

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 11 Volume 15

Lanchester, November 2014

For contact information, see page 2

REMEMBRANCE 2014

A large number of people gathered on the Village Green on Sunday, November 9th for the Annual Remembrance Service. It is always a poignant picture of village life.

See page 4 for article and more photos.



The procession reaches the War Memorial.



A wreath laid on behalf of the British Army.



Boys Brigade and Anchor Boys at the War Memorial.

The Wall of Poppies



All Saints' Primary School students created this wall of poppies. See story on page 5.

World War I Exhibition



An exhibition of World War I memorabilia was organised by Elizabeth Wharton at All Saints' Parish Church Chapter House, for viewing after services on Remembrance Day.

Students at St Bede's remember



A special Prayer Service was held at St Bede's on Remembrance Sunday. Jacob Lloyd played The Last Post. See story page 5.



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 Village Voice

Many Lanchester residents have received a mailshot from Pharmacy2U (based in Leeds) or have been called by Hayes Pharmacy (based in Surrey), or both. These organisations want you to authorise them to collect your prescriptions from your GP by post or electronic transfer. Your medicines would then be posted to you.

These companies stress the convenience of postal delivery. But Lanchester Pharmacy already provides daily deliveries, sometimes on foot when the weather is bad. You do not need to have your prescriptions emailed to Leeds or Egham to benefit from this service.

For most people who use their local pharmacy these services offer no advantage; rather the opposite - they would lose personal contact with

pharmacists who can provide advice and help resolve the problems that sometimes arise with prescriptions.

Diversion of prescriptions to distant internet centres threatens the viability of local pharmacies which over the last decade have developed many enhanced services. Lanchester Pharmacy offers NHS flu immunisation, medicines reviews, anticoagulant services, smoking cessation, and sexual health services.

The NHS wants to expand community pharmacy. Last month, Simon Stevens, Head of the NHS in England, said the health service would make far greater use of pharmacists over the next five years. And only last week, NHS England re-emphasised how important community pharmacies are in helping the NHS cope with winter pressures.

Many of us enjoy the convenience of internet services such as Amazon. But there is no doubt that local high streets have

consequently suffered. Internet pharmacy will weaken community pharmacies, making it difficult for them to play a full part in the NHS.

It is everyone's right to get their medicines from the pharmacy of their choice. People asked to transfer their prescriptions should think about the

implications and choose accordingly. Those who have already sent off nomination forms can contact their GP to change their mind at any time. Our village faces a number of challenges; these threats to our local pharmacy are easily avoided.

Finally I should state that I am a pharmacist myself.

Although I work with community pharmacies throughout the North East I have no financial or other interest in Lanchester Pharmacy or any other community pharmacy.

Jim Smith, Lanchester Emeritus Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Policy, University of Sunderland

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

CHESTER THE HEDGEHOG



The 'Hedgehog Gang' with a photo of Chester in front of the hospital home, as he was too shy to come out.

There has been lots of excitement at the EPS School during the last four weeks. Grace Thirlwell and some of her friends found a poorly hedgehog hiding in a flagpole hole near the Nursery. Within a short time Grace's mum, Stacey, had phoned The British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Quite promptly Dawn O'Hanlon, from that organisation turned up

and whisked the hedgehog off to hospital, at Prickly Place. After continuous updates at assemblies, constant questions as to its welfare, it was decided to begin a project on hedgehogs which was taken up very enthusiastically by both pupils and staff.

On 23rd October, Chester, the name given to the hedgehog, was returned

to school in its hospital home. The 'Hedgehog Gang' and many other pupils gathered around for the homecoming, but Chester was a bit shy with all the pupils there and would not come out for the photograph. As a result it was decided to let him come out later on and make his way into the woodland area to Hedgehog Hotel for the winter.

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise:

Contact John Hurren, Advertising Manager
Telephone: (01207) 520288

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General and news enquiries:

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By email:

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

By post:

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



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For more details contact Alison Boyd (Community Association Manager)

Phone: 01207 521275

RUBY WEDDING CELEBRATION

Ron and Margaret Ballard, of Alderside Crescent, who are quite well known around the village, celebrated their 40th Wedding anniversary at the Social Club on Saturday 8th November. About a hundred people attended, which included friends and relatives who travelled from several parts of the country. Well organised by daughter,

Rachel, there was a disco and super buffet, with a champagne toast, courtesy of Margaret's elder sister, Joan. It was a very lively affair with lots of dancing. The highlight of the evening was a very animated humorous speech by Scott, mainly about his mum, recording some of the many miscreants in her life with Ron, several

of them on holidays spent on a camping site in France. Ron replied, also in a light hearted manner by thanking everyone for attending, and continued with some similarly amusing quick anecdotes from their married life together. It really was a wonderful evening which showed by the lateness of the hour that people remained in the hall.



Ron and Margaret cutting the cake on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding celebration.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Friday November 14th was 'Children In Need' day, with money being raised across the nation for youngsters needing help. The pupils of All Saints' Primary School played their part, holding a non-uniform day and with proceeds donated to the cause.



The Great Bake off - cakes to be sold in support of 'Children In Need'.



All Saints' Year 2 pupils looking very comfy in their pyjamas.

LANCHESTER SINGS
 An evening of Christmas music, songs and carols featuring Libby Paxton (soprano), Drama Tree Children's Choir and Lanchester Brass Ensemble.
 Lanchester Methodist Church Friday 12th December at 7.00pm.
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REMEMBRANCE 2014

Continued from page 1
Lanchester people are proud of all the men from Lanchester who fought and died in the First and Second World Wars. It is because of them that we could stand freely, on our very own Village Green. They died that we might live! "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. John 15: 15" Their bravery and gallantry, their courage, their commitment to duty, their selflessness was all

commemorated at the village memorial. Everyone stood in perfect silence and awe, as the list of the dead from our village was read out by our three clergy, from two world wars and the one soldier, Stuart Laing, who died in the Falklands War in 1982. Lanchester lost 75 men in the first World War and 23 in the second World War. Reflectively, 75 men from a small village like Lanchester in 1914-1918 is a dreadful loss. A number of families lost

more than one member and that must have been even more devastating. Wreaths were taken forward and placed at the war memorial by representatives of our various village organisations, county council members, local dignitaries and members of the armed forces, all dignified by the respectful silence and no doubt silent prayers of the onlookers.

Two time honoured hymns were sung, accompanied by Lanchester Brass Band. They were 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven' and 'O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come'. As the service neared the end 'The Last Post' was played very competently by Mark Draper on cornet, after which prayers were said and the National Anthem was sung.

The crowd dispersed to attend their own church services or to their homes, all perhaps reflecting on the word Hope for our future, when wars will cease to be and people will live

together without war and strife. Each one of us can be influential in bringing peace to our world by showing respect and love for one another.

Brenda Craddock



Wreaths were laid on behalf of the following: British Army; Partnership; Thursday Club; Pat Glass MP; 2nd Annfield Plain Scouts; Brownies, Durham CC; Boys Brigade; Lord Lieutenant of Durham; WI; Churches Together; Parish Council; Girl Guides; Red Cross; and a family wreath in memory of 'Dear Dad'. In addition, 7 small crosses were laid on either side of the War Memorial.



The Lanchester Brass Band who performed so well, particularly the Last Post.

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THE WALL OF POPPIES

In commemoration of the centenary of the First World War, every pupil in All Saints' Catholic Primary School made a poppy, producing a very impressive 'Wall of Poppies'. The students had researched the War, and heard the story of how the flower became such a powerful symbol of the sacrifice of so many. Several of the poppies bore the names of a lost family member, still lovingly remembered, and the Wall stands as a most moving monument to men who marched away and never returned home.

STUDENTS AT ST BEDE'S REMEMBER

Prayers for Peace in a Troubled World

November and the season of remembrance take on added significance this year as we mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Students at St Bede's Catholic School in Lanchester have been keen to play their part in these commemorations and have been involved in lessons and liturgies as a whole school community. Members of the school's Youth, Justice and Peace Group have also been doing their part; on Remembrance Sunday they led a Prayer Service for the wider community to remember all those who have lost their lives during conflict. Their prayers centred on the hope for peace in a troubled world. Through readings and music the students shared their thoughts and feelings, giving time to pause and reflect. The service also provided the opportunity for discussion led by Fr Dan Fitzpatrick and Daniel Johnson from the Islamic Diversity Organisation. Some poignant and interesting themes were raised and the students and members of the wider community clearly gained a lot from the service. Participants described the event as 'fantastic', 'worthwhile' and 'thought provoking'. It was, as the students had intended and hoped for, an 'inspirational insight - lest we forget'.



Fr Daniel Fitzpatrick and Daniel Johnson lead the discussion

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT BURNHOPE

Yet another fine Sunday morning for our 15 minute service at the War Memorial in Burnhope, before going into the Methodist Church for a service of remembrance. I would like to thank everyone who attended this service, the Rev Peter Sinclair of Lanchester who led our worship, Mrs D Park and Melissa Walker who wrote and read a piece of poetry called 'The Poppies Grew On'. Well done, Melissa. To date I cannot tell you how much the collection was, but I will put it in our Post Office and the next Village Voice. Stan Collins

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th November 2014

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting on 14th October 2014 - approved.
Correspondence
 Clerks & Councils Direct magazine - received.

Durham County Council - Winter Salting Routes 2014/15 - received.

Governance & Accountability for Local Councils - received.

St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College - Parking Issues

Neville Harrison (Head Teacher) and Ian Merrington (School Manager) attended the meeting. They outlined the current problems. The school wishes to create a drop off area and they are currently seeking pre-planning advice before a planning application is submitted. The Parish Council are supportive of the school's efforts to address this problem.

Area Action Partnership (AAP)/Parish Councils Committee (PCC)

The minutes from the last meeting were received. The updated Village Action Plan from the AAP was discussed and received.

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

The minutes of the recent meeting were approved. The working group has compiled a questionnaire which will be distributed to individuals and groups throughout January.

Lanchester Cricket Club
 Members were informed that work had commenced on the refurbishment works to the changing facilities. The minutes from the last meeting of the working group were approved.

Members were supportive of the cricket club's efforts to raise funds for improvements to the club house subject to clarification of the licensing requirements.

Village Green Bus Shelter

It was agreed that anti-climb paint is applied to the top of the bus shelter on the Village Green and that appropriate signage is displayed.

The Local Council Award Scheme

This Scheme will replace the Quality Council Scheme in 2015. Currently Lanchester Parish Council

is accredited with Quality Status. It was agreed that the Parish Council engage with the new scheme to seek accreditation.

Parish Council Newsletter - approved for circulation.

Grass Cutting Contract 2014 - Members were informed that further correspondence has been exchanged with a company who had submitted a tender.

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

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 9th December 2014 at 7.15 pm at Lynwood House.

Lanchester Parish Council - New Home

The Parish Council office has moved from Park House.

The new details are:
 Lanchester Parish Council
 Lynwood House
 Durham Road
 Lanchester
 DH7 0LS
 Telephone Number 01207 520146

POLICE REPORT

At our PACT meeting held on 4th November, the community decided to introduce Anti-Social Behaviour as the PACT priority for Lanchester. This is because we have received 14 reports of youths causing a nuisance in the village since the beginning of October. We are actively patrolling various locations within the village in the evening both in vehicles and on foot in order to engage and identify youths congregating on our streets. We would like to encourage any residents

experiencing problems to please telephone us on 101 when the incident is taking place with any names, descriptions and direction of travel of those involved. Currently we believe we have identified a group of approximately 10 youths from Lanchester and Stanley who we suspect are involved. PC Iain Nelson and PCSO Lisa Jackson will be visiting these individuals at their home addresses together with their parent/guardian. At the meeting we also discussed that Chris Hindmarch, Neighbourhood

Warden for Lanchester is targeting locations of fly tipping in the area. Chris has access to a number of CCTV cameras which can be deployed to fly tipping hotspot locations to help identify those responsible. If you find any fly tipping sites please contact Chris on 0300026100. He will then take steps to investigate the issue and organise the area to be cleaned up. The next PACT meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd December at 6.30 pm in Burnhope Primary School.

INTRODUCING PC NELSON



PC Iain Nelson

PC Nelson is the new beat officer for the Burnhope and Lanchester areas, working alongside PCSO Jackson and members of Consett Neighbourhood Team.

PC Nelson has recently joined the team at Consett from the motorcycle section of our Road Policing Unit. He will be using his skills and experience to provide motorcycle patrols in our communities, which I'm sure you'll agree is a great asset.

Give him a wave if you see him out and about.

PCSO 7425 Vikki Ord

1000TH BICYCLE MARKED UNDER OPERATION SPOKE

Operation Spoke is a bicycle security marking initiative introduced across Durham Constabulary earlier this year. Since January officers from Consett Neighbourhood Policing Team have been hosting marking events within every ward area which has also included engagement within schools. As a result we have received a fantastic response from the community and earlier this week we managed to identify our 1000th customer. Megan Charlton from Shotley Bridge was our lucky 1000th customer and the winner of a free hamper of

goodies donated from Tesco Extra, Bits 4 Bikes, Sunderland AFC and magazines.subscription.com. PCSO Lisa Jackson said "We would like to encourage everyone to take this opportunity to have their bicycles and scooters security marked free of charge as it is a massive theft deterrent as well as increasing your chances of having your bicycle returned to you if lost or stolen. Events are held across the area all year round and we would encourage people to contact us on 101 if you would like your bicycle or scooter security marked." PCSO 7425 Vikki Ord

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

As we get closer to the General Election (GE) the behaviour of MPs in the chamber and members' tea room becomes increasingly interesting and things are really beginning to heat up in the media as they strive to find plots, schisms and leadership contents, real or imagined. For the first time I am seeing much of this from the inside rather than just reading about it in the newspapers or on the television. Surprisingly the view from the inside is a lot calmer than you might expect from the media which seems to be working itself up into a frenzy and is full of woe for all of the main political parties. The newspapers over the last week have been full of a Labour leadership crisis that personally I see no evidence of and that I think is largely a storm created and fed by the media. Labour MPs know only too well that parties that are not united do not win elections.

The media are equally full of stories of schisms in the Tory party, describing a Party riven apart by UKIP defections, euro-scepticism and disloyalty with David Cameron's

leadership. Now I don't know a lot of Tory MPs that well but I sit on committees with them and what I see is a bit different. There is without doubt a lot of euro-scepticism and I can see that from the groupings that choose to sit together in the chamber. There are clearly emerging differences on policy and style between the Tories and their Lib-Dem partners. This is increasing both in volume and on the range of policies but what I think is really interesting is the behaviour. There are fewer votes in the Chamber than there were, presumably because the government wants to avoid contentious issues running up to a GE but also because they cannot now guarantee the support of their coalition partners. In committees where the coalition sat together in the past, increasingly I find that does not happen and I often now find a Lib-Dem MP choosing to sit next to me in committees or joining me in the voting lobby. It's different and I have to admit a bit strange but I am getting used to it. Roll on the next 5 months. Pat Glass MP



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LANCHESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Lanchester Parish Council are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which will be a community-led framework for guiding development, regeneration and conservation over future years. The plan will set out the views of the local community in terms of planning issues such as how much and what type of new housing may be required, and whether there is a need for new shops, offices, workshops and leisure facilities etc. It can also look at things like green open spaces, play facilities, surgeries, schools and parking - as well as measures to address the heritage assets in the Parish. Once adopted Durham County Council will have to consult the Neighbourhood Plan as well as the Durham County Plan when making planning decisions in our Parish. It will have legal force that previous village documents like the Village Design Statement did not have and will be very influential in shaping the way Lanchester and the Parish might look in the future. To begin the process the Parish Council would like to find out from you some of your ideas, concerns, likes and dislikes about living or working in the Parish. A working group, consisting of representatives of the community, has designed a short questionnaire which will be distributed and available throughout the Parish during January. The questionnaire will ask some very general questions. The answers will help us to begin the process of drafting a Neighbourhood Plan. This early community engagement aims to identify key themes and issues that can be used to inform the vision and aims for the plan. The questionnaire will be available from key village locations, to be published in the Village Voice or can be requested from the Parish Council. The working group also aims to approach many community groups within the Parish to seek their views. Please look out for the questionnaire in January. We look forward to receiving your responses.

LANCHESTER MINERS' BANNER GROUP

New Members Sought

The Fenhall Drift Banner project has been successfully completed 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, the production of a community information leaflet and schools packs and a celebration event on 27th June. The original banner now hangs in the Parish Church. The replica banner can be displayed at local events. Please contact Sally on 01207 520146 if you wish to use the replica banner. New members of the banner group are being sought to manage the future of the banner. If you would like to be involved with the Banner Group please contact Sally on 01207 520146.

LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Fewer members than usual attended the November meeting, so those not there missed an extremely interesting talk given by Philip Taylor, JP, on 'The Work of a Magistrate'. Mr Taylor lives and works in Berkshire but was in the area visiting family so we were very fortunate that his visit coincided with a meeting date. Beginning with the history and background of the service and the selection of magistrate, Mr Taylor moved on to give three hypothetical cases of the type he would have to deal with, but asked his audience to make a decision. This involved asking questions and learning more about the law and how decisions on punishment are determined. A lot of people took part in this and everyone found it very interesting. Mr Taylor was thanked by Chairman John Thompson and as no decision was made with regard to a Christmas meal together, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He said he looked forward to seeing members and friends at the next meeting, to be held on 6th February, when the speaker will be local historian Heather Munsey on 'The Bodysnatchers'.



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LYNWOOD HOUSE EVENT

With all but five apartments now occupied it was felt that the time had come to hold a coffee morning where residents could get to know each other. Some residents invited friends as well.

The morning was organised by Kirsty Armstrong, Housing Support Officer, who made a lovely warm welcoming speech. She seems to know all the residents already and

said "it is a pleasure to meet so many wonderful tenants, families and friends".

She carried on to explain all the positive benefits of this new complex even going into technicalities of the building. It was all very interesting but too long to cover item by item, but Lynwood does contain just about every modern concept in current building developments today.

Kirsty explained that there could be teething problems but people only had to approach her with these and they would be quickly sorted out.

She has planned further events which will be advertised by posters, and is keen for Lynwood

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to be part of the wider community. One of Kirsty's main goals is that people from the village make visits to future events which will be held at Lynwood House.

The large room can be used for all sorts of

events and a committee, secretary and treasurer needs to be created from within to help in moving forward.

Kirsty finished her speech by thanking everyone for attending and would be happy to have some feedback.



A smiling Kirsty Armstrong, Housing Support Officer (Manager of Lynwood House)

NEW BED AND BREAKFAST IN LANCHESTER

Most of you will remember when Lanchester Post Office was situated at Number 27 Front Street before being sold to Tony at Lanchester News in 2006.

The Gills at The Old Post Office have now opened their doors once more, welcoming guests to luxurious rooms, comfort

and delicious food in a charming and characterful Bed & Breakfast venture. The Old Post Office has 3 individually designed en-suite bedrooms and will add to the village's growing popularity as a tourist destination. Local residents planning family celebrations, looking for accommodation for their friends and family, will

also welcome the availability of a luxury B&B right in the heart of the village.

Four hens enjoy the extensive garden and ensure the delivery of fresh eggs for breakfast each day; Crinnions supply the bacon and sausages and another local friend bakes fresh bread and biscuits for the

guests. This is a real Lanchester venture with guests encouraged to eat at one of the burgeoning village restaurants or to enjoy a coffee at one of the delightful coffee shops.

Lanchester is becoming a real destination point for a variety of visitors and it is encouraging that village businesses are

rising to the challenge! In November 2014, The Old Post Office won the AA Gold Star 4 Star Award to add to the 15 Trip Advisor Reviews with an average score of 98% and 12 Booking.com Reviews with an average score of 9.5 which is their 'Exceptional' category. Keith and Pauline Gill



The Old Post Office Luxury Bed & Breakfast



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HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS IN THE VILLAGE



Anouska and the girls at Hanley and Swinbank



SPAR ladies raise money for NSPCC on Halloween



Pumpkin carving under the direction of Leanne, at the King's Head Halloween party.



The King's Head put on a party for children at Halloween. Here are Kacey, Kyra, Mia, and Carter who had a great time.

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Kelly and Bell families going around the doors on Halloween with mum, Amy Bell, along with Catherine, Alice, Matthew, Evie and Megan.



Michael and Katie Toner seem to be really enjoying Halloween.

CHARITY WORK IS A FUNDRAISING SUCCESS AT ST BEDE'S

Students at St Bede's School are feeling rightfully proud of themselves following their phenomenal success in fundraising for their designated charities. Money was raised through a variety of different activities last year including dance mat lunchtimes, guess the

penalty shoot outs to name but a few. The students took charge of their fundraising mission and in doing so managed to raise over £8000 for their chosen charities, which include St Cuthbert's Care, CAFOD, Clic Sargent, Macmillan Cancer Support and Willow Burn Hospice. Donations also went to Henry Dancer Days, a charity which provides support for patient transport, set up in memory of Henry, a former pupil from St Bede's.

Students also raised funds for the Simon Bates Foundation which aims to help projects both at home and overseas. The charitable work goes on as students undertake a new fundraising year. They will continue to support these good causes as well as raising money for SVP Street Packs and the Great North Air Ambulance. The students at St Bede's are a committed and inspirational group of young people, who never fail to encapsulate the charitable spirit; long may it continue!



St Bede's students with their very large cheque, £8280, for their designated charities

HUGE HELP FOR HENRY DANCER DAYS

Local charity Henry Dancer Days received an amazing boost to funds as a result of the NE Ladies' Methodist President's hard work during her first year in the role.

Georgie Macadam had held a number of events, including music marathon and an auction as well as encouraging many churches to raise money for the children Henry Dancer Days supports. This resulted in a donation of nearly £15,000!

Jane Natrass, Henry's Mum and charity co-ordinator said, "I knew that

Georgie was going to contribute to our charity but had no idea just how much had been donated until the cheque was revealed at the service. Those who know me are aware that it's a rare thing for me to be lost for words but all I could do was burst into tears! I'm so thrilled." The charity gives grants to families who have children 18 and under with Primary Bone Cancers - many of the families suffer financial hardship as parents are unable to work due to the intensity of their children's treatment. Henry Dancer Days is now

supporting 110 families throughout the UK and starting projects in the RVI to help kids on the oncology wards.

Jane added, "It's been a brilliant month. We also received donations from Northumbrian Water (£1030) as a result of Lanchester resident Laura Wilkinson putting us forward for support and UK Estates (£1000) thanks to Shirley Simpson of Square House Farm." Jane is astonished at how local people have taken the charity to their hearts and humbled by their generosity.



Georgie Macadam presents the huge cheque to Jane Natrass

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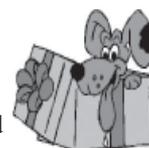


CHRISTMAS OPENING

Xmas Eve 9-4
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Boxing Day Closed

NEW YEAR OPENING

New Year Eve 9 - 3
New Year Day Closed



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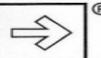
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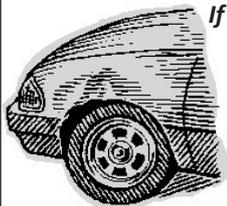
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COMMUNITY CENTRE CRAFT FAIR



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Now that's a tasty looking jam!



Wow! What super toys!



Santa chats to little Leah and Elf, Beth.

Saturday 8th November was the first of several fairs in the village with that special Christmas atmosphere.

The Community Centre has now built a reputation for inviting people from all walks of life who sell good quality interesting products. With 23 stalls to peruse it is impossible to name them. Suffice to say that they included all sorts of high quality crafts made from a variety of materials. In addition there were drinks and homemade bread on sale as well as stalls selling jams etc, toiletries, books and so on. The café was there to provide coffee, tea, cakes, pies and light lunches.

The Fair had a Christmas feel about it with many stalls decorated in this manner. For children there was a face painter, and Santa Claus made his first appearance in the village prior to Christmas. He is in for a really busy time starting this early. It was a good day for everyone with the hall packed with potential buyers many of whom were doing some of their Christmas shopping. The raffle added to a substantial profit on the day of £604.18.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO LANCHESTER WI

Lanchester WI celebrates its birthday in November, and this year, we are 89 years young! As always, we marked the occasion with a special outing, heading to Northumberland on the morning of November 3rd. Our President, Jennifer Macdonald welcomed everyone on the bus, and looked forward to an interesting and busy day. We started the fun with a raffle, and winners were Barbara Sproat, Mary McKee and Breda Branscombe. As usual, the weather for our birthday outing was kind to us, with a beautiful blue sky and sharp winter

sunlight. The countryside was stunning in its autumn shades, and we headed to the Lord Crewe Arms at Blanchland where we were welcomed with coffee and cake. We also enjoyed a very informative tour of the Hotel and its adjoining Abbey. We learned that Blanchland was founded by the Catholic White Canons in 1165, and the Order gave the place its name - 'Blanche' meaning white in French. The Lord Crewe was built as the Abbot's lodge, guest house and kitchens, and is now an attractive hotel at the heart of the village.

The premises may - or may not - be haunted by the ghost of Dorothy Forster, a prominent Jacobite. Dorothy's nephew Tom, a renowned Jacobite leader, hid at the Crewe after the rebellion, and his hiding place can still be seen. We then pushed on to Corbridge, where we had lunch at the Angel Hotel. After an enjoyable meal, we had time for shopping - and coffee - before returning to our bus for the journey home. It had been a lovely day, of laughter, good company, a chance for some shopping, and we'd learned more about the interesting places on our own doorstep.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Celebration, on 1st December, and we look forward to a really enjoyable get-together!



Gathering for the journey back to Lanchester. We had a lovely Birthday!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Traditional Sherry Trifle

There are mentions of a trifle-like dessert in records from medieval times, and it still remains a special treat, especially over the festive season.

Ingredients

1 400g (14oz) tin of pears, in natural juice
1 packet of 8 trifle sponges
Strawberry jam - or jam of your choice; I use raspberry
Medium dry sherry - 75 ml
600ml (1 pt) shop bought fresh vanilla custard - or you can make up your own if you wish
About 10 ratafia biscuits, or macaroons also work well and are often easier to find

300 ml (half pint) double cream
25g (1oz) flaked almonds which you have lightly toasted
1) Drain the pears, keeping the juice and cut them into small pieces. Split the trifle sponges in half and sandwich them back together with the jam. Pour the sherry into a jug and make up to 150ml (quarter pint) with the pear juice. If the trifle is for children, or you prefer not to have sherry, you can use 150ml (quarter pint) of pear juice.
2) Place half of your chopped pears into a glass serving bowl and arrange half of the trifle sponges on top. Add the

remaining pieces of pear and then the rest of the sponges. Scatter on the ratafias or macaroons and pour the sherry and the pear juice mixture evenly over the top.
3) Carefully pour the custard over the top, whip the cream lightly until it just holds its shape then spoon over the custard. Level the surface and chill. Sprinkle with the toasted almonds and serve.
**You can buy toasted flaked almonds, but you can toast them yourself in a dry pan over a medium heat. Keep an eye on them, and keep stirring with a wooden spatula as they can scorch very easily.

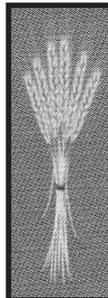
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PLAYGROUP COFFEE MORNING

It was a dull, misty, cool morning on November 15th but inside the Methodist Church it was anything but dull and cool. It was the weekly coffee morning and the money raised was to go to the village Playgroup.

Liz Smith and Fiona Draper, with other helpers, have run the playgroup successfully for many years and a great number of our village children have enjoyed playing, socialising and learning experiences. Mums, grans, nanas, and childminders have enjoyed their time there too!

Liz and Fiona gave a very warm welcome as they served lovely hot drinks and the atmosphere was warm and friendly. They say the early bird catches the worm but in this case it was the cake. There was a good choice of biscuits if you missed the cakes. A playgroup mum manned the cake stall with her son James and it sold out quickly.

After chatting with friends over coffee, you could then enjoy browsing around the stalls which all had delightful displays. There were even hand sewn

fairies and angels, which would certainly add glamour to any Christmas tree. The excellent Usborne Books had a stall and the face painting corner under the skilful hands of Kate Kelly was very popular. There were lots of ideas for stocking fillers and cupboard fillers eg, preserves, marmalade, jam and chutneys.

All in all there was something for everyone. The excellent total of £193 was raised, a fitting total for a very enjoyable and successful morning. Brenda Craddock



Zara Harrison really enjoyed the fair!

ST JOHN'S FAIR

St John's Church Christmas Fair was held at Burnhope Primary school on Saturday afternoon 15th November. It was held in the dining room where there were adequate facilities for catering. The room was crowded for the full duration of the Fair. It was a lovely friendly Christmas type atmosphere and people were eager to spend their

cash on a good variety of tables containing some excellent products. The refreshments were served from the counter and consumed on a large long table in the centre of the room. The food was plentiful, excellent quality, tasty, and at reasonable prices. St John's has a small congregation who put in a huge effort to make an amazing profit of £1171.74.



Jude, Rohan and Amelia and their dad looking after mum's stall.



A good mix of products on this stall and some smiling faces.



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TAIZÉ WORSHIP AT THE PARISH CHURCH

For a number of years now, there has been an annual Taizé Worship service in All Saints Parish Church. Miss Margaret Walters has a special interest in this kind of worship and it is she who organises it and patiently teaches the chants to a small choir of adults. The choir leads the service but the congregation is invited to join in all the chants and responses. The origins of the service can be found in the small village of Taizé in central France. This village has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage. The Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. The 100 strong community of Roman Catholic and Protestant monks is

drawn from 30 countries across the world. It was founded in 1940 by Roger Louis Schutz-Marsauche known as Brother Roger who died in 2005, aged 90. Prayer and silence are at the heart of the Taizé experience. Taizé has also developed a unique style of worship in the singing of distinctive and much repeated prayer chants, during candlelit prayer services. All these aspects of Taizé were in evidence at the service in the Parish Church on Sunday, November 9th. The hushed church and the dimness of it, being lit only by candle-light, was awesome. The chants were accompanied by Margaret on the piano and three very competent musicians, namely Wendy Hughes playing flute, Ray Hill guitar and Sue Hill violin. Together



The musicians, left to right: Wendy Hughes, Sue Hill and Ray Hill.

they made a beautiful sound which greatly enhanced the singing. The same high standard continued in the appropriate readings, which interspersed the singing of the chants. A great sense of peace and tranquillity pervaded the service and it was this that the congregation took with them as they left the church. Brenda Craddock

FOOD4U

Many thanks to all who so generously contributed some Christmas items to the FoodBank box at the Community Centre, and for all the other items of food that have been given over the last few weeks. We are very grateful and you can be sure the gifts will be appreciated by those who have to come to Food4U at Glen Royd House, Consett, for help.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for October was 45. The draw was made by R Nicholson.

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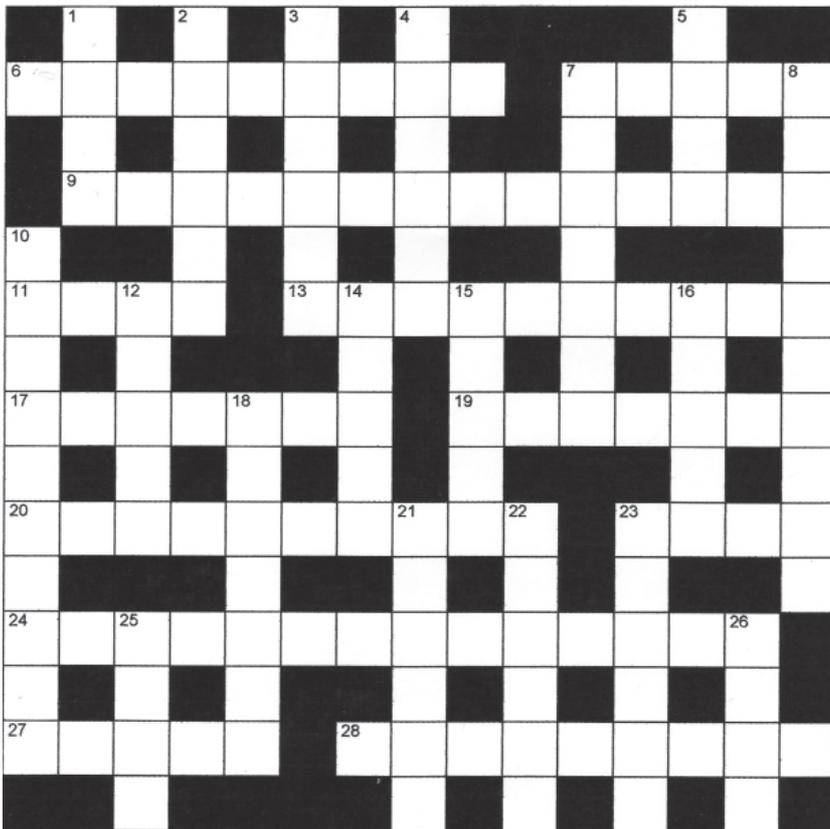
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CROSSWORD 103



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CROSSWORD 102

There was a very good response to last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to E G French of Oakwood who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

- ACROSS**
6. Tough cord used with recast net (9)
 7. Really stupid (5)
 9. Improve a poor relationship (4,4,6)
 11. Leave (4)
 13. Venture to go in and open by force (10)
 17. Down-and-out (7)
 19. N a p o l e o n ' s birthplace (7)
 20. Eton's flora is reserved (3,3,4)
 23. Stylish (4)
 24. That will do! (6,2,6)
 27. Understood (5)
 28. See 16.
- DOWN**
1. Article (4)
 2. Songbird found in Berlin nettles (6)
 3. Disregard region reform (6)
 4. Object sounds as if it is under canvas (6)
 5. Powder found in dental caries (4)
 7. Ivy for example (7)
 8. Food (10)
 10. Dispatched by God? (6-4)
 12. Piece of moulded metal (5)
 14. Stone gives up records (5)
 15. Go beyond (5)
 - 16,28. Flag with vertical bands of green, white and orange (5,9)
 18. In the middle (7)
 21. Ridiculous (6)
 22. Harem guard (6)
 23. Brace (6)
 25. Ow! (4)
 26. Spoils (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 102

- ACROSS**
1. miracle
 5. remind
 9. recited
 10. vitamin
 11. urn
 12. unwitnessed
 13. yucca
 14. predicate
 16. mare's-nest
 17. troop
 19. Peasants' War
 22. See 3.
 23. See 3.
 24. atheist
 26. symbol
 27. entitle
- DOWN**
1. Mercury
 2. racing certainty
 3. Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
 4. endow
 5. revetment
 6. metre
 7. numismatologist
 8. on edge
 12. Urals
 14. plentiful
 15. inter
 16. Maputo
 18. prattle
 20. A-bomb
 21. weave
 25. See 3.

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.

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

LATEST FROM THE CRICKET CLUB

Hopefully by the time you read this, we will have a new set of shiny changing rooms. Over the past couple of weeks, work has been carried out to gut the old changing rooms and reinstate them to provide suitable facilities to be used. You have to remember these were once a set of public toilets! In a similar vein, an application has been submitted to the County Council seeking a grant to get some work done in the main part of the club, the result of which will be made known later in the month. Halloween saw a great effort by members to decorate the club and have a spooky party for all to enjoy and Xmas will see the return of the Xmas Feast on Saturday 13th December. Those who purchase a ticket will sit down to a four course meal and fantastic entertainment from 'The Pretty Weeds'. If you are lucky you will still be able to snap up a ticket for £20.

Beer Festival 2015

After the success of the Beer Festival at the Cricket Club in May, plans have started for a follow up in 2015. Hoping to build on the success of last year's event with a greater range of beers, ciders and wine, the event will take place on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May. The Beer Festival website is being updated and you can start purchasing tickets as soon as it is functioning. Prices will remain the same as this year, £6 if bought in advance or £8 on the day, with weekend passes for £12. Your ticket gets you a commemorative glass, a programme and a drink. There will be live entertainment each day and Sunday, weather permitting, we hope to introduce some children's rides and fun activities to encourage families to come along. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a beer or cider

or a particular part of the event such as the music or programmes or glasses, then please get in touch through the website.

Halloween Party at the Cricket Club

Just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who helped and attended the Halloween party at Lanchester Cricket Club on October 31st. Everyone had a great night taking part in party games, best pumpkin, and fancy dress. The raffle raised £170 which was donated to Willow Burn. They were very grateful. Thanks to all the staff at the club for helping and please remember the club is available free of charge for parties etc and needs local support especially in the winter months. Kay Purdom

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LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

WHAT'S ON?

Community Centre Events

CRAFTER'S HUB FAIR
Monday 1st December.
6.00-8.00pm in Lanchester Community Centre for your Christmas presents. Mulled wine and mince pies. Entry free.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY
Thursday 18th December
9.30 - 10.30 am in Lanchester Community Centre. Pyjama Drama will present an activity with a 'Frozen' theme.

WI

Monday 1st December is 'Christmas Night with the Members', our usual festive evening of good food, music and fun. Please note that we will meet in the Main Hall of the Community Centre this month, with our evening starting at 7.30. Before the event, we are invited to share mulled wine with our local Crafter's Hub in the conservatory. Tonight will be our Faith Supper, with everyone bringing food to share within the group. We look forward to listening to Lanchester Male Voice Choir who always offer a varied and most enjoyable programme of music, before disposing of the remains of the festive meal! We will be involved in various activities that night, including our Famous 'Chinese Raffle'. This is always a night of friendship and fun, and we look forward to seeing everyone there! Advance notice of 2015 Subscriptions ... these will be £36.00, payable by cheque if possible.
MERRY CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM LANCHESTER WI.

The Village Voice Page 18

PACT meeting

The next PACT meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd December at 6.30 pm at Burnhope Primary School. All welcome.

Vintage Tractor Club

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd December at 7.30 pm in Crinnions.

Brass Band Concert

Lanchester Brass Band present a Christmas Concert in All Saints Parish Church on Wednesday December 3rd at 7.30 pm. Everyone welcome!

Open House

Everyone is welcome in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 4th December, 11.30 am to 1.00 pm for a light lunch.

Country Market

The next market will take place on Saturday 6th December from 10 am to 12 noon in the Methodist Church.

South Moor Musical Theatre Group

Proudly presents **SCROOGE the Musical**, a heartwarming Christmas tale for all the family on Tuesday 2nd to Saturday 6th December at the Alun Armstrong Theatre, Civic Hall, Stanley DH9 0NA. Tickets at £8 Concs, £10 Adult, Family - 2 Adults and 2 Children - £30 available from the Civic Hall Box Office on 01207 299110.

Adult Wildlife Group

The meeting on 9th December at 7.30 pm will be the AGM followed by a social.

All Saints School Fair

The Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 12th December at 2 pm. There will be all the old favourites; a cake stall, tombolas, hotdogs, lucky bags and Santa will be dropping in. In addition this year there will be face painting, nails and hair by a special group of Santa's helpers. The Grand Raffle will be drawn at 3.15 and the amazing top prize is a £100 Metrocentre gift voucher, with a Marks and Spencers Hamper for the runner up and a host of other great prizes. If you can't make it on the day you can still support us by buying a ticket, available from the school office. All proceeds go to buying equipment and experiences for the children at All Saints.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Lanchester Parish Council organise the Christmas tree lighting ceremony each year, to mark the start of the festive season in the village. This year, the ceremony will take place on Saturday 29th November on the Village Green and will include music, Christmas Carols, lucky dip for the children, etc. Events will commence at 5.30 pm with the formal switch on taking place at 6.00 pm. Mrs Judith Lund, MBE will switch on the lights, accompanied by a group of local school children.

The Parish Council extend a warm invitation for everyone to join them for the occasion.

Community Centre Coffee Morning

The Community Centre will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 11th December from 9.30-11.00 am.

Paradiso Social Club

The next Paradiso Social Club meeting will be held on Sunday December 14th at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre.

There will be the usual refreshments; wine, soft drinks and nibbles from 7 pm - 7.30 pm and a mini DVD Christmas sale of some of the films we showed last year. Do come in plenty of time if you are interested in purchasing any of them! Before the film the raffle prizes will also be drawn.

The film that we are screening that night is 'THE INVISIBLE WOMAN', starring Ralph Fiennes, Felicity Jones, Kristin Scott Thomas and Tom Hollander.

The film is the story of Charles Dickens relationship with Nelly Ternan. Dickens - famous, controlling and emotionally isolated within his success - falls for Nelly. He is a brilliant amateur actor, a man more emotionally coherent on the page or on stage, than in life. As Nelly becomes the focus of Dickens' passion and his muse, for both of them secrecy is the price, and for Nelly a life of 'invisibility'.

Entry £2.50 for members £3.50 for visitors. £2 - young persons. Entry ticket covers all aspects of the Social; raffle, refreshments and film. All are welcome.

Short Circuit Walks

13th December, 10.30 am, Corbridgeto Hexham linear walk.

Following the south bank of the Tyne to Devil's Water, then up into woodland and open country for a panoramic view of Hexham. Return by public transport. Start at Village CP at South end of the bridge. NY988640.

Lanchester Sings

A new musical Event is being organised in the village in the run up to Christmas entitled 'Lanchester Sings'.

It is an evening of Christmas music and carols and is being held in the Methodist Church at 7 pm on Friday 12th December.

The performers will be Libby Paxton, a teenage soprano from Durham, Drama Tree, a children's choir from Chester-le-Street and a section of the Lanchester Brass band who will perform individually and also encourage the audience to join them in singing well known songs and carols.

Tickets are £6 and will be available from the Red Cross Shop from November 1st. All proceeds from the evening will be used to fund the Red Cross and their work of caring for people in crisis.

Further information can be obtained from Mr Bill Gelson. (0191 375 0192).

New Year's Eve Ceilidh

We are delighted to announce that this popular event, organised by Lanchester Wildlife Group will be held again in Lanchester Community Centre on Wednesday 31st December.

Doors Open 7.30pm, first dance 8.00 pm.

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

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

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

Christmas Fair at Satley

St Cuthbert's Church Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 29th November from 11.00am until 2.00 pm. There will be crafts from local artists, including wood turning, handicraft items, cards, Christmas wreaths, scented candles, Christmas decorations, scarves, home made jams and chutneys. Come along for some great Christmas ideas. Refreshments will be available. Tombola. Admission £1.

Croft View Badminton Group

We are a small group of 5 or 6 players who meet every Monday morning at 10am. There are times when we have to cancel when we cannot gather 4 players due to holidays and injuries. We charge £2 for a 2 hour session and badminton racquets can be provided. If you would like to play just come along at 10 am on Monday or contact Rosemary Naylor 520087 or mobile 07803106615.

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

December 14th, Visit to RSPB Saltholme. Meet in the Community Centre car park at 9.30am. If you are a member, please bring your card.

Hilda and Steve Davis (continued from back page)

Hilda's eldest granddaughter, Elizabeth Hughes, arranged for her to travel there to meet Steve over a cup of tea. Hilda's excitement in anticipation of this could not be contained. Sadly, it was not to be. Hilda was a bit out of sorts on that day and unfortunately could not attend. However, all was not lost. Whilst on his way to Whitley Bay to play in

Lanchester Male Voice Choir

Getting Ready For Christmas Lanchester Male Voice Choir is now preparing for the Celebration of Christmas. The annual event will take place this year in All Saints Roman Catholic Church on December 22nd at 7.15pm. The choir will be joined, once again, by the Choral and Operatic Society. The collection will be in aid of a local charity. Some members of the disbanded Leadgate Gleemen have joined the Male Voice Choir thus swelling our numbers for this celebration.

Satley Parish Hall Ceilidh

There will be a ceilidh with the fabulous Joint Stock Ceilidh Band from Spennymoor in Satley Parish Hall starting at 7.30 pm on 31st December. Tickets £5 per adult, £15 per family (mum, dad and kids). Please bring your own drinks and some food to share. Please contact either Karen & Colin Hodgson 01388 730091 or Bill & Sabine Heslop 01388 730855.

Sunday Bridge

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon playing Bridge in the Community Centre on 30th November at 2.00 pm. Only £3.

Singers Needed for Concert

Lanchester Parish Church Music Group perform a concert along with East Stanley School Choir on Thursday, 18th December, in the Parish Church at 7.00 pm. The money raised will be shared between the NSPCC and Christian Aid.

We would still like a few more tenors and bass singers (on 4th, 11th and 18th December). Anyone is welcome to join us - we practise on a Thursday at 7.00 pm. Please contact Janet Jackson 01207 521250 if you are willing to help us.

Mothers' Union

The 10th December meeting is the Advent Evening, in Church. We are meeting in the Chapter House and going into church for a 7.30 pm start.

Lanchester Whist

Wednesdays 2pm-4pm Enjoy playing cards? Come and join us in the Community Centre for a lovely social afternoon with a friendly and welcoming group of people.

Everyone welcome and tuition given if required. Contact Jean Young on 01207 520888 or just come along.

another tournament, Steve Davis and his agent, as pre arranged with Elizabeth, called on Hilda at her home in Alderdene! It was a fantastic surprise for her and so kind of Steve Davis to put himself out like this. He spent about half an hour there, sitting next to Hilda, relaxed in an armchair, chatting away over old times and snooker,

thoroughly enjoying himself. There was certainly no celebrity status with Steve, he enjoyed the visit as much as Hilda did and he turned out to be a real gentleman. Hilda would like to express her thanks for the many cards, gifts, and flowers which were given to her on her fabulous birthday by friends and relatives, and for that amazing visit by her hero, Steve Davis.

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RUGBY AT THE EP SCHOOL



In order offer a wider variety of sports, rugby has been introduced to the EP School. The coach is Steven Marshall, first team captain at Consett Rugby Club. He coaches during school time, and after school. Steven is assisted by Mr Urwin, who plays for Consett, and Mr Taylor, a former player for the same team. Here we can see the pupils being put through their paces.

LANCHESTER BOWLING CLUB ANNUAL DINNER



The Lanchester Bowling Club annual dinner and presentation night was extra special this year because of the guest of honour Ron Cole. He is the founding father of the club from way back in 1982. He has moved away to live near his family in Wiltshire but returned to present the trophies to the winning competitors. In his speech Ron paid tribute to two members who have passed away recently, Ray May and Billy Young, both great servants to the club who will be sadly missed. Our picture shows from left to right: Dorothy Turnbull (who shared the most improved player award with Robin Scudder), Christine and Paul Monaghan, Mike Stoddart, Ron Cole, Ron's daughter Catherine, Ken Raper, John Hurrant and Stan Easten.

EARLY DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 9th December. The deadline for **adverts** is 7th December.

HILDA BREAKS 100 WITH HER HERO STEVE DAVIS



Championship Snooker player Steve Davis helps Hilda celebrate her 'Century'

To make news when you watched snooker on television avidly during reach 100 is great, and there was a lovely article in the October issue of The Village Voice, about Hilda Minto's 100th birthday. To make news again just after a 100th birthday is remarkable. Hilda Minto, of course, is a remarkable person! She has always been a great snooker fan and

there was a lovely article in the 1980s when Steve Davis was at the top of his game winning Masters, British and World titles on a regular basis. Hilda became a fan of his and when Steve played at an exhibition match in Durham recently,

continued on page 19

PAT GLASS MP WELCOMES GRANT FOR BURNHOPE CRICKET CLUB

Pat Glass MP has expressed her delight upon receiving news that Burnhope Cricket Club has received a £35,000 Sport England grant towards the total cost of £45,000 to refurbish the club's limited toilet facilities. Pat Glass wrote in support of the grant application following a visit to Burnhope Cricket Club when she noted the need for improved toilet facilities. Once work has been completed the improved facilities will be used regularly by the local Primary School and assist disabled members.

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