

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 5 Volume 15

Lanchester, May 2014

For contact information, see page 2

## EASTER EGG BOULING



*Children holding their eggs ready for the judging at this very popular event.  
Story and more pictures on page 4*

## FANCY DRESS HORSE RIDE



*Riders meeting at Glebe Farm ready for their Easter Fancy Dress ride*

Approximately 30 riders took part in a Fancy Dress Ride on Easter Saturday morning. The costumes were bright, fun and

colourful. Everyone who took part seemed to enjoy the event. They began at Glebe Farm, Esh, late morning, and were at the

King's Head in the village for a short time just after midday. They rode to Maiden Law for lunch. After this stop they

carried on to Greencroft Woods, Burnhope, then back to the Kings for a break, before returning home to Esh. The weather

was kind so it was a really good day out adding a great deal of colour and interest for people in the various villages.

**PUBLIC MEETING re Proposed Housing Development See page 8**



# Dear Village....

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

Dear Friends and Well Wishers

I am now more or less settled in my flat here in Highcliffe, so can at last write to thank you all so very much for your lovely cards and goodwill messages on my move to the 'sunny south' - would you believe it rained every day for the first week! My apartment is lovely and comfortable - no sea views but it is only a ten minute walk away. The residents are very friendly and welcoming and the social life seems quite busy and varied.

My very best wishes to you all and heartfelt thanks for the past 40 years of your friendship. Sincerely  
Naomi Little

Dear Village Voice

My husband John Crowe was diagnosed with early onset dementia/Alzheimer's. At age just 58 he now needs full time care and is in Abigail Lodge care home in Delves Lane, Consett. The Ivy Club at Burnhope held a charity weekend recently to raise money for John and his care home. We would really like to thank everyone who organised the events, to those who came and supported them and also to the businesses and everyone who donated raffle prizes for the cause. Mrs Margaret Crowe & family

Dear Village Voice

It is 20 years since I was successfully treated for cancer and to mark the occasion I decided to take part in the sponsored walk at Broom House Farm in aid of Cancer Research UK on Sunday, 11th May. With most of the sponsorship monies now collected I expect to be able to hand £550 over to the charity. I would like to thank you all for your generous support. Jen Smith

Dear Village Voice

I recently sent into your paper a request for information from your readers on the location of Bantley Rowe, Leadgate, where my ancestors lived and you kindly printed it. Thank you.

I came back from holiday to a message on my answering machine from a John Ballantyne, who I believe lives in Consett. His Father who is 91 and was born and bred in Leadgate now lives in Lanchester Village, he remembers Bantley as being a large estate of houses, with a pub called ?(something) Castle and Coke Ovens etc located he said at Brooms Road End in a location called Loud Bank.

I would like to discuss these details further with his Dad if he will, but John unfortunately did not leave a contact telephone number. Through your newspaper can I ask John or his Father to get in touch with me again. Thank you.

Edward Hogan  
Tel No 01670 821784 or mobile 07845199291

## Lanchester Community Centre is NOT closing

You may have read local press articles that suggest the Community Centre is under threat of closing. This is far from the truth. The Community Centre is self funding and relies on grants and donations to supplement income.

The Management are continuously looking at ways of increasing income to ensure the future of the Centre. I can assure you that your Community Centre has no plans to close its doors. John Hurran

## THE VILLAGE VOICE

## IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

### Jack's Seat

Come sit awhile upon Jack's seat,  
Close your eyes and dream,  
Listen to the different sounds,  
Passing by the green.

Upon Jack's seat your weary bones,  
Will once again revive,  
Just like when you visited Dr Jack when he were alive.

The people they decided,  
A memorial to Jack Fox,  
His love of the outdoors,  
Is remembered on the plaque,  
Upon his seat next to the green,  
Bide awhile, relax and dream.

Dear Village Voice

On Thursday just gone, a road sweeper went past our property. The vehicle threw up a stone which hit our window at such force, not only did it hit the window bar it put a hole into the front pane of glass but also shattered the rest of the pane.

Now I would like to find out why a machine like this is allowed on the road, it is a danger to people. If this was a person or animal stood in its way they would no doubt be seriously injured or dead. No one from the council has even bothered to contact us yet.

Christine Davison  
Browney Bank

Dear Village Voice

Just been reading the piece on Dr Jack Fox memorial seat in front of the King's Head.

In the late 80s I wrote a poetry book on Lanchester Village Folk whose jobs were largely unnoticed as such, characters most long gone now, but who did a lot for our community, like the caretaker of the Community Centre, the road sweeper, milk boy, paper boy and then the various shops again no longer there but modernised as we know them today.

One of the poems I did was for Dr Fox seat. He was your typical local doc who if your child developed a temperature on the weekend he rode his horse down to the village and tied it up outside the house while he sorted out what was needed and always had something to make things better.

The lions Make a Wish produced a book of my poems which is in the library; it shows the vast changes in this village over 26 years. I have provided a copy of this poem hoping that those who remember Dr Fox will enjoy reading it and hopefully they can come to some agreement as to keeping the plaque within the village where he belonged.

Yours sincerely  
Mary Carson

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## A TRIBUTE TO BOB AVERY

A large local musical hierarchy gathered in the social club recently, in order to celebrate the life of a much loved friend, Bob Avery.

Most of those present, which included Martin Mathews, Chris Kelly, Trevor Davidson, Pete Thompson, Tom Gilfellow and others, had known Bob for many decades. He was a popular man, with a huge personality and wonderful sense of humour. As a result, there are a wealth of anecdotes associated with Bob, such as stopping a bus to apprehend a vandal, and a novel method of retribution when diddled by a local trader.

Bob was born in Seaham in 1939, and like his surviving wife Elaine, was a schoolteacher and lived for many years in Witton Gilbert. Their abode was emblazoned with the name 'Coastguard Cottages'. It also displayed a Plimsoll Line with '1840 Flood Level' painted on it. This attracted press attention as his house was around 300 feet above sea level and twenty miles from the sea!

Bob and Elaine lived latterly in France, but retained a bolt hole in Durham, where Bob was often seen at folk clubs and sessions and recently at Lanchester Social Club. He had his



*Martin Mathews and friends play at the Tribute Evening held at the Social Club in memory of the late Bob Avery*

own unique repertoire such as 'Brown ale crazy' and 'Around go the big wheels'.

We sadly lost Bob him and nor will the recently due to a heart Guinness family, whose shares may have since others, will never forget taken a dive! Ian Tute

## A 'BALL' OF A WEDDING: FROM GOA TO LANCHESTER

With the sun shining brighter than ever, warm sea breezes enveloping the air, and amidst happy chaos, Michael Ball and Liszel Nathaniel, exchanged "I dos" in a grand quaint white church that was the 140 year old landmark of the Varca Village in Goa, India on 22nd February. Michael Ball, a Lanchester lad and Liszel Nathaniel, from Mumbai, India, crossed geographical and cultural boundaries when they met and fell in love.

Goa was a special spot for both Michael and Liszel. It was for Michael, the alluring sun, sand, beach and beer combination (the

right blend for a Lanchester boy) while for Liszel, a sentimental reason, her late grandparents were born here.

Knowing it wasn't a wedding that could be missed if they could help it, Michael's childhood mates came from more than 4000 miles away, Lanchester, Australia, Thailand and other parts of the UK, to support him. The theme of the wedding was Navy, Yellow, White and Starfish. Michael, his best-men, and groomsmen,

looked handsome in their navy blue suits, yellow ties, and handmade starfish boutonnieres (made by the bride). The



*The great white church and all the guests*

bride wore a vintage-inspired Victorian white gown, and her bridesmaids, blue and yellow chiffon dresses.

With the sea and palm trees as a backdrop and the thumping upbeat music that kept everyone on their feet late into the night, it was a day that will long be remembered.

The wedding celebrations found their way to Lanchester, at Crinnions on 15th March. The UK Wedding Do, hosted by Michael's proud parents, Richard and Pauline Ball, was held in a marquee set

up by Fiona and her wonderful staff, to welcome Liszel into the family. With a well-stocked bar, a sumptuous buffet and a live singer, the party was heaving with excitement and joy. All those who couldn't make

it to Goa, were there to congratulate and celebrate with Michael and Liszel. But wedding congratulations weren't the only reason, the party also celebrated Michael's 40th birthday. "What an absolute 'Ball'!!!"



*Left to right: David Hedley, Jonathan Richards, Jason Wright, Michael (Groom) Mark Stokoe (Rob), Mark Connolly, David Pickering; front row Paul Kelly and Ethan Connolly.*



*Left to right: Bride Liszel Nathaniel-Ball, Pauline Ball (Groom's mother), Michael Ball (Groom) and Richard Ball (Groom's father)*

# EASTER EGG BOULING



*Egg Boulders - 100 of them - a record!*

This traditional village Easter event got off to a cool start but by 11.00 am the sun broke through and it became the perfect day for Egg Bowling. Several helpers joined in to peel the onions while Noel Jackson and Burt Hunter gave the introduction and informed the gathering of 104 people which included 60 children, the history of the event and how the morning would proceed. They also spoke about the Wild Life organisation encouraging adults and children to join.

With speeches over it was off to find celandines, cow parsley, any other wild flowers and leaves to go with the onion leaves. Then it was wrapping the eggs time and families huddled together in groups to carry out this important task. With eggs wrapped, labelled and secure they were passed to Burt who inserted them into boiling water. With a

record number of entrants an extra pan and more than expected new cloths had to be used. Next it was the Egg Hunt. All proceeded to Paste Egg Bank where tickets had been placed around the perimeter of the field by Elaine Williams. Children scampered all over the field gathering these, to be rewarded with sweets. With the hunt concluded it was back to Burt's van for the judging. This was preceded by the 'Paste Egging Song' performed by the 'Jolly Boys', Noel Jackson who also played his English Concertina, Burt Hunter and press ganged volunteer, Dr Ian Brunt. This was a super interlude which added to the already great atmosphere. After much scrutiny by the judges, Marnie, Catherine and Evie were announced as the winners.

Following the judging everyone walked up Paste Egg Hill again for

the bowling. There was tremendous enthusiasm with children and parents alike and very competitive! This year as Easter was late the grass was long and it was difficult to boule properly. Competitors began hurling the eggs down and many smashed. At 12.00 midday prompt, Noel ended the competition and the joint winners who bouled the furthest were Paul Deaville and Evan Toase.

It was a fabulous Easter morning and great fun for all involved. Dr Brunt is thanked for the use of his field.



*Some happy egg wrapping going on here*



*Winners: Marnie (centre 1st), Catherine (left 2nd) and Evie (3rd)*

## MAKE WAY FOR THE CROSS

The Methodist Church was a good place to be on the evening of Good Friday. The Methodist Circuit Choir under their musical director, Harry Carr, and accompanied by Mavis Coulson, their resident pianist, and a group of excellent instrumentalists, gave a very good performance of a musical work entitled 'Make Way for the Cross' This choir holds a musical event at Christmas and Easter and always attracts

a good audience. It is made up of men and women and there is a lovely blend of voices. The sincerity of the singing is very evident and last Friday a large audience enjoyed the performance. Several members sang solo parts and all partakers sang their words clearly and with just the right emphasis. Everyone listening could feel the sentiment, as the Tragedy of the Cross gave way to

the Joy and Triumph of the Resurrection. Reverend Gavin Hume closed the performance with prayer and invited everyone to stay for coffee or tea afterwards. There was a wonderful feeling of fellowship, and a very happy atmosphere prevailed. Thank you Methodist Circuit Choir for a lovely evening, so very fitting for this special day in the Christian Calendar. Brenda Craddock



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*A full church for the performance*

# GOOD FRIDAY ON THE GREEN 2014



*Gathered near the crosses*

As soon as we see three wooden crosses erected on the village green we know that the great Christian festival of Easter is about to be celebrated in our three village churches. In 'Holy Week', the week leading up to Good Friday and Easter Sunday, services are held in each church and then on Good Friday, for many years, members from each church gather on the green at 9.30 am to

hold a short service beside the three crosses. This year was no exception and there were a good number of people of all ages, gathered round the three crosses. Sarah (in her push chair), Tommy and Harry Hewitson who attend the catholic Church were there as a family and there were two ladies in their eighties, with their families. Canon Spence led the service with five people from his

congregation. Each, in turn read out an abbreviated 'Stations of the Cross' and there was a response for everyone to join in. It was a lovely service, to honour this special day in the Christian Calendar. Canon Spence then closed the service with prayer, after which people dispersed to attend their own church for another longer service. Brenda Craddock

## EASTER SATURDAY

It is four years now that 'Churches Together' have arranged something special for Easter Saturday, and this year they once again kept to the format of other years, as it has proved successful. There is a coffee morning every Saturday morning in the Methodist Church but the Easter one is special and open to everyone in

the village. The 'Churches Together' team are in charge of the coffee and tea and you also receive from them a Hot Cross Bun which they have previously buttered generously and placed in a serviette bearing the words, 'Why the cross on a Hot Cross Bun?' The explanation is on the other side of the serviette, though I think we all know that Jesus died on a cross on Good Friday and suffered greatly. There is no part of suffering that Jesus has not experienced himself, and through the cross he can help with all our earthly suffering.

While the coffee is served in church, a short service

is held outside the church building. Mrs Ann Sinclair (Lay Reader in the Church of England) led the readings and members from each church read parts of the Easter Story from the Bible. Canon Spence led the prayers and several well loved and appropriate Easter Hymns were sung accompanied by music from Harry Carr and his instrumental helpers. Members of Lanchester Brass Band also accompanied the singing.. Another activity also takes place during the service which helps to make all the village feel part of this event. Members of the



*A large group delivered an Easter service with music, hymns, prayers and readings*

'Churches Together' team go into all the shops or businesses in Front Street and distribute hot cross buns wrapped in

their special serviettes. You could say they were showing that everyone matters to and is loved by God. Brenda Craddock



*Amos Morris receives a hot cross bun from David Hughes*

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# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2014

## Minutes

Ordinary meeting held on 8th April 2014 - approved.

### Lanchester Cricket Club

The club has secured a grant from Sport England to refurbish the changing room area. The conditions of the grant are problematic for the cricket club with their existing licence arrangement. The Parish Council could become the recipient of the grant, administer the grant and work with the cricket club to deliver the project. Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council becomes the recipient of the grant and that the Clerk and Councillors meet regularly with the cricket club to deliver the project.

**Neighbourhood Warden Report** - Neighbourhood

Warden report was received. Concern was raised of the incidents of fly tipping in the Parish. Councillors and members of the public were encouraged to report any incidents of fly tipping to the County Council.

### Correspondence

**Lanchester & Burnhope Parochial Church Council** - letter of thanks for donation received.

**Data Protection & Data Controllers** - information received on a recent training course.

**Clerk & Councils Direct** - May newsletter received.

**Consett Neighbourhood Policing Team** - permission was given to use Kitswell Bike track and car park area for a bike security marking event.

### Lanchester Cricket Club Football Team

permission was given for an adult football team to use the football field at Kitswell Park for the 2014/15 season.

**The Clerk Magazine** - received.

### Area Action Partnership and Parish Councils Committee

Members considered the Village Action Plan prepared by the Area Action Partnership.

Members noted that the grass was being damaged by vehicles on the Village Green. It was agreed to seek prices for a post and chain fence in this area.

### Training

It was agreed that the Clerk should attend a training session on 'Village Greens'.

### Park House

Members were informed that the notice to vacate the office at Park House comes into effect on 28th May. However it is likely that the current owners and new owners will extend this to August. Clerk will progress.

### Neighbourhood Planning

Members agreed the minutes of the first working group meeting. It was agreed that the Parish boundary should be the geographical area for the plan. The geographical area needs to be submitted to the County Council for approval.

### Banner Celebration Event

Members considered and agreed the minutes of the working group meeting which gave progress on the organisation of the

event which will take place on Friday 27th June.

### Maintenance Progress Report

Members considered the report. Thanks were given to David Maddox for his work in the Parish.

**Newsletter** - The quarterly newsletter was approved for distribution.

### Schedule of meetings 2014/15

- received  
**Insurance Renewal** - The insurance premium of £739.28 was agreed.

**Internal Audit Report** - approved.

**Year on Year Budget** - received.

**Financial report** - discussed and approved.

**Accounts for Payment** - approved.

The next Ordinary meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th June 2014 at 7.15 pm.

## LANCHESTER COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

Early in May two workshops took place to continue the work started last year to produce a Community Emergency Plan for Lanchester. The workshops were facilitated by Carole Lawford from the Civil Contingencies Unit who is working with communities on a national initiative to produce local emergency plans. A draft document

for Lanchester has been prepared by the community. This draft document can be viewed on the Lanchester Partnership website from the beginning of June via the following link [www.lanchesterpartnership.org.uk/links](http://www.lanchesterpartnership.org.uk/links) Comments and suggestions on the draft plan can be forwarded to Sally Laverick on 01207 521957 until 20th June.

## A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR LANCHESTER

The Parish Council report (above) records that the Council have decided to proceed with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. It also records that we are asking the County Council to designate the Parish boundary as the geographical area to be covered by the Plan. This request starts a six week consultation to be carried out by the County Council during which representations can be made regarding this proposal. The County Council can then confirm the designation or modify it in the light of any representations received. Please keep an eye on the Parish Council notice board and the County Council website for further details.

The Parish Council have convened an initial working group to undertake this task which

is likely to take 18 months to 2 years to complete. This group has representatives at present from the Council itself, the Lanchester Partnership, the Campaign to Protect Rural Lanchester Group, the Farming community and several members of the community.

Representatives from other appropriate organisations or individuals are welcome - please contact Sally Laverick, Lead Officer (01207 521957), or Councillor Mike Wardle who is chairing the Working Group (01207 521622).

The Working Group intends to draw upon work already done in the Parish and published in the Village Design Statement, the Parish Plan and the Locality Map with initial concerns focussing on: The Historic Environment; the

Settlement Limit; designation of Green Spaces; Flooding; Wildlife Corridors; areas of Landscape Value; Sustainable Development and Alternative Energy - however it is likely that there will be a range of additional issues that the plan will consider.

There will be opportunities to input into the plan throughout the process, however if you have any immediate concerns please let either Sally or Mike know.

It is intended to keep everyone informed as the Plan develops by a variety of forms of consultation and the final version will have to be put to the vote of the whole Parish before it can be approved. When it is approved it will be a significant part of the whole planning process as it applies to Lanchester. It will be an important document.

**David Harris**

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# MINERS' BANNER PROJECT

The Fenhall Drift Banner project is nearing an end following 2 years of work from Lanchester Miners' Banner group. The work of the group has resulted in necessary conservation works being

undertaken on the original banner, the production of a replica banner, art and dance workshops in the schools and the production of a community information leaflet and schools packs.

The project will culminate in a celebration event on 27th June, where both the original and replica banners can be viewed, symbols of the history of Lanchester and a legacy for the future.



*Emma Shankland, of Durham Bannermakers, leads the Family Art Workshop preparing items for children to wear at the big celebration event on 27th June. The workshop was held at the Community Centre.*

## CELEBRATION EVENT

A celebration of the banner project is planned for Friday 27th June in the afternoon.

At 1.30 pm the replica banner led by dignitaries and Lanchester Brass Band and accompanied by several hundred school children will parade along Front Street from the EP Primary School to the Village Green. Councillor Ossie Johnson will welcome everyone to the event. At the Village Green the children will provide a display of Maypole and

traditional miners' rapper dancing. In addition music will be provided by Lanchester Brass Band and St Bede's School. Light refreshments will be available. There will be an opportunity to view the replica banner and art work from St Bede's School on the green.

The original banner will be displayed at the Parish Church which will be open for people to attend and view.

Please come along and enjoy the first outing of

our community banner. This event is dependent on favourable weather conditions. The event will finish at approximately 3.00 pm and children will return to their schools in time for normal school pick up times.

Please note that the whole of Front Street will be closed to traffic between 1.15 pm - 2.00 pm. In addition the section of Front Street in front of the Village Green will be closed to traffic between 2.00 pm - 3.10 pm.

## BLESSING OF THE BANNER

The original Fenhall Drift Lodge Banner is to be hung in the Parish Church at the end of June. To mark this

occasion the banner will be blessed at a Service in Lanchester Parish Church on Sunday 29th June at 10.30 am.

Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy this special service and see the original banner in its new home.

## DURHAM GALA

The replica banner will attend Durham Gala on Saturday 12th July. Burnhope Banner Group have kindly arranged for us to march and attend with their banner. Transport is being arranged to the gala. A bus will leave at approximately 8.15 am from Lanchester and will

return to Lanchester and Burnhope at the end of the gala.

Please contact Freda Dawson, Burnhope Banner group on 07812173915 if you would like to book a place on this transport. Tickets cost £5 for 13+ years and £2 for 5 - 12 year olds. Or make your

own way there and join us in Durham for this exciting event.

It is hoped that the banner will be selected to be Blessed at Durham Cathedral at the 3 pm service on Saturday 12th July. This would be an amazing occasion. Final confirmation of this decision is awaited.

*Est 13 years*

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## PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT NEWBIGGEN LANE

Following DCC receiving the planning application in relation to the Newbiggen Lane proposed development to build 151 properties, The Campaign for the Protection of Rural Lanchester together with Lanchester Partnership, have organised a public meeting to discuss these plans in more detail and formulate their main response. The meeting is organised for Wednesday 28th May at 7.30pm at Croft View Halls and will have already taken place by the time this publication is distributed so they have allocated another evening, Tuesday 3rd June, 7.30pm at Croft View Halls for anyone who has missed the public meeting or is wondering how to reply to this proposal.

Members of both The Campaign for the Protection of Rural Lanchester and Lanchester Partnership will be on hand to assist and answer any queries you may have. A development of this size will affect everyone in the village in relation to Transport, Parking, School places, Flooding etc, so please don't leave it to others. Your comments are required to show DCC the strength of opinion in the village. DCC have kindly extended the date for comments to be received to Friday 6th June 2014. Comments should be emailed using dmstrategic@durham.gov.uk or posted to County Hall Durham quoting application number DM/14/00763/FPA.

## POLICE REPORT

Over the April period the PACT priority for Lanchester has been road related matters on Howden Bank especially in the area of Ornsby Hill. Concerns include speeding vehicles from Ornsby Hill towards St Bede's Court, incorrect alignment of the roadside mirror and road signs being obstructed by foliage. Community Speedwatch Equipment has been deployed in the area and identified 16 speeders who will receive warning letters to the registered keeper's address. A site visit has also been completed between Durham County Council, Police and a local resident to discuss the mirror and road signs which will be cleaned and adjusted in the near future.

At the May PACT meeting the community

decided to change the priority to parking with the problem areas being identified as Peth Bank due to the increase in vehicle size, and residential estates near St Bede's School including Fenhall Park and Bishop's Meadow. Officers have visited St Bede's School and provided a letter for distribution to all sixth form pupils regarding their manner of parking. Until Friday 30th May officers will be visiting the areas daily to monitor parking concerns and any vehicles seen to be causing an obstruction to pedestrians, pushchair or wheelchair users will be issued with a Traffic 173A Warning Notice with a view to try and educate drivers. After this time any vehicles seen by officers to be causing an obstruction

will be issued with a £30 Fixed Penalty Notice. The date of the next PACT meeting is Tuesday 3rd June at 6.30 pm in Burnhope Primary School, everyone is welcome. Over the coming weeks local officers will be in Lanchester All Saints Primary and Lanchester EP School offering free security marking for bicycles and scooters to all pupils as part of Operation Spoke. Full details will be sent home with pupils closer to the time. Officers are also in the process of organising further marking events in the village over the coming months. In the meantime anyone with any problems or queries please don't hesitate to contact either PC 1714 Scott Crowhurst or PCSO 6780 Lisa Jackson on 101.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

Tristram Hunt MP, the Shadow Secretary of State for Education, visited Lanchester at the beginning of May to meet with my North West Durham Youth Forum at St Bede's School and then later to meet with a group of teachers, Head Teachers, College Principals, Durham Education Officers and Councillor Ossie Johnson who is Durham County's lead Councillor for Children's Services. Tristram was there principally to meet with the young people, listen to their concerns about what is happening with education and how it affects them and to ask what he would do differently if he is Secretary of State for Education in May

2015. Some of the things they asked about were: what is going to happen to tuition fees, will AS levels continue and what role will continuous assessment and course work play in future GCSEs. The students asked very mature questions that received well thought out and reflective answers.

The Q&A session with Headteachers from the primary, secondary and FE sectors made Tristram aware of the concerns about fragmentation and lack of co-ordination in the system, the way in which 'Fair Access Protocols' are working or not working and the importance of qualified teachers. I was also keen to share my view that teachers

are not just adults who stand at the front of classrooms or on football fields or even in science labs, who impart knowledge but have no wider responsibilities to the child. In my view, and considerable experience, a teacher is someone who has responsibility for the well-being, safety and academic progress of his/her pupils. I would want qualified teachers for my child and would expect no less for yours.

It is always good to welcome people to our community who may be in a position to exert national powers that will ultimately influence our schools locally. It was really good to see how well Tristram interacted with the young people and to see how seriously he took the views of both the young people during my youth forum and the adults he met afterwards. Pat Glass MP

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# THE HARDY BIKERS RETURN

Bikes, bands and booze is what the Ben Hur Rally is all about. Lanchester Centurions Motorcycle Club once again hosted this annual event. They think it is the tenth they have held on this site but are a bit vague about it.

Perhaps things blur when you are having a lot of fun. If the thought of spending two nights in a windy wet field in early May is not your idea of fun you are not like this hardy crowd. Bikers have travelled from Scotland

and the west coast for the privilege. The event sold out over a month ago with 499 people expected. This year's chosen charity is the Air Ambulance and they are possibly the highest private contributor to this



*Assembled bikes at the Rally camp site*

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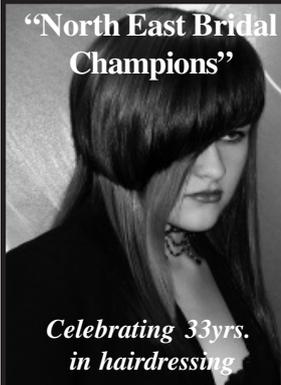
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charity. The event was expected to raise around £3000 in support of this worthy cause. Two bands were booked each night. Fun and 'silly' games run on Saturday afternoon including a chariot race, very appropriate for a club with Centurion in its name. The bikes ranged from well preserved classics to the top of the range modern bikes and trikes. Many were customised and some home built.

On site were a Christian Bikers tent and one from the Motorcycle Action Group that lobbies politicians on behalf of bikers. The group have been lobbying with some success locally to permit bikes to use bus lanes and for parking places in order to reduce congestion and pollution problems.

The bar is an important part of the site, so much so that they first site the bar before erecting the marquee over it to get just the right atmosphere. Sophisticated lighting and projection systems are also used. The bikers say they much appreciate their trips to the village and they lend their support to our local shops and hostelrys.



*A happy couple, not from Scotland as their kilts might suggest, but from the Kendal Motorcycle Club*

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## 2014 BALL RAISES OVER £4,500 FOR HENRY DANCER DAYS

Beamish Hall Hotel was once more the spectacular venue for the 3rd Annual Ball. Supporters turned out in their finery and raised a fantastic sum for children with cancer.

Shakedown, the band, and Grosvenor Casinos made for an excellent night's entertainment, with the Casino raising £400. Match funds were also secured from Barclays Bank.

There were two anonymous donations on the evening which added considerably to the total. Thanks to all who attended and to those who donated prizes to make the event



Jane Natrass (Henry's Mum), Paul Kelly (Barclays) and Nikki Locke (Trustee)

such a huge success. The charity now supports 66 families throughout the UK and is supporting projects in NE hospitals, including the Great North Children's Hospital where Henry was treated.

## LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The small hall of the Community Centre was filled to capacity for the final indoor summer meeting of the Society held on Friday 2nd May. The speaker was President of the Society, John Gall, who showed slides of Lanchester many years ago, with his wife Rosie being 'projectionist'. The slides and John's comments were very interesting. They included some photographs of the old Halls in the area, with the demolished Greencroft Hall, all of which gave an insight in to life in the area in a bygone age. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and John and Rosie were warmly thanked by Chairman John Thompson.

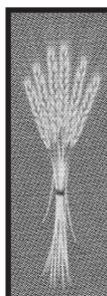
After the presentation, Chairman John then performed the sad task of saying 'Goodbye' to Kevin Leary as Society Secretary who has filled this post for 18 years. Kevin became a member in 1968 and as Secretary worked hard to produce varied programmes for all those years. He was presented with a bottle of single malt whisky in appreciation of all his hard work.

We are very pleased that Arthur Dodds has agreed to take over as Secretary for a year and he has already planned an interesting programme for the 2014-15 session. It was then announced

that at the beginning of the next year (first meeting on Friday 5th September), the annual subscription will go up to £12, with the fee for visitors rising to £3. This was a reluctant decision made by the Committee. However, there will be an extra indoor meeting in June 2015. It was also decided that meetings would start at 7 pm and we look forward to seeing old members and new, as well as visitors, after the summer break.



Chairman John Thompson makes the presentation to Kevin Leary



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## YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE CANCER ALONE

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An update on your local Macmillan direct support service.

Funded by Macmillan Cancer Support, this service was launched in February to support people living alone and going through chemotherapy and related treatment. The aim of the service is to provide practical support and a listening ear by Macmillan-trained volunteers. They can help you in practical ways with the vacuuming or change a bed for you - maybe do a bit of shopping or accompany you on a local walk. They'll also be more than happy to simply sit down, have a

You can access the service if you live in the Lanchester Valley area, including villages on both sides of the valley. The following are the ways in which you can access the service:

1. Through your nurse specialist who will phone in a referral on your behalf.
2. Through the Macmillan Information and Advice Service
3. You can also refer yourself by calling Jackie Easton on 07410 950 390 or Dee Teasdale on 07410 950 391. Jackie or Dee will be happy to talk with you and then visit and agree what the volunteer will do.

## MACMILLAN BIG NIGHT IN

Thank you to all friends who took part in our BIG NIGHT IN on Friday 16th May. There were 30 people who attended. The event was held at Marie Muncaster's house in the centre of the village. About 30 ladies attended and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening with a lovely buffet and wine.



Ladies enjoying themselves at the MacMillan fund raising event

Thank you to the following retailers who contributed to the night's success: Crinnions, Knitsley Farm Shop and Hanley & Swinbank Ltd.

Also a great big thank you to all of the volunteers who provided a range of tasty eats, games to play and

prizes. Everyone enjoyed the night and in excess of £500 was raised to support Macmillan.

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## CHRISTIAN AID FUND RAISER

A Coffee Morning was held at the Methodist Church on Saturday Morning 17th May. With the weather being very warm lots of people attended, and the stall where plants and bric a brac were on sale was

placed outside. The cakes table remained inside doing brisk business and contributing to a grand total for the day of £283.60. The full total for house collections is unavailable at the time of going to press.



Judith Brown, organiser for Christian Aid, with friends, at the sales table outside in the sunshine.

## COMMUNITY CENTRE FOOD BANK COLLECTION

FOOD4U, which is based in Consett, would like to convey their very warm thanks to all those who have generously contributed to the Foodbank collection bin which was located in the conservatory of the Community Centre in Lanchester.

The Foodbank has now moved to Medomsley Road in Consett and the demand is constant and growing so that all your contributions are very much appreciated. If you want to continue to help such a worthwhile cause, FOOD4U will be pleased to receive your donations at the new location.

# BRASS QUINTET LEAD SERVICE

A quintet from the Lanchester Brass Band took a leading part in the St George's Day annual service organised by Derwentside District Scouts. The members of the quintet are all Scouts: Simon Biasi and James Draper - Explorer Scouts; Dominic Biasi and Rebecca Draper - Scouts; and Mark Draper - Scout Leader. Because of ever increasing numbers, the parade and service were

held at Gibside. This year the number ran into hundreds. Every Group in Derwentside - Scouts from Annfield Plain, Blackhill, Burnopfield, Consett, Dipton and Leadgate took part. Scouts from Chester le Street and Blaydon Districts had been invited to join Derwentside for this event. A Scout Drum Band from Chester le Street led the parade along The Avenue to the area in

front of the chapel where flags from all sections of all groups were received by the Reverend Gary Birchall of Burnopfield St James and Barry Abbott, Chaplain to Gibside. The Reverend Birchall led the service helped by Scouts from Burnopfield, and the hymns were led by the brass quintet from Lanchester, who performed in a very professional manner, conducted by Scout Leader Mark Draper.



*Derwentside Flags are presented*

## ANOTHER JOB FOR OSSIE



*Ossie being welcomed by John Wills, the District Chairman*

Members of the Derwentside District Scout Council were very pleased to appoint Councillor Oddie Johnson as President at their Annual General meeting. The meeting was held in the very recently and well refurbished Headquarters of the 2nd Annfield Plain Scout Group.

Mr Johnson had been President in 2002 when he was Chairman of the Derwentside District Council and has been the representative of Durham County Council to the Derwentside Scouts for several years.

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## LATEST FROM THE CRICKET CLUB

Of course it rained at the start of the season; cricket wouldn't be the same without it. The firsts have managed to play all three games so far but probably wished they hadn't. The players worked hard to get the pitch fit in weeks one and three but it was their opponents who were most grateful as we succumbed to Ashington and Ponteland. Ashington were first up and won comfortably after a poor batting display from Lanchester. Then the side won at Consett in a low

scoring affair. Greg Patterson made 50 and Rhys Jones made 40+ with the bat. However all the bowlers chipped in as they skittled Consett for less than 100. The match against Ponteland was the only one in the league but a poor batting display followed as we failed to chase down 147, where Kev Dixon and Kieron Taylor had taken three wickets apiece. The seconds have yet to play with the matches at Ashington and Ponteland being rained off and Newcastle City

conceded on the one day Saturday we've had so far. The thirds managed a comfortable victory at Tantobie where Chris Tully top scored with 47 and Arran Halliday, Mark Small and James Robson all scored well. The home game against Annfield Plain started but was rained off within 5 overs. The under 18s had a tough start losing to Shotley Bridge and Greenside who were going to be their closest rivals. The 15s and 13s haven't played yet due to the weather whilst the 11s made a winning start beating Burnopfield.

Some good news for the club was a successful grant application with Sport England which means a total refurb of the changing rooms, a most welcome update for the club to bring our facilities up to date.

## LANCHESTER TABLE TENNIS CLUB UPDATE

Throughout 2013 Lanchester Table Tennis Club grew from strength to strength which saw an increase in members and a highly successful league season.

In 2013 the team won promotion from Division 4 in the Summer league to Division 3 and it is hoped we can hold our own in the third division. The Winter league season provided the team with a tougher test and they just missed promotion. Lanchester Social Club has been the home of our league team throughout the winter and this will continue through the Summer league.

The club would like to thank Billy Johnson of Fastfit Tyres Langley for sponsoring the club in the last 12 months and it is hoped this relationship continues. Numerous local businesses and individuals have given donations and we would like to thank them all. A huge thank you to Mary Slane and Lanchester Methodist Church who held a coffee morning to raise £100 for the club. This will be spent on funding a new coach.

The Junior sessions (11-18 years) have moved to St Bede's school, 5.00 - 7.30 pm on Wednesdays and 5.00 - 7.00 pm on Fridays, cost £1.50 per hour.

The under 11s sessions will remain at the Community Centre from 6.00 - 7.00 pm on both Wednesdays and Fridays, also £1.50 per hour.

We have received funding to provide adult only sessions at the Community Centre. We will run a HITS (Health Improvement Through Sport) session on Wednesday evenings, 7.00 - 8.00pm at £2 per hour. On Friday evenings (7.00 - 8.00pm) we will run the sessions in conjunction with Move Into Sport, an initiative to reduce the risk of Diabetes. Table Tennis taster sessions will also be available on a daily basis. The tables need to be booked through the Community Centre office at £6 per hour. We await confirmation of a training and exhibition evening by 2012 Olympian and 2014 Spanish Open winner Paul Drinkhall on August 9th. Details to follow.

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## MIXED START FOR BOWLING CLUB

Glass half full, glass half empty. You have to be philosophical if you play bowls at Lanchester. At the time of writing we have had five wins and six losses in our league matches. Glorious shirt sleeve weather or waterproofs and

thermals. That's bowling in May. There is still time to get involved and join our club for a season of sport and friendship. Ten pounds for the season and help to get you started. You will get a warm welcome, so why not give it a try?

## THE INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMME

A session was held at Lanchester Library on Saturday 17th May, for young children with parents. Karen Gibson, from Durham County Council was the organiser. The programme is also sponsored by Age UK. The aim of the project is to bring older and younger people together through activities such as: Art and Crafts; Sport and Exercise; Environmental Projects; Local History; Learning New Technology and Themed Reminiscence Activities. This particular session was aimed at the very young who were shown, and played with toys and games from many years ago. Volunteers are needed for this interesting and beneficial way to help others with a diverse range of activities. 'Bridging the Gap' courses are available accredited by the Open College Network. Free training can be given for those aged 14-24 and 50+. Further information may be obtained from caroline.evans@ageuk countydurham.org.uk or telephone 0191 3839750.



*Karen Gibson, Intergenerational Development Worker, with one of the young children at Lanchester Library*

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Tuna Sweetcorn Burgers

The recipe serves four and is useful as a quick supper or can be taken on a picnic.

#### Ingredients

85g/3 oz white bread, torn into pieces  
198g can sweetcorn, drained  
2 x 185g cans tuna in spring water, drained  
25g/1 oz grated cheddar cheese  
3 spring onions, finely chopped  
1 egg, beaten  
2 tbsp vegetable oil  
Wholemeal buns, lettuce and salsa, to serve

#### Method

1. Whizz the bread to crumbs in a food

processor, tip into a bowl, then whizz half the sweetcorn until finely chopped and tip into the bowl. Add the remaining whole corn, tuna, cheese, spring onions and some seasoning to the bowl and mix well. Add the egg, bit by bit (you may not need it all), until the mixture is sticky enough to be shaped into 4 equal sized burgers.

2. Heat the oil in a non-stick pan, then cook the burgers for 5 mins on each side until golden and hot through the middle. Stuff into wholemeal buns with your favourite lettuce and a good spoonful of salsa.

## SOCIAL CLUB FA CUP DRAW



*Richard Young (left), Lanchester Social Club, presents cheques to beneficiaries from the recent FA Cup Draw: Anne Hurran (2nd left), Lanchester Bowling Club, £200.00; Liz Smith (3rd left), Lanchester Playgroup, £200; John Hurran (back) receives first prize of £1000 having drawn Arsenal in the ballot. Chairman of the Social Club, Peter Stephens, is on the extreme right. Not in the photo: Second prize of £400 went to Denis Laycock and £20 went to James Draper for his forthcoming World Challenge Trip, thanks to his father, Mark, who assisted in the administration of the competition. Lanchester Social Club will divide the remainder of the profit from the draw between Great North Air Ambulance and Willow Burn Hospice.*

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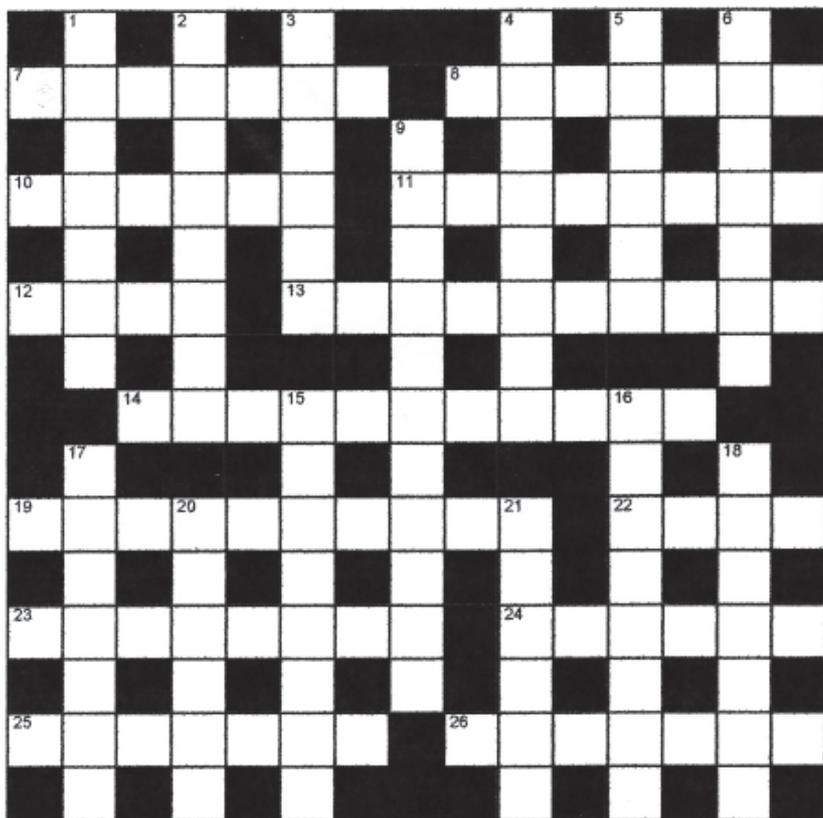


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# CROSSWORD 97



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

## CROSSWORD 96

We are sorry for the error in last month's crossword competition (not enough space for the c in ramshackle). However this did not deter our regular entrants.

Congratulations to Fred Heppell of Lee Hill Court who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

### ACROSS

- 7. Followtrick before style (7)
- 8. Devoted wayfarer (7)
- 10. Posterior (6)
- 11. Menu (1,2,5)
- 12. Operatic solo (4)
- 13. Severe gauntness (10)
- 14. Make happen in unison (11)
- 19. Wrong heap spread (4-6)
- 22. Indigenous tribe shows intelligence (4)
- 23. Moles cover ass in syrup (8)
- 24. Flexible (6)
- 25. Oh! local liquor (7)
- 26. Withdraw (7)

### DOWN

- 1. Desiccated (4-3)
- 2. Sicily's position! (3,5)
- 3. Horse's headgear (6)
- 4. Award nothing to wrecked Titanic (8)
- 5. Horrified (6)
- 6. This will not take a quart (4,3)
- 9. Prim Pam also a mis-use of words (11)
- 15. Unity (8)
- 16. Tanzanian island (8)
- 17. Shape again (7)
- 18. UN farce is heat producer (7)
- 20. Deduce (6)
- 21. Illustrate (6)

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 96

### ACROSS

- 1. novel
- 4. countless
- 8. genie
- 9. uncannily
- 11. adze
- 12. state
- 13. hype
- 16. embarrassment
- 19. year of the goat
- 20. Arms
- 22. macho
- 23. abet
- 26. ramshackle
- 27. still
- 28. narrative
- 29. ashen

### DOWN

- 1. niggardly
- 2. Venezuela
- 3. lees
- 4. counter-attack
- 5. tint
- 6. edify
- 7. style
- 10. cottage cheese
- 14. abbot
- 15. Ascot
- 17. establish
- 18. triathlon
- 20. apron
- 21. mimer
- 24. Shia
- 25. Asia

## SUDOKU

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

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

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## WI NEWS

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed everyone before doing the reading. Maureen Clarkson reported on the County Meeting which 6 members attended.

Would members who would like to help at Lanchester Show please contact the organisers for details.

Booking forms are out for diaries £3.70 and calendars £2.50.

Members voted on the Organ donation resolution after Jennifer read out the arguments for and against and members commented. It was a yes vote.

One darts team made it through to the WI darts

finals and though they did not win, Shirley Mair, Marian Williams, Lynn Hodgson and Marie Murphy were best in the heats. Well done ladies.

Competition winners were Jill Gladstone and Heather Muir and the raffle winners were Heather Muir and Lynn Hodgson. Our speakers were Patricia Stainsby and Anya Simpson who run Satins and Silks. They started 4 years ago selling at markets and craft fairs but now sell in the Sage, Durham Cathedral Shop and Country House Hotels. All the silk goods are imported from countries like Thailand where they are hand made

and are Fair Trade. We were told about the history of silk from 1070 BC which is the date of silk found in the hair of an Egyptian Mummy and Saint Cuthbert was found wrapped in silk. We were informed about the different types of silk in use today, how silk has developed and how it is now used to make the high quality and beautiful items they sell. Bags were passed round so we could see the workmanship and the textures of different silks. This was a very interesting and informative talk. Ann Carr gave the vote of thanks and the meeting ended with refreshments.



*Elizabeth Lothion, Maureen Barker, Barbara Sproat and June Wallis admiring beautiful bags from Satins and Silks.*

## LADIES WHO LUNCH

We're still utilising vouchers - a bit like sorting out the bill with everyone paying their way - it's a woman thing - we absolutely love a bargain!

This month we've been back to lovely Lumley Castle making the most of their '2 for £38' 3 course lunch with coffee. Of course it isn't just that it's a good deal, Lumley Castle itself is an absolute gem, right here on our doorstep, a delight to visit anytime and the Black Knight restaurant a perfect setting for a

long, decadent lunch - we love it.

We sampled for starters pickled red mullet with wilted spinach and tomato and red onion salad, potato gratin with blue cheese crumbs and dressed rocket. Main course was pan fried sea bass with pink grapefruit and spring onion salad, roast lamb with Yorkshire pudding and seasonal vegs, pan seared lambs liver with spring onion and grain mustard gravy + vegetable spring rolls served with honey and sesame bok choy with a

sweet chilli dipping sauce. Puds were plum tart with lemon sorbet, lemon and lime tart with fresh raspberries and Chantilly cream + baked vanilla cheesecake with a berry compote. The meal was then completed with a particularly good cup of coffee served with crispy mints.

Excellent food, well presented, served by attentive, welcoming staff in a quiet and peaceful atmosphere. We had a most enjoyable lunch and we will be back!

**The Gourmet Girls**



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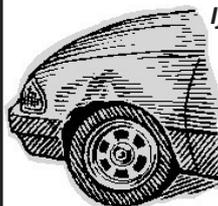


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## ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

# WHAT'S ON?

## WI

Our next meeting will take place in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 2nd June at 7.15 pm. This is our Strawberry Night and as well as a delicious strawberry supper we will be entertained by the 'Just Us' Ukulele Group. The competition is a musical item.

For those who are going to see Grumpy Old Women on 6th June, we will be catching the 6.38 bus to Durham.

## PACT meeting

The next PACT meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd June at 6.30 pm in Burnhope Primary School. All welcome.

## Vintage Tractor Club

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th June at 7.30 pm in Crinnions.

## Open House

Everyone is welcome at the Open House in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 5th June, 11.30 am to 1.00 pm for a light lunch.

## Country Market

The next market will take place on Saturday 7th June from 10 am to 12 noon in the Methodist Church.

## Junior/Family Wildlife

On Sunday 8th June there will be a visit to Town Kelloe Bank. Meet in the Community Centre car park at 9.30 am.

## Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th June at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre. Speaker to be confirmed.

## Mothers' Union

The meeting on Wed 11th June is the Musical Evening when the church's Music Group will be singing a selection of songs, but because of choir practice we will meet in the Chapter House and go into church for 7.30 pm.

## Coffee Morning

The Community Association is organising a coffee morning to raise money in aid of Fraja Ellie Simpson who is suffering from Neuroblastoma and can only receive treatment overseas. The appeal is to try and raise £500,000 to help Fraja and other children suffering from the same condition. The Coffee Morning will be held in the Community Centre on 12th June between 9 am and 12 noon. For more information go to [www.justgiving.com/fraja-ellie-simpsonappeal](http://www.justgiving.com/fraja-ellie-simpsonappeal)

## All About Lungs

Breathe Easy (British Lung Foundation) is organising a Respiratory Awareness Afternoon on Thursday June 12th from 2.00 to 4.00 pm in Lanchester Community Centre.

Come and meet our group. Specialist respiratory nurses will be on hand to offer advice, information and free spirometry tests.

Information leaflets, a tombola and some refreshments will be available.

Everyone is welcome. There is no charge. For more information ring Jill Gladstone on 528 114.

## Noel and Tricia Richards Concert

Top internationally known singer and songwriters Noel and Tricia Richards will be appearing in Lanchester on Thursday 19th June at The Methodist Church. This visit is a scoop for the area and not to be missed!

Start time is 7 pm (doors open at 6.15 pm). Refreshments will be available. Tickets are £8 from Di Tute, Tel. 01207 529286.

## Summer Fair

Lanchester and Burnhope Churches will hold their Summer Fair at the Chapter House on Saturday June 21st, at 9.30 am until 11.30 am. The theme for the Fair is 'Sunshine and Strawberries'. Cakes and Savouries, Jams and Preserves, Books, Bric a Brac, Toiletries, Bottle Tombola and Plants will be among the attractions as well as the Grand Summer Draw. As usual C o f f e e / T e a , Strawberry Scones and Cheese Scones will also be available included in the £1 entrance fee. Do come and join us - all are welcome.

## Flower Club

Our next meeting will be one of two Open Evenings which will be on Friday 27th June at 7 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. The demonstrator is the very well-known Judith Clancy; her theme is to be 'Summer's Bounty'. Everyone is welcome, tickets will be £6 and tea and biscuits will be served. For tickets or further information contact 01207 521494 or 503667.

## Summer Craft Fair

On Saturday 28th June from 10 am to 2 pm in the Community Centre. A wide range of products available, including soft furnishings, pictures, felt and crafts, teddies, jewellery, candle covers, cards, cup cakes and bread.

## Short Circuit Walks

7th June, Wall and Heavenfield, 5 miles. Park in lay-by north of Wall village on A6079, NY918693.

21st June, Souter Lighthouse and Cleadon Hills, 5 miles. Meet in car park north of Souter Point, off the A183, NZ407644.

## Thursday Club

At our June meeting on the 19th, we will be welcoming Christine Blackburn to talk to us about 'Living in Singapore'. Small Hall of the Community Centre at 7.15 pm.

## Date for your diary

There will be a folk music themed evening with a variety of local talented artists on Saturday 20th September in support of, and to be held at Lanchester Community Centre. Further details to follow in due course.

Ian Tute

## LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB 23rd APRIL 2014

Unfortunately our chairperson, Helen Tomlinson, was indisposed after a fall incurring a broken hip. She is wished a very speedy recovery by all of us at the Lanchester Flower Club. For the meeting on 23rd April it was left to our Vice President Maureen Clarkson to welcome

to Lanchester Flower Club Wendy Smith. She gave a very interesting and enjoyable flower demonstration. Her theme for the evening being 'Travels with my Aunt'. We were transported to many places - Paris, Istanbul, even Rio de Janeiro. We all enjoyed the

afternoon with so many beautiful and different flower arrangements and Wendy's colourful stories.

The arrangements were then raffled and many members took home a lovely flower display. A chat and tea and biscuits completed the afternoon.



Wendy Smith with her completed arrangements

# CYCLE RIDE IN MEMORY OF LANCHESTER RESIDENT

On Saturday June 14th, I will be cycling over 200 miles raising money for children's cancer charities. This is in memory of Emma Bell, the eight year old Lanchester resident who sadly passed away last year after suffering from Leukaemia. Emma was a much loved member of my wife's family in Lanchester. I will be cycling with my Brother-in-Law, Shannon, and a friend, Chris. The ride will start at Cambridge Shire Hall at 4.15 am, finishing over 200 miles later in Durham Market Place between 7 and 10pm. For the Cambridge end of the journey, we are raising money for Tom's Trust. This is a charity caring for children with brain tumours which was set up in July 2011. It is a legacy to Tom Whiteley who died of a brain

tumour at nine years old. For the Durham end of the journey, we are supporting the North of England Children's Cancer Research fund. This is a North East children's charity set up in 1979 by a small group of parents whose lives had been changed forever by childhood cancer. They were helpful and supportive when, one year ago, little Emma Bell sadly passed away aged eight years old. We have set up two justgiving pages for the charities mentioned above: For Tom's Trust [www.justgiving.com/cycledurham](http://www.justgiving.com/cycledurham) For the NECCR, [www.justgiving.com/durhamcycle](http://www.justgiving.com/durhamcycle) and we would be very grateful for any support. Thank you, Neil Foreman



The team of Shannon Logan, Chris Wright and Neil Foreman before one of their training rides on Sunday 11th May at King's Cross station in London.

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## NURSERY SPONSORED TODDLE



*It was a glorious day for the Nursery Toddle. They began by forming a circle and dancing/marching to the Toddle Song, led by Mrs Hume. This was followed by adults with their children setting off for the Play Park where they enjoyed the facilities, had a snack and drink, then toddled back to school. Money was being raised for Barnardos. The picture shows the Nursery children before setting off for the Sponsored Toddle, accompanied by adults.*

## FUN AND FITNESS AT EP SCHOOL



*As part of Fun and Fitness Week at the EP School, children were encouraged to bring bikes and scooters to school. On a lovely sunny day, reception children were enjoying riding their scooters in the yard and keeping fit at the same time.*

### NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 17th June. The deadline for **adverts** is 15th June.

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