

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 1 Volume 15

Lanchester, January 2014

For contact information, see page 2

HUNT DRAWS LARGE CROWD

Several hundred people turned out for this traditional village event despite the cold icy conditions. The hunt began slightly late hoping the sun which shone directly onto the entrance to the Queens would thaw the road surface, which it did. Fortunately there were no fallers this year!

It was all hustle and bustle in the car park as riders on horses gathered together to socialise with a choice of port or whisky to sup before the start. Thankfully the Village Voice reporter was included in this part of the morning tradition.

Joint Master, Alan Chapman, attired in black gave a rousing speech condemning the current Fox Hunting Act and asking for a repeal. He thanked the supporters, those who turned out to watch, Crinnions for the drinks, and Paul Jackson, new owner of the Queens, for use of the yard. The Hunt set off towards Kitswell Road at about 11.20am proceeding



The hounds arrive

to Low Meadows, Knitsley and Sawmills. Afterwards it would depend on conditions underfoot and safety of horses and riders for the rest of the route. Although a large crowd turned out there was no evidence of any protest, but one joker dressed as a fox did scamper through the village into Crinnions.

Right: Getting ready for the 'off'



£1.2 MILLION FOR FLOOD PREVENTION

Money for Front Street Drainage Improvement

Great news! The Environment Agency and the County Council have put together £1.2 million for a project to reduce the flood risk on Front Street.

They will build a new outfall to take water from the Alderdene Culvert (which is under Front Street) directly into Smallhope Burn behind

the King's Head. As a result, water will flow faster through the culvert, allowing the gullies in Front Street to empty quicker.

They plan to spend £100,000 in the next financial year on design development and detailing and on contract arrangements, then £1.1 million will be available

for construction in the following 2 years.

Big thanks are due to the Lanchester Flood Action Group, to County Councillors Ossie Johnson and Richie Young and to Pat Glass MP; but most of all to the Environment Agency and the County Council for finding the money - and perhaps work for local

people - at a time of severe financial belt-tightening. As Ossie has said, this is very good news for the village and should give some reassurance to the residents and shop holders in Front Street.

Emergency equipment stores

We now have two sheds containing emergency equipment such as

'Hydrosacks' (improved design sand-bags). One is behind the Social Club and one behind the Methodist Church.

Others are planned. The aim is to have one within easy reach of anyone who might need such equipment. If you know of a site suitable for a 6ft x 6ft shed please ring Mike Gladstone on 528 114.



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.

VILLAGE LINK BUS FUNDRAISING

Dear Village Voice Right of way between Hurbuck Farm and Low Meadows

Readers who walk the railway path to Hurbuck may have noticed that the waymark sign just before Hurbuck Farm that marks the bridleway running east to Low

Meadows has become obscured (see photo). The County access & rights of way team have confirmed that this section of bridleway remains a public right of way, and will replace the waymark disc at the earliest opportunity.
Jim Smith



The faded waymark sign, which should be pointing towards the right.

The total amount raised with the Table Top Sale and Christmas raffle is a fantastic £625. A very big Thank you for the generous donation of £100 and another of £50! Thanks also to Crinnions, Deano's, the Chemist, Lanchester Garden

Centre, Jed, The Red Cross Shop and Hanley & Swinbank, who all donated great prizes. Also thanks to those people who made donations, but were not able to attend the event, and to those who donate by direct debit. All this

generosity is proof of how much the Village Bus is appreciated and needed, to keep our community mobile and together, and for me it is encouragement to plan the next fundraiser! Hope to see you there!
Karin Bravington

LANCHESTER LIONS RE-LAUNCH

Plans to re-launch Lanchester Lions Club to the area are gathering speed.

Durham Lions Club members Mary Pearce and Peter Oakley have been encouraged by indications of support within the Lanchester area.

To this end, a Race Night has been organised at Lanchester Social Club on Saturday, February 8th starting at 7.30 pm with a £2 cover charge. It is hoped that prospective members

for a Lanchester Club will see that helping others in need within the area can be fun. There will also be the opportunity to talk to members of nearby Lions Clubs to find out what they get up to in the name of Serving their communities.

Following on from the Race Night, the re-launch of Lanchester & District Lions Club will take place on Tuesday, March 11th - again at Lanchester Social Club and starting at 7.30 pm.

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

Mary and her team hope that readers of this newspaper will show their support for the local community by attending these events. For more details, please contact Mary Pearce on 0191 3735076 or 0845 8335957 or email: lanchester lionsclub@gmail.com

How to contact the Village Voice

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

By post:

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

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for December 2013 is 13. The draw was made by Lesley Anderson of the Thursday Art Group.

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LANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

The Partnership held a very informal Christmas Get-together for members and anyone interested in the work of the Partnership on Thursday, 14th December, in the Community Centre. Light refreshments with wine and soft drinks were there to be enjoyed while people chatted; representatives of the various working groups were easily identified with coloured bauble-style badges so that questions could be asked of them. Among the Working Groups are the Transport Group, which in particular is concerned with the Village Link Bus, the Community Orchard, Friends of Longovicium, the Youth Club, the Paradiso Club, which shows a film in the Community Centre during the winter months, and a group

which looks into Planning applications etc in the village. A display of photographs showing the orchard before it was begun and how it looks now drew a great deal of attention. There were also an interesting Christmas Quiz and intriguing dingbats to tax our brains, but the highlight of the evening was a display of the traditional miners' dancing! A group of five men, dressed in black trousers, white shirts and a red sash, carrying 'swords' which they interwove as they danced, was led by Aubrey O'Brien. Mr O'Brien is teaching children at all four village schools this traditional dancing so that they can perform at the Fenhall Banner celebrations later this year. The dancing was

very vigorous and it was amazing how they used the 'swords'. These are flexible pieces of metal with a fixed handle at one end and a revolving

one at the other and were derived from the curry combs used to scrape sweat and dirt from the pit ponies. It was good to see an old tradition,

especially at a time of year when traditional ceremonies are in our mind and it brought a very pleasant evening to a close.



The final display of the swords at the end of the dance.

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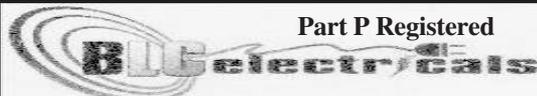
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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th January 2014

Minutes

Ordinary meeting held on 10th December 2013 - approved.

Police Report - There was no police report.

The Neighbourhood Warden report for November was received.

Correspondence

LCR winter magazine - received.

World War I - Centenary Events - Information was received from the County Council regarding events to commemorate this centenary.

Royal Garden Party - invite - Members considered an invitation to attend the event.

Durham County Council Pension Fund - Employer

rate - members were informed of the rate which has been set for the next three years.

Royal British Legion - Lanchester Branch Standard - members considered information received on the Lanchester Branch Standard and whether the Council would like it returned to the Parish. It was agreed that an interest is expressed in returning the Standard to Lanchester.

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

thanked David Maddox for all his work.

Financial report - discussed and received.

Precept 2014/15 Report - Members considered and discussed the report. It was agreed that the precept be set at £51,636.00 for 2014/15.

Accounts for Payment - approved.

World War 1 Centenary project - It was agreed to seek further information on purchasing poppy seeds to sow on Parish Council land and to consider also offering seeds to schools and individuals.

The next Ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th February 2014 at 7.15 pm.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ... Visit of Tanzanian Women MPs to North West Durham

One of the experiences that I have really valued as a woman MP is my work as part of the Commonwealth of Nations to help build democracies and to strengthen the role of women in the democratic process across the commonwealth, but mainly in Africa.

Democracy is new and developing in many African countries and I recall a conversation I had with Rwandan MPs who were visiting Westminster soon after the 2010 election. They were clearly puzzled that Labour had given up power willingly even though the Conservatives had not won a clear majority. I tried to explain the concept that although there was no clear winner, Labour had definitely lost and in a mature democracy that meant giving up power and facilitating a smooth transition. This drove home to me the differences that exist between many

developing and mature democracies and how important the work is across the Commonwealth in supporting peaceful transition.

As part of this programme five Tanzanian women MPs recently visited North West Durham principally to shadow my work in the constituency. Women MPs in parts of Africa are a relatively new phenomenon. Although their numbers grow at every election their roles are largely restricted to Parliamentary duties. They have no constituency role although this is an area they are keen to learn about and I was delighted to welcome them.

The day consisted of surgeries, the opening of an extension of a local secondary school where they met with staff and children before making their way back to London for the flight home to Dar Es Salaam. I believe these

programmes are useful to exchange ideas and share experiences and I hope they were enriched by their visit.

In the UK we have a shortage of women in Parliament, just over 20% although it is over 33% in my own Party. In countries like Tanzania and Rwanda there are 50% women MPs guaranteed by constitution. They draw upon their own histories and believe that having a proportionate number of women MPs gives them a much better chance of avoiding violent elections and delivering peaceful transitions in the future. I think that despite our mature democracy we have things to learn in relation to their approach to gender equality in politics.

Please contact me in the usual way. Email me at pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk or telephone my office on 01207 501782. Pat Glass MP

LANCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2014

Lanchester, we have a problem. Well, more to the point, the Community Centre has a problem. I thought that we had come through the difficult times, but, unfortunately, some of our users have not made it. During 2013 we saw the discontinuance of the Lanchester Lions Club and the Amigos (over 80s group). Also, the Richmond Fellowship ceased to operate in Lanchester and the loss of this organisation will have a significant impact on the future of the Community Centre. We do not wish to be over dramatic but this loss of business accounts for about 25% (£10,000) of our rental income.

During 2013 we purchased two new Cycles for the Gym at a cost of £3,000 for which we received a grant of £2,000 from the County Durham Community Foundation. We replaced one of our flat roofs and re-pointed the building at a cost of £5,000 and, for this, we are grateful for the grant of £1,843 from the Durham County Council. We are attempting to raise £9,000 to refurbish the Main and Small Halls as it is imperative that these rooms are maintained to a high standard to satisfy our existing clients and to attract new business. We have already secured £2,500 from the Area Action

Partnership and a £500 anonymous donation. We are continuing to seek funding for the remaining £6,000 and, if we are successful, we

intend to carry out the work in the early part of 2014. If you can help financially, please do so, and, if you want to help

as a volunteer, you can leave your details with any member of staff and I will contact you. Arthur Maughan, MBE, Chairman

POLICE REPORT

As you will be aware, since 2008 we have held monthly PACT meetings in every ward which give residents the opportunity to speak to local beat officers face to face and to set priorities for officers to target for that month. With the introduction of a new year we have new changes to the PACT format to introduce. The first change will be a new reporting format which will be more community related instead of crime and incident figures. Secondly, starting in February the Burnhope and Lanchester PACT meeting will merge and will now be held at Burnhope Primary School on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm. The first new look PACT meeting will be on Tuesday 4th February 2014. If anyone is unable to attend the meeting but would like to meet local officers please give me a ring on 101 or email [\[durham.pnn.police.uk\]\(mailto:durham.pnn.police.uk\) to arrange an appropriate time to come to your home address. At the last PACT meeting residents decided to introduce speeding on Durham Road and Ford Road as the priority. Since the meeting various visits to Ford Road have been done by local officers and Road Policing Unit with no vehicles seen speeding. Likewise, similar attention has been given to Durham Road. In total 16 drivers have been issued with Traffic Offence Reports which are worth £100 and 3 points on their licence, 19 drivers have been given verbal warnings and 2 vehicles have been recorded on our Community Speedwatch system. Also on 12th January 2014, a driver was stopped on Durham Road for excessive speed which resulted in the driver being arrested for drink driving and possession of drugs.](mailto:lisa.jackson@</p>
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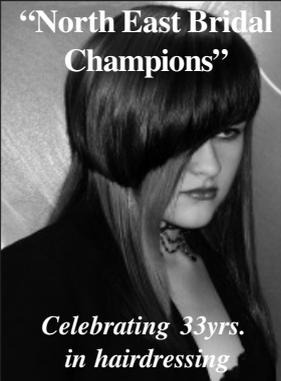
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CONCERT FOR THE PHILIPPINES

There was an excellent concert held in All Saints Parish Church on Thursday 19th December. It was the initiative of Janet Jackson, who leads the church music group. Together with Craig Davies, who is the church organist, she organised a very varied programme of music both seasonal and secular, which had universal appeal and which was very well received by the large audience. The music group sang a number of songs very beautifully, accompanied by Craig on the piano and Rob Matthews on the guitar. Then the school choir of East Stanley Primary School sang a number of Christmas songs very well indeed. Janet is the school secretary at that school and together with teacher Carol Robson trains the choir. Carol also sang to the accompaniment of the guitar, played by her husband. Together they entertain, with folk music mainly, under the name 'Fool's Gold'. Carol also plays instruments and played the flute at the concert. A friend of Craig Davies, Paul Stannard, also skilfully played a piece on his classical guitar. There were refreshments after the concert in the Chapter House. Altogether it was a very good evening, much appreciated by those who attended and a super total of £679.87 was raised. Well done Janet and friends! Brenda Craddock

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

The Celebration of Christmas was held in the Church of England on the evening of a very stormy December 23rd. As usual, the Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society joined the Lanchester Male Voice Choir. As both choirs are growing in numbers it becomes more difficult to perform the, now traditional, joint choir Christmas pieces at the beginning and end of the Celebration. It was a very tight squeeze this year despite the fact that the Male Voice Choir was eight members short because of illness. The Reverend Kalus welcomed the congregation and, together with Canon Spence and the Reverend Hume, gave the Bible readings. The congregation was slightly smaller than usual because of the weather and the proximity of Christmas but all enjoyed the singing of both choirs and helped to fill the church with the sound of familiar carols led by Craig Davies, the organist. The collection, amounting to £332.14, was donated by the Reverend Kalus to Willow Burn.



Left to right: Rob Matthews, Janet Jackson, Paul Stannard and Craig Davies. Janet Jackson conducts the children's choir.

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CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Singing in the rain - again! The rain came just in time to rather spoil the annual singing of carols on the green on Christmas Eve. After 40 minutes 'Rain Stopped Play'. The Brass Band were 'brassed off', with soggy music, soggy Santa hats, soggy gloves, soggy boots and shoes, soggy coats not to mention cold wet instruments. A number of the band stayed to play 'We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year' and then they were off to get warmed up.

Despite the weather Lanchester people still managed to retain the spirit of Christmas guided by David Hughes and our faithful clergy from all three churches, with Canon Spence opening the evening with prayers. Despite the cold and the rain, it was yet another special and enjoyable 'Churches Together' event. The weather may have been doubtful but we will all be back next year, there is no doubt about that!

Brenda Craddock



The crowds braved the appalling weather



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Above, the children who sang 'Away in a Manger' so well despite the heavy rain and high winds.

Left, Lanchester Brass Band played on despite the atrocious conditions.

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YEAR 6 NATIVITY PLAY

The Parish Church had standing room only on the very last afternoon of the term. It was the turn of the Year 6 pupils to present their customary Nativity Play and it was very good indeed. All the traditional figures of the Nativity made an appearance but with the additional figure of Herod the King who we all know as being cruel, especially toward mothers and their baby sons. This idea was portrayed perfectly by Year 6 and they spoke very audibly and with confidence. The attention of the audience was held throughout. Year 6 are to be congratulated on the excellence of their presentation which was such a good master copy for the present Year 5, whose turn it will be next year. The school choir too were part of the presentation and were in good voice when they interspersed the action with several well sung

appropriate songs and carols. At the end of the play Reverend Rupert Kalus thanked the pupils and staff for their hard work in producing such a good performance and he warmly thanked all the adults for coming to the service.

Reverend Kalus then introduced the Christingle Service, which every year takes place after the Nativity. Members of staff lit the candles on the Christingle oranges which a number of chosen pupils were holding at the back of church. These children then walked very, very carefully around the whole church which was now in darkness. Only the candles provided light and this was a reminder that Jesus is like a light shining through the darkness of violence, warfare, terrorists and terrible suffering. He is the Light of the World indicated by the round orange. We must follow



Year 6 pupils carry their Christingles very carefully

that Light if peace is to come to the world. All the pupils in church were extremely well behaved

and sensitive to the beautiful, reverent meaning of all that took place that afternoon. This had once again been a service. Brenda Craddock

MAD CRAZY NATIVITY

After reporting Nativities since The Village Voice began some 14 years ago this was by far the most memorable, hilarious, if not irreverent one. Have the staff at the EP gone crazy? Were they letting their hair down after their recent good, but stressful Ofsted? An emphatic No! They were giving their pupils a bit of fun, especially as it was the end of term in which most of them had been rehearsing for their own serious Nativity performances. The Nativity was really a slapstick comedy with born comedian Mr Johnson (Joseph) falling out continually with Mary

(Jane Davis). The narrators were three staff in school uniforms who got it all wrong and read like very junior, or even reception children. The two only, not three Kings (Mark Stephenson and Peter Taylor), had several brawls, much to the delight of the children who encouraged them by roaring 'fight fight'. The sheep, donkeys and angels all acted in a way which highly amused the children and probably themselves. The ride on the donkey and Innkeeper scene was hilarious especially when there was disagreement where the second Inn was. The baby Jesus was born on stage

with Mary's back to the children and Joseph brandishing the naked doll high in the air in triumph. The prompt (Chris Boddy) spent much of his time giving the wrong prompts and leaping on to the stage to sort things out or to stop fights. The costumes were appropriate but simple - easy to be pulled off when necessary. The singing of some Christmas songs with words altered to be very amusing was cleverly done and the children joined in with gusto. The whole atmosphere was one of merriment, laughter and fun for everyone in the hall.



The End of the Nativity

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ST BEDE'S STUDENTS DISTRIBUTE FOOD PARCELS



This group of students from St Bede's School and 6th Form College distributed food parcels around the village at the end of term. The list was provided by All Saints RC Church.

MAKE WAY FOR CHRISTMAS!

One evening in December, in the approach to Christmas, it was lovely to listen to the message of Jesus' birth through music and song. A choir of forty voices from the North West Durham Circuit of the Methodist Church, conducted by Harry Carr and accompanied by talented local musicians on flute,

electric guitar, brass, piano and drums, sang pieces from two musicals, Make Way for Christmas and Rumours of Angels. A full audience was treated to a mix of the whole choir singing in harmony, quartets and solos as well as narration by Eric Skipsey. Beginning with 'A Saviour has appeared' and 'Let this

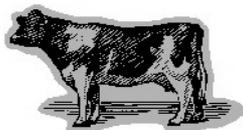
child be born in your heart', the advent of Jesus' birth was brought very close. Through the powerful yet sensitive lyrics by Graham Kendrick, the warmth and the love of the Christ child were born afresh. 'The Servant King' and 'Emmanuel, God is with us' both made very real the fact of God on earth, sharing fully in our

humanity. Then with the words of the Prophet Isaiah being read, everyone was invited to the greatest birthday party of all time because of the child from heaven, leading the choir to sing 'Rejoice, lift up your voice and sing, open your heart to welcome Him for Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem'.

An uplifting evening of song with the message of Christmas captured so beautifully, it was time to begin the celebrations! So, let us not forget that message. Instead, may we, in this village of Lanchester, make way for Jesus, Emmanuel, as we journey together through this new year.
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SOPHIE RAISES MONEY FOR MACMILLAN



St Bede's Sixth Form College Student, Sophie Taylor, raised £64.40 for Macmillan by making and selling decorated candy sticks as shown in the photo. Her Form Teacher took her to the Head Teacher who congratulated her and later sent her a card saying 'Congratulations on your wonderful work for charity, you should be very proud of yourself'.

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CAROLS AND HOT CHOCOLATE

A large number of parents, grandparents, child minders, together with their children gathered in the hall of Lanchester EP School for the now traditional 'carols and hot chocolate' after school had finished for the day. The helpers serving hot chocolate were kept busy throughout whilst everyone joined in with the pupils singing Christmas carols and seasonal songs, accompanied by Head Teacher, Mrs Davis on piano, and Mr Johnson on guitar. It was a lovely finish to a day in a super Christmas atmosphere and a nice way to wind down towards the end of term.



A full hall at the Carols and Hot Chocolate afternoon in the EP School.



Mrs Davis and Mr Johnson playing carols and Christmas songs for children and parents to join in and sing.



Children gathered at the front to begin the communal singing of carols, some looking at the words on the large screen above and behind them.

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LADIES WHO LUNCH

It was Christmas, so we went back to Finbarr's. The restaurant was all decked out for the festive Christmas season in beautiful silver and sparkle with a fresh deep red rose on each table - absolutely exquisite. There was a very definite party atmosphere with one table sporting some amazing Christmas hats - we all wanted one.

Fabulous tasting olives were already on the table and they were quickly joined by chunks of bread, creamy butter and a jug of water - just a little light refreshment to keep us going while

we perused the excellent menu for the day.

Choosing what to eat was difficult - but the choice had to be made and so we sampled for starters, the winter pumpkin soup with chestnut cream and some home smoked salmon with crayfish and avocado mousse. Our main courses were pork loin and slow-cooked shoulder with Stornoway black pudding and spiced apple compote, pot roast pheasant breast with smoky bacon cabbage and hazelnut butter, and traditional turkey with chipolatas, sage and onion stuffing, cranberries

and bread sauce. For puddings we had iced chestnut parfait with warm clementine cake and toffee hazelnut sauce, homemade ice cream, homemade Christmas pudding with brandy sauce and dark chocolate mousse with brandied cherries and homemade gingerbread. One of our party was heard to declare that she thought they must just about have the best chef in the North and after such a meal we were all inclined to agree with her.

In the fading light as we came away the glittering outside trees were all aglow - it had been a delight!

The Gourmet Girls

Gardening in February

February might not be the best month for gardening, but it is not all doom and gloom. January has been relatively mild and my snowdrops are already showing a little bit of colour, the daffodils are peeping through the soil and the winter Jasmine has been a picture. We can now look forward to the colour of the spring bulbs.

In the Flower Borders

This month is mainly about pruning. Firstly there is the clematis: when the winter flowering varieties (like alpina and montana) have finished flowering they should be pruned to keep their shape; also the summer flowering varieties (like nellymoser and jackmanii) need pruning by removing any dead stems and reducing the remaining growth back to

a set of strong and healthy green buds. Secondly, cut back the winter flowering Jasmine after flowering to encourage new growth. Thirdly, cut back winter flowering shrubs like mahonia and viburnum when their flowers have finished. The month is also a good time to pot on rooted cuttings of tender perennials taken last summer. You might also consider buying summer bedding starter plants like begonia (which are on offer in some garden centres when they are pre-ordered online) and also sowing annual flowers like cosmos, impatiens and petunia under cover.

In the Vegetable Plot

If you are going to grow potatoes, then you need to buy your tubers and start chitting them in egg boxes on a bright, frost

free window sill. February is the month to start sowing (and I prefer to use root trainers) of vegetable seeds of leek, onion and celeriac under cover or on a window sill. With onion and shallot sets it is helpful to start them off under glass by planting them in small pots filled with multipurpose compost with the sets just pushed under the surface. This gives them an extended growing period before planting them out in spring.

General

If you haven't already done so, there is still time to mulch borders and beds with old compost to help prevent weeds. On fine days you might also plant primulas or ready grown spring bulbs to add some much needed colour.

EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG WRITERS

When Sheree Mack, - the North East. We Writer in Residence at Newcastle's Lit and Phil, conducted a writing workshop at St Bede's, she was so impressed by our students that she invited us to participate in the Lit and Phil's prestigious Young Writers' Awards scheme. Since then we have enjoyed several events including workshops with acclaimed poets, Bob Beagrie and Andy Willoughby. Visits to the Lit and Phil have been popular as we have savoured this beautiful building's atmosphere with its wealth of fascinating books. We have also worked with Sue Spencer, our allocated mentor and who inspired our students with materials linked to the theme for this year's competition

the North East. We knew the quality and range of our students' work was amazing so it was with a sense of anticipation that we set off for the Presentation of Awards Ceremony in December. However, we knew we were up against stiff competition from the other schools so it was incredible when the winners were officially announced and we discovered we had won four out of the five categories! It was a proud moment for everyone who accompanied our students as we listened to the judges reading extracts from their work and praising their achievements. Sheree awarded first prize in the junior poetry category to Elizabeth Doyle for her poem about Grace

Darling. The Fiction Section was judged by Michael Green, Professor in Creative Writing at Northumbria University, who awarded first prize in the junior category to Cecilia McAloon's moving tribute to North East miners, while Jude Shilcock won the senior category for a compelling story about a cryotank! Distinguished writer, Michael Chaplin, chose Simon Biasi's account of the Roman occupation of Lanchester for first prize in the non-fiction section. We hope to be invited to join the project next year - unless they want to give other schools in the North East a chance!



Students of St Bede's at the Literary and Philosophical Society in Westgate Road, Newcastle, pose for a photograph

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HENRY DANCER DAYS UPDATE

Annual Ball - Friday 2nd May 2014

The 3rd annual ball is to take place on 2nd May 2014 at Beamish Hall.

Tickets are £35 and include a 3 course meal, live music from Shakedown and a disco. There will be other entertainment too. Local ladies Marion Marshall

and Laura Wilkinson set a tradition for the charity by running Balls in 2012 and 2013, when Michelle Hoult joined them. Demand has grown and grown so a third ball is planned. Please note: there are a limited number of places available. Tickets are available from Jane

Natgrass at henrydancer days@aol.com

Charity Golf Day - Wednesday 14th May 2014

Our first Golf day is to be held at Longhirst PGA Europro Tour Golf course near Morpeth. Morpeth's Mayor is to host the event and we hope to enjoy the company of 2 very special national sportsmen.

The entry fee for teams of 4 players is only £240 and includes golf, food before and rolling barbeque after your round. There will be many prizes and giveaways on the day as well as an evening presentation, auction and raffle.

We're grateful to our sponsors MWH Global, Morpeth Kitchens Ltd. and Simon Blanckley

Wealth Management. Entry forms are available from Gillian Irvine at gai@irvines.org.uk



Left to right: Jane Natgrass, Michelle Hoult, Marion Marshall, Laura Wilkinson and Henry Dancer Days Chairman, David Nairn at the 2013 Ball.

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NORTH SEA ADVENTURE FOR HENRY DANCER DAYS

Lanchester resident Karen Ledger braved the bitterly cold water and immersed herself completely. This Northumberland coast endeavour has raised over £300 for Henry Dancer Days. She did a North Sea 'Dip' for charity. Those of us who joined her (wrapped in thick coats and with flasks of coffee) were amazed as she marched



Karen bravely marching in



Karen with her much deserved treat



Steve Owers photographed during his talk describing the vital work of the men and women of the Search and Rescue Team in County Durham.

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(Kevin)

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The first meeting of the new year of 2014 of Lanchester WI took place on January 6th, and despite inclement weather, there was quite a large gathering. President Jennifer Macdonald offered New Year greetings to everyone there, and welcomed four new members. Various business matters were addressed, and then the members were informed of new ventures which were to take place - a Quiz group and a Book Club are being formed. Jean Forster presented a very humorous reading! Our competition was 'A Piece of Survival Equipment' and the members had very obviously enjoyed using their imagination and humour on the theme, and winners were Jill Gladstone and Rhoda Joyce. Raffle prizes were won by Marie Murphy and Linda Wood. Steve Owers then presented a very interesting session

describing the work of the Durham County Search and Rescue Team. Steve has been a member of the organisation for many years, and using a series of slides, he showed many aspects of the work of the Mountain Rescue men and women, all of them volunteers. The Teesdale and Weardale region is often described as 'England's Last Wilderness' and enormous changes have occurred in the work carried out by the Rescue Team over time. Their work can include the recovery of injured walkers, administering medical treatment in remote places, and looking for children or vulnerable people who have wandered from home. Their commitment is to be applauded. Jennifer thanked Steve for his informative presentation, and the evening rounded off with tea, coffee and steaming hot soup made by Secretary June Wallis.

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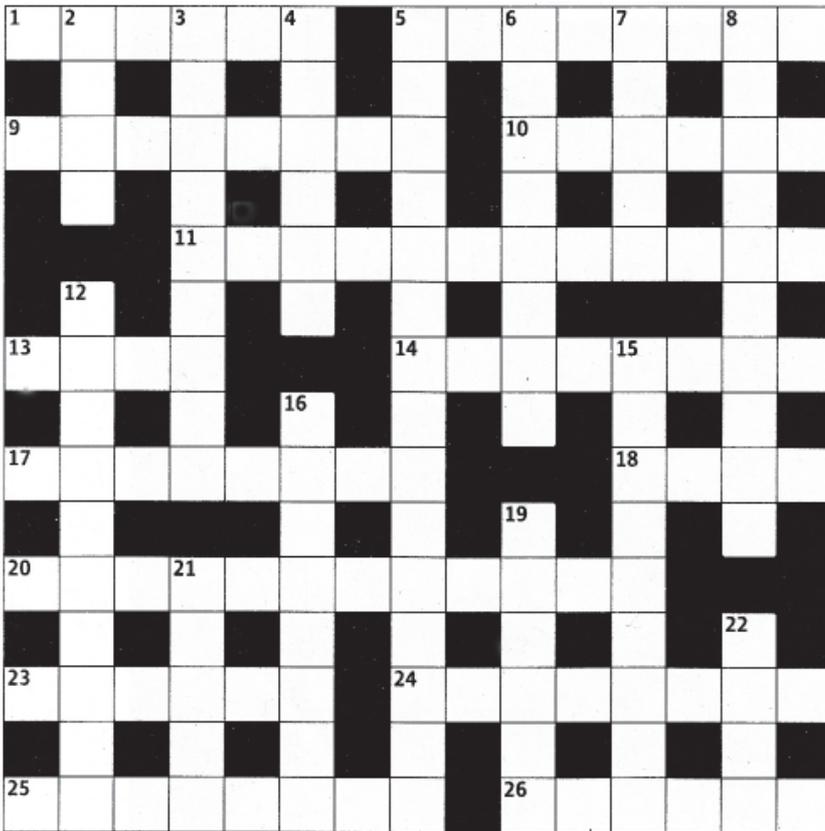
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CROSSWORD 93



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ACROSS

1. Writer rode it correctly (6)
5. Relieving dance (6-2)
9. Discipliner with bird and French connection (8)
10. Guidance (6)
11. Amazing (3-9)
13. Competent (4)
14. Image boosting performances (3,5)
17. Contagious skin disease (8)
- 18,24. Circumstance that can't be changed (4,8)
20. Enid's bets end in gratitude (12)
23. See 26.
24. See 18.
25. So to speak (2,2,4)
- 26,23. Eternal triangle (6,1,5)

DOWN

- 2,4. Spitting image (4,6)
3. Duo's private talk (4-1-4)
4. See 2.
5. British-French accord of 1904 (7,8)
6. Title holder (8)
7. Cut (5)
8. Blue poppy in Mo's copse (10)
12. Loathes (10)
15. Waste collectors (6,3)
16. Aversion (8)
19. Device that sends images over the net (6)
21. German vessel of WWII (1-4)
22. Blast furnace waste (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 92

ACROSS

8. palliate
9. trivia
10. ignore
11. Banshees
12. clef
13. lifeguards
15. sky-high
16. diverge
18. Bash Street
19. Bude
20. frenetic
22. rueing
23. rifles
24. potatoes

DOWN

1. laugh like a drain
2. fly off the handle
3. take flight
4. verbify
5. stun
6. with bated breath
7. like a dog's dinner
14. glitterati
17. Redcaps
21. tosh

CROSSWORD 92

There were only 11 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to Mrs A Tait of Briardene who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

SUDOKU

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

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

SHOP STAFF DRESS UP FOR CHRISTMAS



June Taylor from the village Newsagents looks bonny in her Christmas top and earrings.



Staff from New image dress up for customers on Christmas Eve with Mary as a 'Land Army girl'.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Spicy Sausage Supper

Ingredients

150g/5½ oz Pasta Shells
1 tbs cooking oil
2 onions sliced
175g/6oz sausage thinly sliced
1 red chilli, de-seeded and finely chopped
2 garlic cloves crushed
1 red pepper de-seeded and chopped
1 green pepper de-seeded and chopped

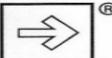
300g/10½ oz mushrooms sliced
1 tsp dried basil
6 plum tomatoes skinned and chopped

Method

1. Cook pasta in a large pan of lightly salted boiling water for 10 minutes, then keep warm.
2. Heat the cooking oil then gently fry the onions for 2 minutes.

3. Turn up the heat, add the sausage, chilli, garlic and peppers, then continue to fry for 3 more minutes. Add mushrooms and basil, mix well, fry for a further 3 minutes, then add tomatoes. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes.
4. Add the pasta to the pan, season and mix. Bring back to a simmer, then serve.

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

WHAT'S ON?

Badminton at Croft View

Do you want to get fit in 2014? Come and have a game of BADMINTON with us at Croft View Halls, Lanchester. We play every Monday 10-12. Cost £2.

For more information ring Rosemary Naylor, 520087 or 07803106615.

Country Market

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

Short Circuit Walks

1st February, 10.30 am, linear walk from South Shields to Tynemouth including a trip on the ferry, 4.5 miles. Meet at South Shields Metro station, NZ363673 and bring bus/metro pass. 15th February, 10.30 am, Broompark and Beaurepaire, 5.2 miles. Parking near Stonebridge on A690, 1km SW of Neville's Cross traffic lights on A167, NZ258413.

Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 1st February, Suzanne Day, Top Class Vocalist
Sunday 8th February, Hayley Storm, Stunning Female Singer
Saturday 15th February, Sonya, Fab Female Vocalist
Saturday, 22nd February, Pete McDonald, Legendary Male Vocalist

Date for your diary

On Tuesday March 25th there is to be a lunch in aid of our village bus - details in next issue.

Sunday Bridge

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

WI

February's theme is 'Fruitful Durham' and our competition is 'A Fruit Sculpture'. The meeting will be held in the Small Hall of the Community Centre, on 3rd February and begins at 7 pm for 7.15. Visitors are invited to attend, the fee is £2 and they can be sure of a warm welcome to our thriving community.

A reminder for the few members who have yet to pay their annual subscription that the cost is £34.70, and payment by cheque would be ideal.

PACT meeting

Please note change of day and venue for this meeting. The next PACT meeting will be on Tuesday 4th February at 6.30 pm in Burnhope Primary School. All welcome.

Open House

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

Lanchester History Society

Meetings for 2014 begin on Friday 7th February at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre Dining Room. The speaker will be Michael Taylor, Chairman of the Stephenson Society, on the subject of Northumberland Railways. Subtitled 'Brunel in Stephenson's Backyard', the talk should be very interesting. Everyone welcome.

Paradiso Club Social

The next Social will be held on Sunday February 9th at 6.30 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. As usual there will be refreshments, a raffle and a film screening. The film is 'SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET' starring Brad Pitt who plays the part of an Austrian Mountaineer whose bid for fame in climbing one of the highest Himalayan Mountains leads him to abandon his pregnant wife. The climb fails and World War II has broken out which leads to both he and his climbing partner being interred as enemy aliens in a POW camp in India. They manage an escape and find sanctuary in Tibet where he becomes caught up and influenced by Tibetan Buddhism and his relationship with the young Dalai Lama. This leads to a transformation in his personality so that he returns home eventually as a gentler more sensitive man. It is based on a true life tale. All are welcome. Entry £2.50 members, £3.50 occasional visitors, £2 children. Tickets cover the Refreshments, Raffle and the Film.

Thursday Club

After a thoroughly enjoyable New Year meal at Deano's we are now looking forward to our February meeting on the 20th at 1.30 pm in the Community Centre Small Hall when Judith Lund will tell us all about her life as an au pair. We shall also hear all the information about our outing to Holy Island in May.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 26th February at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, the Flower Club will hold the AGM, followed by a Talk and Film Show by Head Gardener Trevor Jones on Alnwick Garden (Question Time).

Red Cross Raffle/Coffee

Thanks everyone who bought raffle tickets for the Winter Raffle. Including the takings from the December Coffee morning we raised a total of £480 which is a great result. Thanks to all the local businesses who kindly donated prizes. The next Coffee Morning will be on 27th February in the Methodist Church Hall 9.30 to 11.45 am. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes available.

Wildlife Group

At the next meeting on Tuesday 11th February at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, John Olley will present 'Listen and learn to recognise Bird Song'.

Mothers' Union

The speaker at the meeting on Wednesday 12th February, at 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, will be Bidy Heywood who will give her talk 'How God Helps Us Through Difficult Times'.

A Tale with a Twist!

Do you enjoy a good story with a twist in the tail, especially one set to music? Well, on 28th February the Choral Society will present 'The Bartered Bride', a humorous musical tale narrated by storyteller Peter Collins. Guest soloists will be Susan Jordan (soprano), Paul Smith (tenor) and Jim Morgan (baritone). It is set in 19th Century Bohemia and the music by Smetana reflects the folk music of the time with its foot-tapping rhythms. It all happens at the Methodist Church; tickets are available from any society member or from 01207521458.

TOP BOWLERS RETURN TO STANLEY

Once again the best Bowlers from the British Isles will be competing at Stanley Indoor Bowling Centre in March. This is the chance for local people to see the cream of British Bowling on their doorstep.

Top competitors could include England's Greg Harlow and local star Gary Smith and the Scotsmen Paul Foster and Alex Marshall. It could also be the opportunity to see if TV commentator David Corkill can play as good a

game as he talks. Among the women look out for Rebecca Field of England, Julie Forrest of Scotland and the Packwood sisters from Wales. The timetable is as follows:

Ladies International series: Friday 7th March to Sunday 9th March.
British Isles Championships: Monday 10th March to Wednesday 12th March.
Men's International Series: Thursday 13th

March to Saturday 15th March.

Play starts at 10 am most days to around 7 pm and the cost is £5.00 for Internationals, £4.00 for the Championships.

Top tip - get your tickets early for the final Saturday, it always sells out and usually ends in a cliffhanger finish. Also try not to miss the Wednesday Championship finals when you are sure to see exciting matches and maybe some success for our local stars.

FESTIVE FUN

It has become a tradition for the Ramsay's Theatre Nightmares team to entertain their friends and family with a festive production at the end of the Christmas term and, this year, we performed an original version of 'Aladdin', written and produced by a talented group of students from St Bede's. As usual, it showcased the many and varied talents of these inspiring young people.

The production contained so many highlights that it would be impossible to mention them all, but we have to identify just a few. For several

years, we have aspired to include a Ping Pong Matrix scene, but this year we just knew we had to do it with the characters of Ping and Pong actually appearing on stage! Thanks to Simon Biasi's determination and imagination, we finally managed to do it and everyone agreed it was well worth the wait!

James Draper continues to take the musical accompaniment to new heights, ably assisted by Cameron Hume, Joshua Nichol and our talented singers and fantastic band of musicians - is there any instrument

they can't play? Jude Shilcock made amazing props appear as if from nowhere: it was as if she had her own magic lamp that enabled her to turn bits of waste cardboard into Widow Twankey's washing machine, or a Barrymobile ... Cecilia McAloon and Emily Conlin 'persuaded' several teachers to appear in their version of 'Bede's Got Talent' and we certainly saw them all as they'd never been seen before!

There were many memorable performances including Daniel McElderry's amazing Widow Twankey, Rebecca Draper's Princess Jasmine, Lewis Raun's Jafar Cake and Elizabeth Doyle's Abanette, although the whole cast and crew deserve congratulations for their fantastic achievement.

We also think we had our best audience yet and thank everyone for their support and encouragement.



Some of the cast and crew of 'Aladdin' take a break from rehearsals

LATEST FROM THE CRICKET CLUB

Happy New Year everyone, it's time to dig out your cricket gear! But don't panic, it's just the start of the indoor nets. Starting Saturday 25th January, we have Fyndoune College booked from 11-1, with seniors in the first hour then juniors in the second hour. All current players and new ones who would like to give it a go are most welcome. Don't worry though, the following week's net is cancelled as it clashes with the Tyne Wear

derby. A couple of people responded to last month's article, but if there are junior or senior cricketers interested in joining our club, then please contact our Child Welfare Officer, Bob Gardiner on 07980238187.

After running the bonfire and fireworks display, we are looking to see if we can stage other events using the club's facilities so watch this space for future news. We are holding a Valentine's

night event which will be ticket only, available from the club at the end of the month, expected to be £3.

We currently have a bid into Sport England to secure funding to build a new set of changing rooms. Anyone who knows the area will know that the current changing rooms were converted from public toilets and have seen better days I'm afraid. So, fingers crossed, we can be successful and create a better environment for our players.



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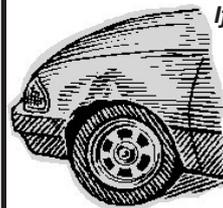
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NURSERY NATIVITY PLAY AT EP SCHOOL



Nursery children performing their Nativity

An 'Invitation to a Party' The person holding the party was of course Baby Jesus. His parents, Mary and Joseph were there, as were the shepherds and the Three Wise Men, not forgetting a heavenly host of Angels and quite a few animals. All these party goers were dressed in their best very appropriately and looked absolutely lovely. Those who had to say a few words said them clearly and the songs sung were word perfect and a joy to hear. In fact the whole presentation was pure enchantment!

Remember these children are all under 5 years of age and there were a lot of them. Brenda Craddock

ALL SAINTS MUSIC ASSEMBLY

Families were invited to a superb concert which indicated the progress children were making with music tutored after school by two peripatetic teachers, Mr Matthew Coates, who has been visiting the school teaching Spanish Classical Guitar for some 20 years, and Mr Michael Faney who recently began teaching brass instruments there. For such young children the standard in both brass and guitar playing was amazing. The audience enjoyed a combination of carols, Christmas music and even

'Happy Birthday' for one young pupil who was celebrating on the day. Both groups played carols and Christmas music as well as some familiar tunes. All were performed to a very high standard. The final spot went to young Daniel who had 'defected' from Spanish Guitar to the Electric Popular Guitar with home tuition. He played 'What Doesn't Kill Young' by Jake Bugg, with passion and skill way beyond his years, to rapturous applause from the audience. It was a fabulous end to a wonderful concert.



Grace and Rebecca open the concert playing Trumpet so well



Rebecca and Ella both superb on French Horn



The Guitar Group playing some lovely Christmas music



Daniel who played his Electric Guitar so well

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by **Tuesday 18th February**.

The deadline for **adverts** is **17th February**.

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