Rhoda Joyce, Liz Smith, Maureen Barker, Marie Harrison, Jill Gladstone, Karin Bravington, Olive Simpkins and Sue Sommersall. Water will be on the table but you may bring your own bottle if you wish. Chef in charge is our very own Mel Sommersall who will be cooking Chicken sauté chasseur with seasonal veg. followed by Sherry trifle. Do come along and enjoy a good meal, warm companionship - an excellent place to

meet old friends, maybe make some new ones, all with the added bonus of helping such a good cause. Look forward to seeing you there.

meet old friends, maybe make some new ones, all with the added bonus of helping such a good cause. Look forward to seeing you there.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 26th March at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, Pam Greenhill will give a demonstration, entitled 'Beauty of Glass'.

Castleside Art Exhibition

Castleside Art Club will hold its 42nd Annual Easter Exhibition in Castleside Village Hall on Easter Sunday and Monday. Over 200 paintings by local artists will be offered for sale in Castleside Village Hall which will be open from 10 am to 5 pm each day. Admission will be 20 pence and quality home-made refreshments will be available throughout both days.

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NEW MULTI USE GAMES AREA OPENS AT EP SCHOOL



Pupils watching the opening of the MUGA facility. Children in front row holding the cheque from David Gray on the right. See back page for full story and more pictures.



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NEW MULTI USE GAMES AREA OPENS AT EP SCHOOL

A Valentine's Day donation for the EP School from the Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust was made by David Gray, Chairman of the Trustees. The cheque was for £9000 which was needed to complete payment of £40000 for the new MUGA, (Multi Use Games Area) recently installed at the school in the place where the recently demolished old swimming pool was situated. Pupils raised £3000 for the project.

The opening ceremony by David Gray took place on this all weather surface in front of the whole school. Chris Boddy, Deputy Head Teacher told the children some interesting facts about the late Sir Tom Cowie's life and achievements. This was followed by David Gray who explained clearly for the children how the trust worked and where money had been donated in the Lanchester area. St Bede School was one example given, (Sir Tom Cowie Sixth Form College) and



Team Captains line up with the £9000 cheque along with Deputy Head, Chris Boddy and David Gray, Chair of the Trustees.

another, the new Day Centre for Willow Burn Hospice where work is still in progress, which will also be named after Sir Tom.

The new enclosed area will facilitate various ball games and some racquet sports, but one of the main benefits is that it will be in use all the year round particularly when the playing field is waterlogged.

With the speeches completed, the Team Captains were called forward to receive the cheque from Mr Gray with some photos being taken by members of the press.



Let's throw them high! Chris Boddy, (Deputy Head), David Gray and Mark Stephenson, (teacher), at the back. Children in photo: Alex Waller, Louis Bell, Bayley Fairhurst, Bradie Lammin, Esca Hocking, Freya Duffy, Samuel Steele, Amy Lawrence, Adam Coyle and Jessica Hudspith.

TENNIS CLUB'S NEWS AT THE NET!

Despite the inclement weather, tennis has been continuing in Lanchester throughout the winter months in one form or another! In co-operation with St Bede's school, winter coaching has been taking place on Monday nights and although this is now concluded, sessions will re-commence at the Green School courts on Monday 24th February, starting at 4.15 pm for the under 8 year olds and 5 pm for the 8 to 12 year olds.

The school is also the venue for "touch tennis" which is taking place on Tuesday nights at 7pm. Together with general club play on a Sunday afternoon, the tennis club has remained busy in the winter. Now we look forward to the 2014 season. There will be the annual social functions such as the BBQ and Strawberry Tea but also look out for the free tennis weekends, promoted by the Lawn Tennis Association,

during the summer. Provisional date for the first weekend has been set at 17th/18th May. This will give everyone an opportunity to play at their local club free of charge. All equipment provided. There will more details

nearer the time. Teams have been entered into the district leagues, both at junior and senior level and, with the Ladies only just missing out on promotion in 2013, it is hoped that they can

complete the job this year of 2014! So fingers crossed for some fine tennis weather. For details and information about the club, please contact Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next **Village Voice** by **Tuesday 18th March**. The **deadline** for **adverts** is **16th March**.

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