

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 15

Lanchester, March 2014

For contact information, see page 2

150 MORE HOUSES IN LANCHESTER?

A public consultation was held at the Community Centre between 2.00 and 7.00 pm on Monday 3rd March to discuss and view graphics of a proposed residential development on land at Newbiggen Lane adjacent to Ridgeway.

The development would be a mix of 150 houses and bungalows (2, 3, 4, and 5 bedroomed) with landscape features, to be built by Story Homes. It was indicated by staff present that 20% of the properties would be in the affordable category. The main hall was set out with three identical viewing areas to facilitate the people expected, and areas of seating to fill in questionnaires. The boards on view showed graphics of previous Story Homes, detailed plans of the location of the field with the third display board indicating the architect's vision of how the field would be set out. This included a 'sensitive edge' with grassed areas, a few trees and pedestrian access points to Alderside Estate. The lane from the entrance to the new estate

would have to be widened to the same width as the lower part of the lane, for about 25 metres alongside the new houses.

Despite the very short notice (two working days) given to the Lanchester public, large numbers of people came along armed with pertinent questions and to give their views. It transpired that the room had been booked several weeks earlier. Several residents had not received invitation leaflets.

After spending two separate hours (afternoon and evening) talking to villagers, it was difficult to come to a balanced view of the situation as so many residents had objections to the site going ahead.

Some of the reasons were as follows: access site inappropriate and dangerous; huge flood risk (there was no one able present who could answer questions on this very important point); recent new flood defence may not work and would probably have to be removed; sustainable drainage system; at this stage no thought had been given to child safety



The Architect explains points to the visitors

or the effect on the railway bank of the two 'pond dipping features' situated in that area; many residents thought that 150 houses would create problems for the village with parking; schooling; doctors; hazardous traffic (already a problem) in Newbiggen Lane and the village, especially at peak times.

The evening session brought some younger people to the hall, many of whom had rushed home from work, such was the importance of the occasion. About a dozen of these were carrying white paper placards featuring a large black 'NO'.

Representatives of Signet Planners and Story Homes although continually bombarded with similar questions were courteous, and experts in their own discipline, but seemed to have no idea on the massive impact yet another housing estate would have on the village. Looking at the bigger picture, if all the proposed developments go ahead, Newbiggen, Cadger Bank, Willow Burn, including Lynwood, there will be in

excess of 300 new homes in the area. Perhaps our readers can work out the number of extra cars, people and children this will be in Lanchester. Many residents shop outside the village now because of current parking problems. The village would become a commuter place alien to village life which

residents still currently enjoy.

The project will take 5 years to build, longer if houses sell slowly and Durham CC are expected to receive in excess of £2.5 million in Council Tax over a 6 year period. Story Homes say they would subsidise the building of a new school.



Residents looking at the display



Who in their right mind would like to see 150 houses here and replace this beautiful country scene!



Graham Henry and almost 3yr old son, Lewis, make their feelings known



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
Our school has been an integral part of the Lanchester community for 50 years. Originally built for approximately 600 children, today St Bede's educates 1500 students, with a work force approaching 200. I would like to share some of the emerging issues which face the school and the local community.

Traffic congestion at 8.45am and 3.15pm is an ongoing battle. The removal of free faith transport has led to an inevitable increase in the number of cars at these key times; a major concern that we shared with the Local Authority during consultation. The busy A691 is the main road to link Durham and Consett; northbound vehicles must cross this highway

to gain access to the school, thus creating a potential hold up.

The school has restricted on-site and no off-site parking, therefore evening pick-ups can be difficult for parents. A homework club is available to allow children to be collected after the main congestion period. We have also introduced a breakfast club to encourage an early "drop off". We allocate parking permits to 6th Form students but as the year progresses, more students pass their driving test and want to bring cars to school. We do not encourage this, but we are aware of students parking at various points in Lanchester.

In a bid to reduce congestion, I have met with representatives from Durham County Council Highways and Planning and the Police Authority. We are

negotiating with Go Northern to hold the cost of a scholars bus ticket at 2012/13 prices and are looking to fund a "sibling" discount scheme to support our families. This will help reduce congestion. We are working in partnership with your elected Councillors who, knowing the community well and the problems we are facing, are very keen to support progress. They are encouraged that we are being proactive in our efforts to find a solution.

Our priority is to ensure that all members of our school community are safe on their journey to and from school but also to work in partnership with the community of Lanchester. I ask residents to be patient as we explore all alternatives to reduce these problems.
Yours sincerely
Mr N Harrison
Headteacher

Dear Village Voice
We would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many

cards and letters of sympathy received and also the tributes on Facebook following the recent sad loss of Mitchell (Mitch) a wonderful son, stepson and brother. Grateful thanks to everyone who attended his funeral service and kindly gave donations for St John's Hospice in London. The church collection raised £491.13 and together with other donations we have received has reached the magnificent total of £800. Special thanks to Rev Rupert Kalus for the beautiful service for Mitchell and the help he has given us, Nicky Thorpe for the eulogy he gave, Beveridges for the family flowers, Michael Knowles for the order of service leaflets and Fiona (Crinnions) for the superb buffet. Finally to Derwentside Funeral Services for the respect and dignity shown to the family at this difficult time. Mitchell's light may have been snuffed out but his star will shine bright forever.

Jim, Eileen and Lee Whitehead

Dear Village Voice
I am viewing the census through the years and find in the 1871 census my ancestors were living at 398 Bantley Rowe, Leadgate.

I visited Leadgate recently and found the other addresses that they had lived at over 45 years but no one in Leadgate, the Post Office sorting office, local historians etc had heard of Bantley Rowe but it had at least 398 dwellings so it must have been a large estate.

Can any of the Lanchester Village Voice readers help me with location of this address to complete my search. If so, please contact me on 01670 821784.

Thanks for your help,
Edward Hogan

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for February 2014 is 13. The draw was made by Mr T Gibson of the Gym.

How to contact the Village Voice

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CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT AT COMMUNITY CENTRE



Left John Wilson, handing over to new Manager, Alison Boyd

John Wilson, Manager of the Community Centre for the last eight enjoyable and interesting years, feels that it is now time to move on. Alison Boyd, who has been working at the Centre, mainly in the Gym but also doing other duties, is taking John's place and is looking forward to her new managerial role. The change will take place at the AGM on 19th March. John is thanked for his service during his time there and congratulations and best wishes go to Alison in her new post.

Needed! Support Please for Children at risk Can you help?

The Lanchester Committee of the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) is hoping for the support of the people of Lanchester and surrounding areas to raise much needed funds for this important charity. Many of you will have seen the harrowing TV adverts which speak for themselves about how important it is to put a FULL STOP! to the suffering of the many children at risk and in need. You can help us to do this. May 2014 has been nominated as our fundraising month, and during May we will be raising awareness of the NSPCC throughout the village. We hope that the public in general will support the charity by way of donations, sponsored activities, and any other ideas they may have. We will also be setting up a Just Giving page on the internet, so people who can't get into the village will still have the opportunity to support the NSPCC. There will be more information in the next edition of the Village Voice, but in the meantime if you have any ideas for raising funds, or would like to help in any way, please contact Chris on 01207 520175 or christine.dunn@btinternet.com Please help us to make a difference to the lives of these children in the north east by supporting the NSPCC. Thank you.

CHARITY 40th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Vicky Thompson certainly celebrated her 40th birthday in style. Family and friends turned up in large numbers at the Social Club on Saturday 8th March where there was a super buffet, raffle and a night to remember with G & M's Disco who provided some lively, loud 80s music for a dancing, and Karaoke. There were some great fancy dress costumes as well. Vicky declined all gifts and asked her party goers to make donations to local charities, 'Henry Dancer Days' and Kelly Casher Cancer Care. The total raised at the celebration was £273.68 which will be equally divided between those two very worthwhile causes, close to everyone's hearts in Lanchester. Vicky would like to thank everyone who helped the celebrations and the local businesses of Talking Heads, New Image, Jumbo Jungle, Hanley & Swinbank, Crinnions, Deanos, DML cars and friends who donated gifts towards the raffle.



Vicky with family and friends celebrates her 40th birthday

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MEETING RE PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT NEWBIGGEN LANE



A crowded (160 people) Croft View Hall for the meeting about the proposed house building at Newbiggen Lane

As a result of the recent Public Consultation about a proposed housing development by Story Homes, a quickly convened public meeting was organised by Eric Hepplewhite and other Facebook contacts on 'Lanchester Past and Present'. Eric chaired the meeting, Andrea Stoddart took notes and Paul McNicholas, resident of Ridgeway, gave an excellent Powerpoint presentation. About 160 residents attended.

From the outset Eric gave his view that he was against any further building in Lanchester but for the meeting he would be impartial. He did just that and the meeting was smooth, open and fair, with no obvious animosity.

Paul McNicholas invited Peter Suddes, the farmer who owns the field, the opportunity to speak first. He outlined his case for the proposal. He stated he was a local person who wanted the best solution for the village. He said he had turned down several better offers for this huge 18 acres of land, with a

'Footprint' larger than Mount Park, Foxhills Crescent and Alderdene together. He felt that Story Homes was the best option because there would have been too many houses, perhaps 290, or the wrong type of housing proposed by other builders.

Paul continued with his detailed presentation emphasising the track record of Story Homes and Signet Planning. He followed by asking for questions or comments from the floor. About a dozen people contributed, a few more than once, some from experience of planning during their careers, project management etc. Some residents, who had experienced flooding, expressed concerns about the development. Others spoke with passion and a fear of what change may happen to the village if the project goes ahead. Jill Gladstone spoke on behalf the Partnership and mentioned the existing Design Statement. Not one person other than Peter Suddes supported the development.

The current organisers have named their group, 'Campaign to Protect Rural Lanchester' and are eager to work closely with The Partnership.

The next step is to form a steering committee. Residents should write to Signet Planning expressing their disagreement with the proposal but should not give reasons at this time. With their vast experience, the planners will find ways quite easily to overcome objections put forward.

Attendees were asked to sign a petition if they so wished. Amy Bell has volunteered to receive copies of letters and emails as a collective record for future developments.

The project is at the pre-planning stage. No doubt there will be further public meetings, and after the planning application is made, probably at the end of March or April this year, letters objecting to the proposal should be sent to Durham CC Spatial Policy Unit. Facebook will provide ongoing information, as will The Village Voice. Amy Bell's email is: amybell79@btinternet.com.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

There is a lot of concern around at the moment about the 'pre-consultation' meetings being held by a developer hoping to build 150+ new homes on land off Newbiggen Lane. A lot of you have contacted me on this raising concerns about additional traffic and issues of safety on Newbiggen Lane itself; additional pressures on existing facilities and amenities such as water, sewage and electricity, and pressure on Village schools and clubs as well as the possible impact of a further 150+ homes on flooding which is such an issue in our Village.

My advice to all those who have contacted me or anyone else who has an objection to this proposal is to stress that at this stage this is purely a speculative consultation by the developer. However if you object to the proposal you should not ignore it. This proposal is not in the Durham County Plan that we have all been so recently involved in agreeing. It does not have the support of Durham County Council and the County Planners but that does not mean it will not happen. Recent government changes to planning laws

mean that the fact that a development is not included and planned for in the County Plan and does not have the support of the County Council does not, in itself, mean it will not be granted planning permission. Pre-consultation of this kind is often used by developers to a) gauge the strength of public objection and b) find out all the planning objections in advance so that they can be addressed in any subsequent planning application. So, my advice if you object to this is to make sure you contact the County Council to let

them have your objections in writing. Objections need to be on planning grounds only. However valid, the County Council cannot consider objections on non-planning grounds so research your objections carefully. Individual written letters carry far more weight than petitions. Let the developer know the strength of objection without giving away any of the reasons for objection (although they

can probably work those out for themselves) and remember that this is part and parcel of living in Lanchester, so don't get mad, get writing! I will be meeting on this proposal with the Environment Agency as they are a statutory consultee on any planning application (ie they must be consulted and their views taken into consideration) and the EA has a real interest in Lanchester and flooding. Pat Glass MP

CADGER BANK INVESTIGATION

One of the sites attracting developers' interest at present is the field at the top of Cadger Bank bordering the site of Longovicium, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Last month local residents were surprised by the unusual



One of the finds - possibly a base for heavy machinery

activity taking place in the field. Because of the sensitivity of the site an archaeological investigation had been requested. After a preliminary survey of the whole site by Durham University a number of trial trenches were dug. Such was the interest in their activities, that the Archaeologists held an Open Day so that local people could view the trenches and the Archaeologists could explain what, if anything, had been found. There was

evidence of a quarry on the site, which had been filled in. Some sherds of Roman pottery were found in the infill and nearer the boundary with the scheduled site there were Roman period pits and ditches also containing pottery sherds. A man-made stone feature (pictured) was undated and could possibly have been a base for some heavy machinery. The report on the excavations will not be published unless it is sent to Durham County Council in support of a planning application.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes

Ordinary meeting held on 11th February 2014 - approved.

Planning meeting held on 11th February 2014 - approved.

Neighbourhood Warden Report - This was received.

Correspondence

Lanchester Allotments Association - minutes of AGM received.

Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council - weekly play inspections.

Campaign to Protect Rural England - spring newsletter received.

Durham County Council- Implementation Plans - members were informed that the information provided would be included in the plan.

Grassed Area - Lanchester Valley Railway Path - between Station Road and Newbiggen Lane

Members were informed that the licence between the County Council and the Parish Council allowing the Parish Council to cut the grass had been signed and returned.

Policies - the following policies were reviewed and agreed:

Risk Assessment Schedule, Internal Audit Arrangements, Financial Regulations, Equal Opportunities Policy, Health & Safety Policy.

Schools - Distribution of newsletters

It was agreed that a donation of £75 be sent to each of the Primary Schools as a thank you for distributing the Council newsletters.

Grants/Donations

The following donations were agreed:
County Durham Stroke Club - £45
Willow Burn Hospice - £200

North East War Memorial Project - £45

Great North Air Ambulance - £110

Lanchester Parochial Church Council - Maintenance of Tower Clock - £200

Durham County Brass Band Association - £50

Financial report - discussed and received.
Accounts for Payment - approved.

Planning Application

Listed building consent for conversion of former public house (Grade II) to five one/two bedroomed apartments, demolition and reconstruction of new rear single storey extension and internal refurbishment at the Queen's Head, 17 Front Street, Lanchester.

Members welcome the sympathetic development which will improve the empty and boarded up building. Members feel

that the rear of the property will be improved with the proposals and welcome the provision in the development for public parking.

Questions from Members
The recent public consultation by a developer regarding the

building of houses on a site up Newbiggen Lane was raised. It was agreed that this item be discussed at the next planning meeting.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 8th April 2014 at 7.15 pm.

Lanchester Branch Royal British Legion Standard

Lanchester Parish Council have recently received correspondence from the Darlington Branch of the Royal British Legion.

It appears that the Lanchester Branch Standard has recently come to light following years of being stored away and forgotten about. The Royal British Legion confirm that the Lanchester Branch was formed on 7th August 1943 and was closed on 30th January 1971.

The standard is 1143mm x 914mm on a jointed pole and is in quite good condition.

The Parish Council are keen to see this piece of history returned to the Parish and are working with the Royal British Legion to secure the return of it to Lanchester.

We would also be very interested to hear if there are any ex-Members of the Lanchester Branch still in the Parish. Please contact Sally on 01207 521957.



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POLICE REPORT

Over the past month local officers have seen an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage within Lanchester. Problems appear to be centred around the area of The Garths whereby unknown local youths are congregating causing local residents a nuisance due to their rowdy behaviour, drinking alcohol, banging on doors and windows, removing garden furniture and kicking footballs at windows. In order to target these problems local officers are actively patrolling the village to engage with youths and to conduct stop searches on those suspected to be in possession of drink or drugs or items which could be used to cause damage.

With regards to reports of criminal damage approximately £2000 worth of damage has been done throughout the village over the past 4-6 weeks with youths suspected to be responsible due to stones being thrown at windows and subsequently smashed.

Officers will continue to take a no tolerance approach to these issues and will be distributing warning letters and conducting home visits where necessary. PCSO Lisa Jackson is currently working in partnership with the Deric Youth Bus and Consett YMCA to try to organise further youth activities for the area to deter the issues.

Issues with off-road motorbikes also appear to be on the increase with

complaints being received along the Lanchester Valley Walk and Deneside. Local officers are actively monitoring these two areas with the intention of warning notices being issued or bikes being seized. Anyone with information please do not hesitate to contact Police on 101.

Police have also been working in partnership with The Woodland Trust regarding Dora's Wood due to the volume of empty alcohol containers and evidence of fires taking place within the wood. The area has now been cleaned up, fire damage has been removed and Police are now actively patrolling the woods especially at night when it is believed this type of activity is taking place.

The date of the next PACT meeting is Tuesday 1st April at 6.30 pm in

Burnhope Primary School. A handy guide has been produced by the National Neighbourhood Watch Network in relation to all things security. An

electronic version of the information can be found at: www.ourwatch.org.uk/resource_centre/document_library or the general website link: www.ourwatch.org.uk

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OPERATION SNOWDROP 2014

On March 8th, we held a Police operation in Lanchester and Burnhope called Operation Snowdrop 2014. Recently information has come to our attention that drug activity in some of our licensed premises is on the increase. Evidence of drug use such as empty white packets have been found discarded in the men's toilets which the licensees have tried to prevent by regular checks of toilets and cleaning surfaces with bleach, baby oil and Vaseline. To assist our licensees in tackling these problem officers from Consett Neighbourhood Policing Team, Dog Section, Partnerships and Deputy Chief Constable Banks have visited The Ivy Leaf Club and The Black Bull to identify any customers

who may have been in possession of a controlled drug.

As a result no offences were discovered at the Ivy Leaf Club although a vehicle was searched by dog section due to the suspicious behaviour of the male occupants. At the Black Bull a discarded packet of white powder was found, believed to be cocaine, and evidence of cocaine use was located in the men's toilets.

PC Scott Crowhurst and I are dedicated to assisting our local community of Lanchester and Burnhope with any problems and concerns they may have. If you have any information regarding crime and disorder taking place in our area please do not hesitate to contact us on 101.

PCSO 6780 Lisa Jackson

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NEW LANCHESTER BUSINESS FEATURES IN TV SERIES



The new office for Castle Vets in Front Street

A documentary series featuring Castle Vets is being aired currently. 'More Creatures Great and Small' follows the work of the vets, including a trip to Lanchester and will be aired daily at 3.45 pm on BBC1, from 24th March to 11th April. The series is narrated by former Good Life star Felicity Kendal. Castle Vets opened the doors to its new Lanchester office on 17th February, situated in the former sweet shop in the heart of the village. Initially the equine branch is open between 9 am - 1 pm, Monday to Friday. A zone visit scheme is run every morning for a set visit fee. These zone visits can be used for all appointment types: from vaccinations and dentistry to lameness examinations. The team of dedicated equine vets takes a proactive and up to date approach to equine healthcare, especially equine dentistry. Castle Vets have comprehensive equine dental equipment and are passionate about improving oral healthcare for horses in County Durham. To register your horse with Castle Vets please call 01207 528992 or pop into our Lanchester office to say hello and take a look around.

Castle Veterinary Surgeons has expanded its equine department to cater for horses in the north of County Durham.

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RE-VISION YOUR LIFE

Is your teenager struggling with anxiety, stress or low self esteem? Re-Vision Your Life may help.

For young people today, life can be an overwhelming experience. Social, academic, peer and media pressures, as well as the pressure to succeed can leave young people stressed, anxious and unhappy.

At exam time, many young people feel the pressure even more. Re-Vision Your Life is an innovative programme providing an

opportunity for the individual to discover what is holding them back from their full potential. The empowering programme equips the participants with tools and techniques to calm, focus and restore confidence. Sessions are fun, informative and relaxed with no requirement to speak in front of others if participants don't want to!

Suitable for teens experiencing stresses in life and seeking ways to regain calm.

Topics include:

- Techniques to calm and focus attention
- Use of diet and nutrition to calm, re-energise and optimise performance
- Energy psychology
- Emotional Freedom Technique

Re-Vision Your Life is facilitated by experienced teacher Katie Gray and trainer of Energy Psychology, Anne Louise Flaherty. Parents are also welcome.

'Re-Vision Your Life'

A 4 week programme for teenagers experiencing stress, anxiety and unhappiness caused by issues like:

- Exams
- Bullying
- Low self esteem
- Social pressures and expectations

Wednesdays @ 6.00-7.30 pm. Starts 30th April for 4 weeks. Lanchester All Saints' RC Church Hall, Kitswell Road. Total cost £35.
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SATLEY TREE SCULPTURE



Village Voice deliverer for Satley, Colin Hodgson, seen here with his Village Voices, standing next to the magnificent wood sculpture by Chainsaw Sculptor, Tommy Craggs. Colin had to take down a very old ash tree in his garden and called in Tommy Craggs to carry out this fantastic piece of art on the remains of the tree. Work was completed in one day.

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WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This International Day was honoured by a good number of Women from the three churches in Lanchester. Each year this special service is held in one of our churches and this year it was held in the Methodist Church. The service lasts one hour and each year Christian women from a chosen country write the service of hymns and readings

and produce a very informative booklet for use in the service. There is also a small choir made up of ladies from each church and they always sing well. It was women from Egypt who had written the service this year, on the theme 'Streams in the Desert' There is always a short address by an invited speaker and this year

Mrs Ann Sinclair, who lives in our village and is a Lay Reader in the Church of England, gave an inspiring talk on the set theme. The ladies of the committee wish to thank all those who attended and helped in any way to make the service the memorable one that it always is!
Brenda Craddock



Diane Emmerson, Isabel Appleton and Jen Smith welcome Mary Slane to the service

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FAIR TRADE AT THE CHAPTER HOUSE

A Coffee Morning which included a large raffle, superb cake stall and a good selection of Traidcraft Products was held on Thursday 5th March during Fair Trade fortnight. Olga Walker was the organiser and the Chapter House was full for most of the morning. Good sales of Traidcraft products, together with the other items mentioned earlier, resulted in an excellent profit of £362.



Fair Trade organiser Olga with friends Rod and Penny Walker at the excellent Traidcraft table

Thanks are offered to all who supported the who helped and those function.

FUNDRAISER FOR FIRE FIGHTERS



People from church with two of the crew of the fire engine from Consett Fire Station

A Coffee Morning with some super cakes was held at the Methodist Church on Saturday 15th March for the Fire Fighters Charity.

For information a Free Survey, ie, Home Fire Safety Check is available and Smoke Detectors can be fitted free as well. Just call 01207 502912 to arrange an appointment.

THURSDAY CLUB UPDATE



A busy coffee morning, as seen from the cake end of the proceedings

Our recent coffee morning held on March 13th in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance was a huge success raising £300 for the charity and giving those who attended a most enjoyable time.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped raise such a grand total.

A SUPER PERFORMANCE - THE BARTERED BRIDE

We know we are going to have an excellent evening of music when we attend any concert given by the Lanchester and District Choral Society with David Hughes as the Musical Director and a great pianist to accompany them. Mrs Lilian Dixon, who was the accompanist for many years, retired last year and taking her place was Bill Gray. The performance on February 28th was held in the Methodist Church and was entitled 'The Bartered Bride'. This is a musical folk tale in three acts and is set in Bohemia, (present day Slovakia) in the early 19th century.

The story concerns love and marriage which are hardly ever without some intrigue in story-land and the plot could have been a little confusing for the audience but all was made clear by a special storyteller, namely Peter Collins, who skilfully explained the story while the guest soloists and the choral society members sang their way through it. They all sang very beautifully too. The main female role was sung by Susan Jordan, soprano, who is well known for her beautiful singing voice. The two male soloists were Jim Morgan (bass) and Paul Smith (tenor) and

the latter gave us 'two for the price of one' as he sang the parts of two characters. All the soloists gave 100% to their performance. The gentlemen of the chorus and the ladies of the choir completed the high standard of the whole performance and can once again be congratulated for an evening of excellence. The appreciation of the audience was proof of the high quality of the singing and choral work. There will be a summer concert in July entitled 'An Evening at the West End Theatre' so do look out for it and come if you can. Brenda Craddock



Soloists, left to right: Jim Morgan, Susan Jordan and Paul Smith



David Hughes and the Society receive the applause of the audience



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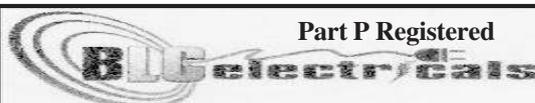
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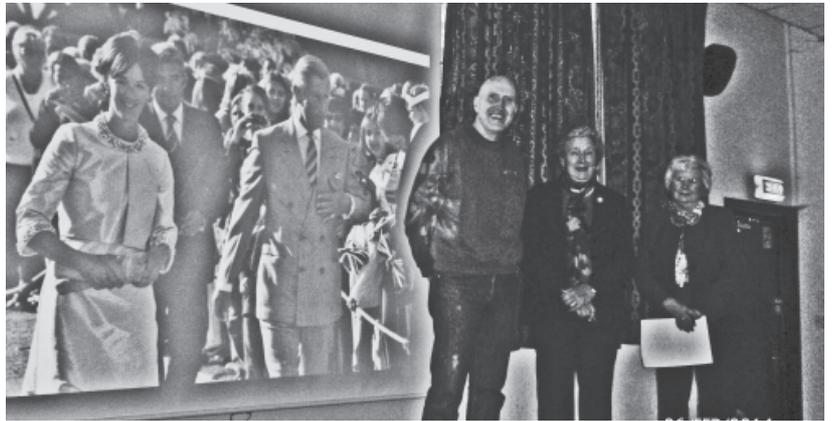
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LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB



Chairperson Helen Tomlinson, Treasurer Norma Jenssen and Trevor Jones Head Gardener in front of a royal visitor slide.

On 26th February, the Flower Club held their 41st AGM with 'Transportation to Alnwick Castle via Slide show and presentation'. All of the Committee members agreed to stand for a further year. Then we enjoyed a very special speaker and slide show. Mr Trevor Jones Head Gardener at Alnwick Castle gave us an exceptionally interesting presentation on how Alnwick Castle owes its success to the inspiration and the

perseverance of the Duchess and the great teamwork between the gardeners, educationalists and volunteers who have made this a great tourist attraction. In 1996 this was a derelict site and now has been transformed into a garden of world standard. We were surprised to learn about all the charity work they do with children and the elderly; they have some visionary ideas which are working. It was so inspirational that the club are hoping to have their

Summer Outing with a visit to Alnwick Gardens. I am sure everyone would agree this was definitely one of our better speakers and a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all. Our next meeting will be a flower demonstration by Wendy Smith her theme will be 'Travels with my Aunt' on 23rd April at 2 pm in the Community Centre. All are welcome and I can guarantee you will enjoy a lovely interesting and relaxing afternoon.

Gardening in April

April is finally here and we can look forward to the weather warming up which will allow us to get busy in the garden. April is one of the busiest, most exciting and important months of the year.

In the Flower Borders

The important jobs this month for our borders include digging in 2 inches or more of compost or well rotted manure into the beds to prepare them for growing. The addition of a general purpose fertiliser like blood, fish and bone is also beneficial. Also add a layer of mulch around your perennials before the hot weather arrives. There is still time to lift and divide perennial plants to improve their

vigour and create new plants. Primroses can be divided once they have finished flowering and forced flower bulbs such as daffodils and hyacinths can be planted in the borders. Deadhead daffodils and tulips once they have finished flowering, trim winter flowering heathers and prune forsythia when its flowers die.

In the Vegetable Plot

Although the wet spring may have delayed some of the jobs this month, don't worry as mother nature helps us to catch up. As with the borders, the veg patch will benefit from 2 inches of compost/manure being dug in. Plant chitted potatoes outside or in potato bags. Many crops can be sown direct into the

ground such as parsnips, cabbages etc. This month you can start to sow courgette and marrow under cover and towards the end of the month sow cucumber in your greenhouse and runner and French beans individually in module trays so they can be planted out once the risk of frost has passed. Also, start to sow tomato seed indoors ready to plant out when there are no cold nights.

General

Check your compost bins to see if any compost is ready to use. Improve drainage of heavy soils through the use of organic matter and top up raised beds with compost and top-dress containers with fresh compost.

CENTENARY POPPY CAMPAIGN

To commemorate the 100 years since the start of World War I in 1914, the Parish Council has purchased a supply of Flanders poppy seeds with a donation going to the Royal British Legion. The Parish Council will sow some of these on the Village Green and in some of its parks in the Village. If you would like a small supply to sow in your own garden please contact Sally on 01207 521957.

This is a Royal British Legion campaign which hopes to see the whole of the United Kingdom awash with poppies throughout 2014 and beyond just like those that we see on Remembrance Sunday.

BOOKS COME ALIVE AT ALL SAINTS'

It was World Book Day on March 6th, and students from All Saints' Catholic School dressed up to represent their favourite characters from literature. Great

imagination had been used to create the costumes - and a lot of help from families was evident! The children were involved in various activities during the morning, with a full school assembly planned for the afternoon. Harry Potter brought friends from



The Reception Class thoroughly enjoyed their day and bringing books alive!

Hogwarts School, and famous characters from Horrid Henry to the Snow Queen and Alice in Wonderland really enjoyed their day!

Right, three very elegant ladies - the Snow Queen, Alice and Rapunzel



LANCHESTER EP PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMEMORATE FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Lanchester EP Primary School are aiming to become a 'Fair Aware' school during 2014 through raising awareness of both their pupils and their parents about the really vital concept of 'Fairtrade'.

Their Fairtrade Fortnight ran from 24th February through to March 9th and a Steering Group planned many activities, including:

- * running a tuck shop;
- * a Fairtrade shop;
- * serving hot chocolate;

- * hosting a coffee afternoon for parents; and
- * electing to wear yellow one day to show their support for a fair and stable price for banana farmers.

The Fairtrade event has been a very popular and fun activity for the students, who have learned so much about the idea. Miss Nolan of the Steering Group thanked the pupils, their families, and the school staff, for all the support they offered to make this such a successful project.



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NORTH EAST YOUTH CHORALE SING IN PARISH CHURCH

It is always a joy to see and hear young people perform and on Sunday March 16th in the Parish Church those who attended heard a superb choir of young people perform Choral Music from the 16th to the 20th centuries. They were The North East Youth Chorale with John Forsyth MBE as the Director and conductor and with Alison Gill as accompanist on the piano. Their local membership is drawn from 6th Form Colleges and Universities across the region and the members are aged from 16 to 23.

The choir was created by John three and a half years ago and has been extremely successful. They have performed all over the North East to great acclaim and last October the choir consolidated its growing reputation by being invited to perform, along with

The National Youth Chamber Choir, at the Sage Gateshead, for a live recording with BBC3, as part of the programme 'The Choir' In September 2013, the choir was asked to sing the Semi-Chorus in Will Todd's Oratorio, 'St Cuthbert' at Durham cathedral in the last event of the hugely successful 'Lindisfarne Gospels' exhibition.

A number of these young people have other musical abilities and the choir has built up a relationship with the international, instrumental and vocal ensemble 'The Gabrieli' under the direction of Paul McCreesh. The latter offers wonderful opportunities for young people.

If you are interested in the choir or any of these exciting opportunities please get in touch with the Village Voice for contact details.

Brenda Craddock



Members of The North East Youth Chorale, who are drawn from 6th Form Colleges and Universities across the region and are aged from 16 to 23, during their performance in the Parish Church.

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SONGS FROM THE SHOWS

Lanchester is known for the abundance of musical talent in the community and on Saturday March 1st there was a lovely concert in the Methodist Church. Jane Westwater and her niece Ellie Lakey were performing 'Songs from the Shows' The evening had a family flavour. Jane invited the audience to sing Happy Birthday to her father, Fred Westwater, who had just become 80. Everyone was pleased to join in congratulations for Fred

who is justly so proud of his talented family. Fred is a member of Lanchester Methodist Church. The evening was held to raise money for Ellie to participate in a 'World Challenge' The latter is open to all schools in the British Isles. If the school takes up the challenge, 6th form pupils are given the opportunity to travel abroad and spend four weeks in a school, helping in any way they are directed to do, but usually it is to help in the

teaching of English. This year 15 pupils from St Bede's School are taking up the challenge. Their destination is determined by 'World Challenge', though a choice is offered. Bede School have chosen Sri Lanka. In order to take up the challenge each pupil must raise £3000 and the 'Songs from the Shows' concert had been arranged for this purpose. Ellie is in the Upper 6th and is very excited to be taking up the challenge. She has a beautiful and powerful singing voice, which captivated the audience, just as the voice of her Auntie Jane has done over the years. They sang solo and with one another and their performances were magical. The audience were taken down memory lane with all the favourite songs from the west end shows; 'Phantom of the Opera', 'Sound of Music', 'Chess', 'Les Miserables' and 'Oliver' to mention only a few.

The resounding applause showed how much people had enjoyed the evening. Thank you Jane and Ellie. Have a wonderful time in Sri Lanka, Ellie. The evening raised £600 and Ellie has now reached her target of £3000. Well done!

Brenda Craddock



Ellie Lakey, left, who will be going to Sri Lanka for four weeks in July on a 'World Challenge', and Jane Westwater on the right.

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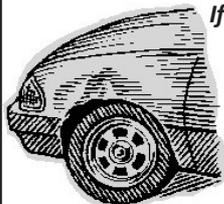
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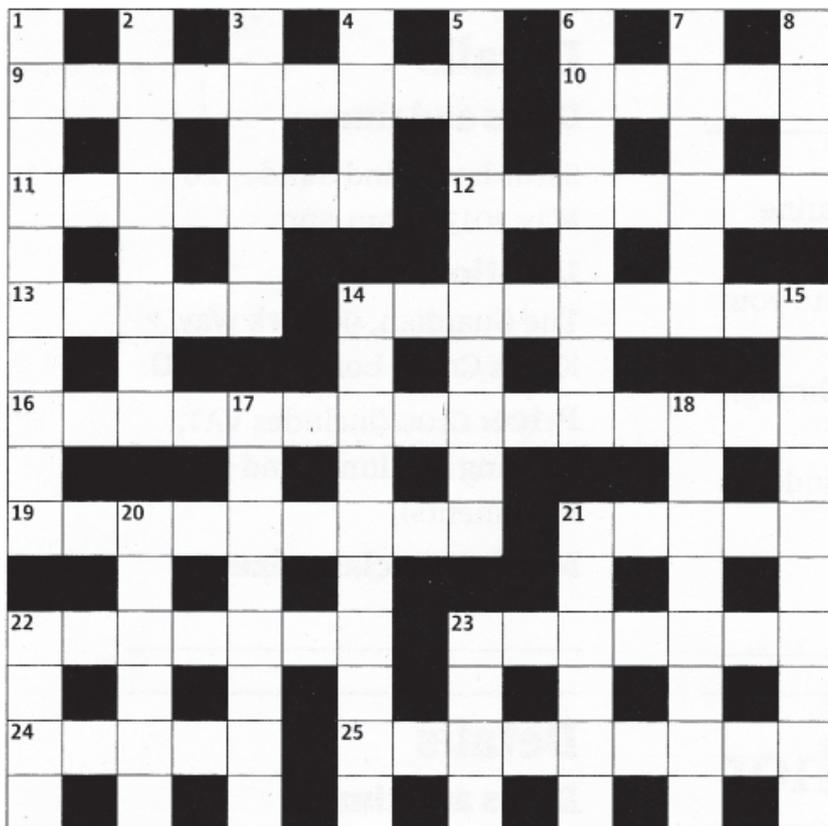
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CROSSWORD 95



ACROSS

9. Unwell (3,6)
10. Creator of 'The Thinker' (5)
11. Token (7)
12. Make up (7)
13. Non-clerics from Italy (5)
14. Block of fuel (9)
16. Unstand Yell for example (8,7)
19. Done according to accepted norms (9)
21. Join (3,2)
22. Filleted (7)
23. Long-grain rice (7)
24. See 23 down
25. Really evil (9)

DOWN

1. Recover (10)
2. Five fuse and become enthusiastic (8)
3. Behave like the upper-classes? (6)
4. Rise on a current of air (4)
5. Tendency (10)
6. Peaceful (8)
7. Able to raid (6)
8. Squad (4)
14. Formerly East Pakistan (10)
15. Needs (10)
17. Gives permission (8)
18. Songbird (8)
20. Knight returns to centre with arrogance (6)
21. Performing well (2,4)
22. Cold and damp (4)
- 23,24. French bugbear (4,5)

Name _____

Address _____

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CROSSWORD 94

There were 15 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Roy Sunley of Watling Way who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 94

ACROSS

1. live and learn
8. obscene
9. traipse
11. crowned
12. Hittite
13. dream
14. enjoyment
16. apathetic
19. chasm
21. observe
23. scourge
24. roadhog
25. retrace
26. in other words

DOWN

1. lissome
2. Vietnam
3. amendment
4. ditch
5. exactly
6. reprise
7. forced labour
10. even tempered
15. Jack Straw
17. abstain
18. hard hat
19. crofter
20. arrears
22. eagle

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.

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

LADIES WHO LUNCH

It seems to be shaping up to be 'one of those years', when special offers keep on coming our way and this time it was Bistro 21 with £5 off every meal, which was a real treat. We love the Bistro with its shabby chic French ambience and it lived up to all expectations. For February it was a gorgeous sunny warm day and inside the Bistro was warm and cosy, the welcome and service just lovely, white fresh flowers on the tables and no muzac. We settled

ourselves down to peruse the express lunch menu which stands at £15.50 for a 2 course and £19 for a 3 course meal - particularly good value with vouchers.

We sampled for starters a Terrine of local game with warm toast and a tasty chutney (the type of which totally escapes me) and a Gruyère cheese and leek soufflé. Main course was confit of duck leg, Lyonnaise potatoes and frisée salad, fillet of salmon with a smoked salmon potato cake and roast beetroot,

minute steak with chips, mustard and tarragon butter and a green salad and fish, chips, mushy peas and tartare sauce. Puds were a coconut soft meringue with pineapple and mango and pear and almond tart with chantilly ice cream. It was our first outing with a 'new girl' and she said "it's been a very nice experience, ladies" (she was starting out somewhere rather special) - hopefully to be repeated - many times over!

The Gourmet Girls

RED CROSS COFFEE MORNING



The Red Cross held a Coffee Morning at the Methodist Church on Thursday 27th February, which included a successful cake stall and raised £181. Featured in the photo are Tea/Coffee ladies Tracey Dobson, (centre) Manager, with volunteers, Betty Walton and Ann Horner.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Chocolate and Banana Cake

Ingredients

100ml/3½ fl oz sunflower oil, plus extra for the tin
175 g/6 oz caster sugar
175 g/6 oz self raising flour
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
4 tbspcocoa powder
100 g/4 oz chocolate chips or chunks
175 g/6 oz very ripe bananas (peeled weight)
3 medium eggs, 2 separated
50 ml/2 fl oz milk
For the icing
100 g/4 oz milk chocolate

100 ml/3½ fl oz soured cream
Handful dried banana chips roughly chopped
Method

1. Heat oven to 160 C/140 C Fan/gas 3. Oil and line a 2 lb loaf tin with baking parchment (allow it to come 2 cm above the top of the tin). Mix the sugar, flour, bicarb, cocoa and chocolate in a large bowl.
2. Mash the bananas in a bowl and stir in the whole egg plus 2 yolks, followed by the oil and milk. Beat the egg whites until stiff. Quickly stir the wet banana mixture into the dry ingredients,

stir in a quarter of the egg whites to loosen the mixture, then gently fold in the rest. Gently scrape into the prepared tin and bake for 1 hour 10 minutes - 1 hour 15 minutes or until a skewer inserted comes out clean. Allow to cool in the tin on a wire rack.
3. To make the icing melt the chocolate and soured cream together in a heat proof bowl over a pan of barely simmering water. Chill in the fridge until spreadable. Remove cake from the tin, roughly swirl over the icing then scatter with the banana chips.

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LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

Apologies to our Sudoku fans. There was a mistake in the last Sudoku grid - on row 6 there were two 8s. The second of these should have been a 5.

WHAT'S ON?

Spring Clean Lanchester

The annual village litter pick (organised by the Lanchester Partnership) will be on Saturday March 29th. Please try to spare some time for it between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm.

Come along to the usual tent on the village green. Bags, litter-pickers, gloves and refreshments will be provided.

And if you know of a particularly bad area please ring Jill Gladstone on 528 114.

Every year at least 100 people join in and pick up an amazing amount of litter - and each year there is noticeably less litter than the year before so, together with the Parish and County Councils, we are winning! Your help is greatly appreciated.

PACT meeting

The next PACT meeting will be on Tuesday 1st April at 6.30 pm in Burnhope Primary School. All welcome.

Funding Sessions

County Durham Community Foundation is organising a series of Funding Sessions across County Durham and Darlington to promote funding of up to £5000 for voluntary and community groups. Funding is also available for individuals.

Staff from the Foundation will be on hand to talk about all available funding and the application process at Lanchester Community Centre on Wednesday 2nd April from 10 am - 11.30 am. Anyone interested in attending is asked to register by email volunteer@cdcf.org.uk or ring 0191 378 6340.

Open House

Everyone is welcome at the Open House in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 3rd April, 11.30 am to 1.00 pm for a light lunch.

History Society

The next meeting is on Friday April 4th at 7.30 pm at the Community Centre. The speaker will be Andrew Everitt and his subject will be Ignatius Bonomi, an 18th Century Surveyor in Durham County, who designed buildings in the Durham area.

Sunday Bridge

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon playing Bridge in the Community Centre on Sunday 6th April at 2.00 pm. Only £3. Everyone welcome.

WI

Our next meeting will take place in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 7th April starting at 7.15. The speakers will be Barbara Galloway and Eileen Mason talking about their Game Show experiences and the competition is an 'Egg Head'. Visitors are always very welcome, the fee for the evening is £2 and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Items for the sales table and raffle for our coffee morning will be welcomed at the next meeting or on the morning of 10th April. Our Summer Outing to Sizergh Castle is on 16th July and cheques for the full amount of £23 for non National Trust members and £14.50 for National Trust members will be taken at the April and May meetings.

Country Market

The next market will take place on Saturday 5th April from 10 am to 12 noon. Get there early for all your fresh produce.

WI Coffee Morning

Lanchester WI are holding their Spring Coffee Morning on Thursday 10th April in the Community Centre from 10.00 am - 11.30 am. Tickets are £1 each (or pay at the door) and include a delicious homemade scone.

There will also be a sales table and raffle so please come and support us at what is always a very friendly social event.

Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 8th April at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre there will be a talk by Mark Oliphant on the History of Lanchester Valley Walk.

Mothers' Union

The April meeting is on Wednesday the 9th, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House when the speaker will be Michelle Muir of MacMillan Cancer Support.

Bowls Spring Meeting

Lanchester Bowling Club will hold its spring meeting on Thursday 10th April at 7.00 pm in the Pavilion. All members and prospective new members are welcome.

Short Circuit Walks

12th April, Sunderland Bridge to Shincliffe, 5 miles. Park at Sunderland Bridge (the bridge, not the village), NZ266378.

26th April, Elsdon, 6 miles. Meet in the village car park to the east of the B6341, NY938933.

Both walks start at 10.30 am.

Churches Together

Forthcoming events: Palm Sunday Service 13th April at 6.00 pm 'Olivet to Calvary' by J H Maunder at The Methodist Church; Good Friday 18th April at 9.30 am - a short service on the Village Green; Easter Saturday 19th April at the Methodist Church - a Churches Together Coffee Morning with Hot Cross Buns distributed in the village; 10.00 am - A Witness from the Green followed by music, drama and readings outside the church. Everyone is warmly welcomed to all events. Do come along.

Paradiso Social Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday April 13th at 6.30 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual Raffle, Refreshments and a film shown on the BIG screen. The film to be shown is 'WADJDA'.

This is the story of a young Saudi girl whose burning desire for a bicycle leads her into bold defiance of her society's restrictive codes of gender and religion. After a fight with her friend Abdullah, a neighbourhood boy she should not be playing with, Wadjda sees a beautiful green bicycle for sale. She desperately wants the bicycle so that she can beat Abdullah in the race ...

Described as an enthralling, uplifting tale ... when the rules don't fit find the courage to follow your own!

Anyone is welcome to the Social. Entry fees, which cover the raffle, refreshments and film: £2.50 for members, £3.50 for occasional non member visitors, £2 for young persons.

Mini Mixers

Attention all young families! Mini Mixers will be on at the Community Centre at 2 pm on 17th April. The session which is wonderful for children lasts for one hour and costs £2.50. Activities will be Crafts, Cup Cake Decoration and Story Time. Booking is necessary for this event. Please phone the Centre on 01207 521275.

Thursday Club

The April meeting is to be on Thursday the 17th when we will be welcoming Julie Cordiner to give us her 'Portrait of a Seaside Parish'.

Art Exhibition

Castleside Art Club will hold its 42nd Annual Art exhibition and sale of paintings in Castleside Village Hall on Easter Sunday and Monday (20th and 21st April). Over 200 paintings by local artists will be offered for sale between 10 am and 5 pm each day. Admission will be 20p and quality home-made refreshments will be available.

Family/Junior Wildlife

On Easter Monday, 21st April, there will be the usual egg dying in the traditional way, followed by egg bowling down Paste Egg Bank. Meet at 10.00 am behind the Green School and bring a raw egg with you.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 23rd April at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, there will be a demonstration by Wendy Smith entitled 'Travels with my Aunt'.

RUNNING FOR ISLA

When my daughter Isla was born she had an abnormally sized tongue and swollen face. She has Cystic Hygroma, a condition that affects only one per cent of children. She has had numerous tests and procedures on her face and neck to reduce the swelling and had a tongue reduction operation in 2013. Since the operation her life has been transformed and although there is more treatment to come, she is a much happier little girl. As a release from the stress of seeing Isla in so much discomfort my husband started

running. He found that after a run he came back feeling refreshed and more able to cope with Isla's illness. He has remained determined and focused on training over the winter, losing four stones in the process. It is all with the aim of raising money for the two organisations who helped us over the last two years, the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit of the RVI and The Sick Children's Trust. By running his first marathon and first Great North Run he hopes to thank them, recognising that their work makes such a difference to people's lives.

If you have any spare pennies to sponsor him, it would be for really valuable causes, and would help to keep him focused on his goal. You can do this for the Edinburgh marathon at www.justgiving.com/richard-wisson2 or Text: WISS73 followed by your amount and send to 70070 and for Great North Run, 7th September for The Sick Children's Trust at www.justgiving.com/richard-wisson or Text: Thank you in advance WISS72 followed by your amount and send to 70070.



A happy, smiling little Isla

Thank you in advance for your help and for your kindness.
Marie Wisson

WI NEWS

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed everyone then Maureen Clarkson shared memories of joining Lanchester WI in 1964. Lists are out for a mini trip to the Oriental Museum June 17th, a visit to Lanchester Dairies April 8th and Sizergh Castle 16th July. Marie's darts ladies meet at 7 pm Thursdays at the social club, Carol's Quiz team have an informal meeting in the King's Head at 8.45 pm on Wednesdays and Heather's Ladybirds Book Club will be bi-monthly with the next meeting on 15th April at 7 pm in the Black Bull. All members are welcome at any of these events. Lanchester Show have invited us to be involved on the Sunday, more details will be requested. Our speakers this evening were Kristy and Mary from the Lakeland shop in the Metro Centre who talked to us about the history of how Lakeland started in the 1960s with animal feed in plastic bags that were so strong they stopped selling the feed and just sold the bags. In 1980

Lakeland went to mail order, 1990 saw Lakeland become a limited company, in 2000 they entered the World Wide Web and 2010 they became Lakeland with stores abroad. They continue to expand and are still a family business with their head office still in the Lakes. This was a very interesting talk and Mary and Kristy also brought a selection of latest products, tasters and freebies then finished with a quiz guessing unusual gadgets! Eileen Reay and Kathleen Morris won the raffle, the competition winner was Heather Muir with Brenda Gibson second and Shirley Mair won the Lakeland quiz. Ann Carr gave the vote of thanks and the meeting ended with refreshments.



Kathleen Morris, Rhoda Joyce, June Wallis and Maureen Clarkson enjoying the quiz

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WHAT CAN YOU GET FOR £10? - GO BOWLING!

You can't get much for £10 today. It might pay for a round of drinks in a golf clubhouse but how about a full season's sport? That is what we are offering at Lanchester Bowling Club for new members. We made this offer last year and were pleased to find a substantial group of new bowlers took up the offer and joined the club. Play any time you want -

morning, afternoon or evening for £10. Help will be given for people new to bowls to get them started. If there is sufficient interest we will try to organise some afternoons where new bowlers can get together to develop their skills. We are particularly keen to find people who can play on Wednesday evenings. This is the Achilles heel of the club.

While we can turn out full teams for all our other matches we struggle to find enough people to play on Wednesdays. We also have an over 55s development team on Tuesday afternoons that play in a local league. All the leagues we play in are mixed gender so men and women play in the same teams. The long range weather forecast is for a

hot summer so don't spend the summer indoors; get out and meet new friends for a bit of healthy competition.

There are a number of ways to get started with Lanchester Bowling Club:

- 1 Go to our website for full information, www.communicate.co.uk/ne/lanchesterbowlingclub.

- 2 Come to the spring meeting (see the What's on page).
- 3 Ring Club Secretary Ken Raper on 01207 521673.
- 4 Come to the bowling green on a reasonably fine afternoon and introduce yourself to members. We hope to see you at this friendly but competitive club.

LATEST FROM THE CRICKET CLUB

The first fixtures of the new season will start on 26th April. The first team will entertain Ashington who could have both Durham fast bowlers Steve Harmison and Craig Wood leading the attack. That means that the seconds have the long ride in reverse to start their challenge to regain the title we relinquished last year. The club has enlisted another Aussie as overseas player for the coming season. Rhys Jones is from Perth and opens both batting and bowling. He played in the West of Scotland league last time around. Liam Dixon has been recruited from Annfield Plain to bring his coaching skills and strengthen the first team. Greg Patterson has

returned to the club after one season away and he is also joined by Johnny Green from Kimblesworth. Sadly, Paul Underwood has returned to a former club in Premier League Blaydon. The team will have a very youthful look and will be led once again by Stuart McPhail. The Under 13s side are still light of a couple of players and anyone in Year 7 or 8 would be welcomed to the club whatever your level of experience. If you want to know more, then contact Bob Gardiner on 07980 238187.

Our annual tidy up and spring clean is set for April 12th and final preparations will be made the following weekend.

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS 2014

Lanchester Cricket Club would like to thank all those kind people who have taken part in our recent survey dealing with what you think about the 2013 bonfire and fireworks event. However, we would still like some more responses.

If we do have a bonfire event this year, we would welcome your

thoughts on what we did last year and what changes you would like to see made.

Please help us by going to www.surveymonkey.com/s/WS7W7BD and by completing our short survey. There are only 10 questions and it will take less than five minutes, so go on, give us your thoughts.

Thank you.

BEER FESTIVAL

Matters are progressing as Lanchester Cricket Club continue to plan a May Beer Festival. The club is currently approaching potential sponsors to try and cover the cost of individual beers and ciders. If you are interested then please contact the club through Lanchestercr@outlook.com. A sponsor package costs £100. This gives access to the Friday night sponsors only event, 2 weekend passes with some drinks tokens included, advertising in the event programme and advertising through the currently being formed Lanchester beer festival website. All three nights will have live entertainment and fresh food. The aim is to have 25 beers and 15 ciders available along with a sample of wines. Tickets will be limited due to the licensing law requirements, so a sponsor package is a good deal and guarantees you a place at this exciting event.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 15th April. The deadline for **adverts** is 13th April.

DISASTER FOR ALL-WEATHER PITCH

Recently St Bede's School in Lanchester needed to replace their old all-weather pitch due to the sand surface being washed into the school with the heavy rain and flooding that took place recently. Fortunately, they were able to make a successful insurance claim and a new synthetic all-weather surface was laid. Then

came the bad luck. High winds have lifted the surface and it is unable to be used until another claim is settled and the re-laying work can be carried out. However, they are hoping to see the repair done by next term, at which time the facility will be available to the public. Please watch this space for availability and costs.



Damage caused by the high winds to the recently laid all weather pitch at St Bede's School

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