

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 1 Volume 16

Lanchester, January 2015

For contact information, see page 2

BRAES OF DERWENT BOXING DAY HUNT



The hounds arriving at The Kings



Getting ready for the 'off'

It was all change this year for the Braes of Derwent Hunt. The King's Head became the first meeting place, where an amazing number of horses with riders mingled with followers and the parked cars. The hounds roamed around somewhat until acting Huntsman, John Brannon, called them to order.

Then it was off to Crinnions where there was a short stay for the traditional drink of whisky, port or mulled wine. Richard Emmet, Master of the Hunt was

unable to attend due to a back injury so Chairman, Bill Gascoigne, made a

fine enthusiastic speech thanking Crinnions for the hospitality, and

mentioning the hoped-for repeal of the Foxhunting Act.

Then it was off at a fast pace in the direction of Kitswell Road, Low Meadows, Stony Heap and on to Greencroft following the trail already laid. The spectacle in the village this year was particularly impressive as the parade completed the full length of Front Street with a 10 minute spell at Crinnions, which enabled onlookers to admire the scene, hear the speech, and take lots of photographs. There was a small number of hunting protesters!



The Hunt leaving The Kings



Members enjoying the traditional drinks



Riders socialising at The Kings

LANCHESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Still time to give your views. See article on page 2.



Dear Village....

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

The views expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the newspaper, the editor or persons working for the newspaper. The editor retains the right to cut or 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
Your readers will be aware of the proposed wind farm development by Energiekontor at Windy Hill within the Lanchester Parish boundary and some 2 kilometres west of the village. We wish to record our concern regarding this proposal. Many of us have chosen to live in the Lanchester valley because of its physical attraction, tranquillity and the wildlife it supports. The 100 metre turbines will inevitably impinge on these. The relentless march of wind turbines in this corner of County Durham must, at some point, be challenged. Additionally, Woodlands Hall and the landscape to the South was created by Thomas White the Elder, a contemporary of Capability Brown, in the late 18th Century and currently offers a unique

glimpse into this aspect of our history. We would be pleased to hear from others who share our anxieties and wish to oppose this development.
Ian Griffiths
(on behalf of the Woodlands Hall Management Committee)

Dear Village Voice
I, myself, and I'm sure almost everyone who is fortunate enough to reside in our village, loves Lanchester - just the way it is, vibrant, busy and full of most of the amenities necessary for modern day living. Amenities that are in a central, flat location - easily accessible to all providing they are able to walk into the centre or find a parking space for their car. And therein lies our problem - finding a parking space. This may not be much of a problem to you if you do walk, but - if other folks who can't park, take their trade elsewhere then businesses are going to

suffer - maybe even close down!
Do we want the possibility of empty shops + the loss of some of our lovely amenities. I would imagine the answer to be NO. Therefore, something needs to be done - sooner rather than later. Parking problems need to be addressed. Here are just some of them:-
1 Village workers' cars need designated parking places away from the centre and there is a variety of options to consider.
2 We need disc parking to stop cars being left in the centre all day while folks go elsewhere.
3 A traffic warden is pretty essential to make sure that parking conditions are implemented.
4 Designated parking bays clearly drawn out in all parking areas.
I'm sure there are other considerations to be added to this relatively small list - I look forward to hearing them. Hope this small step helps to get the ball rolling in the right direction and in time to

make sure we keep our village the way we want it. Yours hopefully
Olive Simpkins
This letter was included in the agenda at the last meeting of the Parish Council, and the matter is now an ongoing discussion to reach a viable solution. I urge you all to consider the problem and to pass any ideas or solution proposals to the council. There is also the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan out at the moment asking for feedback, another good way to get across any new ideas. Olive Simpkins

Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan

As reported in last month's Village Voice, work continues on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. Throughout January questionnaires were available to complete, which asked the community to inform us of your likes, dislikes, concerns and issues in the Parish. The closing date for the return of the questionnaires was Friday 30th January. However if you have a completed questionnaire and would like to return it to us we will accept returns until Thursday 5th February. Please forward your questionnaires to: Lanchester Parish Council, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester, DH7 0LS.

Found

A wedding ring near the Parish Church in Lanchester on the night of Christmas Eve. For further details please contact Peter Smith on 01207520498.

Community Draw

The winner in the Community Draw for December 2014 was 88. The draw was made by Community Centre Manager, Alison Boyd.

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise:
Contact John Hurrant, Advertising Manager
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OPENING OF LYNWOOD HOUSE

This was a fitting opening for such a fine building project. The main hall was crowded with residents, representatives from Derwentside Homes and Parish Councillors. Above on the balcony was the sound of some wonderful music mainly from the 60s, played by the Arco String Quartet. This enhanced what was a very convivial atmosphere with everyone sitting around with teas and coffees waiting for the formalities to begin. Sebert Cox OBE, Chair of Derwentside Homes began by welcoming everyone to the opening. He went on to say that the aim of bringing extra housing for older people had been successful, with such a fine well appointed building. It had been a long process, during which Councillors Mike

Wardle and Colin Burton should receive special thanks for their determination and commitment. Ward Councillors Ossie Johnson and Jo Armstrong were also singled out to receive his personal thanks. Mr Cox now considers that Lynwood House is the jewel in the crown, if not the flagship of their many projects in Derwentside. He then introduced Pat Glass MP who was to open the building officially. However, before this actually happened, Mr Cox handed over to Chief Executive, Geraldine Wilcox, who also concentrated on thanking those involved from conception of Lynwood House until the opening today, particularly her directors, Keith Tallintire and Steve Melvin, for



A gathering of builders, architects, councillors, Derwentside Homes staff, and residents.

their time and effort put into the project. She went on to explain that it was a £6 million project designed for people of ages 55 and over, with 34 apartments with all the other beneficial facilities. She thanked builders Galliford Try, Edwards Architecture, Durham Council, Derwentside Homes Older Persons Team and In House

Development Team, before handing over to Pat Glass MP. Mrs Glass gave a warm speech and reminisced about how it all began about eight years ago and how angry and pained she had been with the demise of Lynwood when she was a member of the Parish Council. She expressed the need for homes for the elderly

and praised the new Lynwood as a welcome addition to the village. Thanks were offered to many of the people who had been involved before unveiling the plaque. She was then presented with a bouquet by Sebert Cox. This was followed by a lovely buffet, drinks, and later the cutting of a cake.



Speech time with Geraldine Wilcox, Sebert Cox and Pat Glass.



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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Meeting held on 13th January 2015

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting on 9th December 2014 - approved.

Neighbourhood Warden Report

- November - discussed and received.

Correspondence

1. Correspondence from a resident - parking problems in the village.

Members considered the information received from a resident which outlined the parking problems in the village and offered some suggestions to address the problem.

Members acknowledged the problems that have existed for a number of years. Members referred to work undertaken by the Parish Council and Lanchester Partnership regarding parking problems. A suggestion had been to explore the introduction of time limited parking in the village, which at that time was not

progressed due to lack of support. As a result of these discussions the area behind Cooplands was cleared and a number of parking spaces made available to local businesses.

A number of public parking areas were identified including: car parks behind Park House, on Newbiggen Lane, behind the shops and parking on Front Street. In addition there are a number of private parking areas.

Members referred to the current community consultation taking place on the Neighbourhood Plan. If parking is identified as a concern then further work will be undertaken. This will involve identifying actions and seeking further involvement of the community.

2. Durham County Council - Fly Tipping

Campaign - purchase of CCTV equipment. Members considered the information received on 'Operation Stop It', a campaign to stop fly tipping and the opportunity to purchase a small camera to tackle fly tipping. It was agreed that the problem of fly tipping in the parish be monitored.

3. Police and Crime Plan 2015-2017. Members were given information on the consultation for the Police and Crime Plan 2015-2017 along with details of a drop in session to meet Ron Hogg, the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4. NALC Awards Scheme Members were informed that NALC (National Association of Local Councils) were considering re-instating their awards ceremony to recognise parish council achievements.

5. Buckingham Palace Garden Party - 12th May 2015. Members considered nominations to the event and agreed that Councillor Paul Jackson be included in the county draw.

6. Letter of thanks - Christmas Lights Members received a letter of thanks from Mrs Judith Lund following her involvement in the Christmas Lights Switch On event.

7. Letter - Willow Burn - update Members considered a letter received from Willow Burn providing an update over the last 6 months.

8. Inside Story - newsletter received.

9. LCR - winter publication - received.

10. The clerk Magazine - November - received.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were received.

Neighbourhood Plan

Members were informed that the first consultation was currently taking place in the form of a questionnaire. This has been distributed around the Parish using a range of methods. The closing date for questionnaires was the end of January following which an analysis of the returns would take place. The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan working group will take place on 17th February.

Community Emergency Plan

Members were informed that the production of a Community Emergency Plan for Lanchester was almost complete. There was still some work to complete on the telephone tree which would be activated in the event of an emergency. A further meeting is due following which a trial run of the plan will take place.

Memorial Plaque - World War I

Members were informed that Lanchester Community Centre had given permission to display the memorial plaque in their building.

Lanchester Branch Royal British Legion Standard Members were informed that the Parish Church has received permission from the diocese to display the Standard in the Church.

Local Council Award Scheme

The Quality Council Scheme which the Parish Council currently holds has been re-launched as the Local Council Award Scheme. The new scheme carries three levels of award: Foundation, Quality and Gold. As a current holder of the award the Parish Council automatically holds the Foundation level of the scheme for one year. During this year the Parish Council can work towards achieving a higher level of the standard.

Maintenance Progress Report

The report was discussed and received.

Grass Cutting 2015

Members discussed the process for securing a contractor to undertake the grass cutting for 2015 and agreed that three quotes are sought for the work and that a two or three year contract is explored.

Precept 2015/16

Members considered the report. It was agreed that the precept be set at £53,185.00 for 2015/16. This would result in an increase in band D council tax of £0.65 a year or 1.78%.

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th February at 7.15 pm at Lynwood House.



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POLICE REPORT

Since the beginning of November we have experienced an increase in antisocial behaviour within the village as a result of youths from Lanchester and those attending from Stanley causing problems during evenings. Officers have actively been patrolling the village to engage with these youths and to offer reassurance to members of the public and business owners as well as conducting stop searches where appropriate. As a result of our approach and information from members of the public we have managed to identify those responsible for the issues and achieved good results, including a 22 year old male being reported and charged with assault, an 18 year old male receiving an £80 fine for Public Order and a 16 year old male being charged with theft of a Christmas garden ornament. So far this

month we have seen a reduction in antisocial behaviour calls down 83% compared to previous months. We are continuing to receive information of antisocial behaviour on Durham Road and will be targeting this area over the coming weeks. Local residents have assisted with helping to identify those responsible; they will be receiving a home visit by local officers.

At the beginning of December we received approximately 8 reports of vehicle wing mirrors being damaged by being kicked off. Through a local appeal and speaking with members of the public we were able to identify three males aged between 14-16 years old who were formally interviewed and admitted being responsible.

Rural crime continues to be a priority in the area due to a spate of burglaries between

Lanchester and the A68. At the beginning of December we received approximately 3 reports of shed burglaries at Hollinside. Through forensic evidence a 20 year old male from Stanley was arrested and charged with these burglaries and 2 burglaries which occurred in Castleside. Officers are now patrolling the rural areas daily to identify any persons acting suspiciously.

The next PACT meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 3rd February at 6.30 pm in Burnhope Primary School; everyone is welcome.

PCSO 6780 Lisa Jackson

THE EYES HAVE IT!

Thieves who target countryside properties are being warned that they are being watched, with the help of some eye-catching new posters. The campaign will see the posters go up across the area in a bid to drive down rural crime.

Thefts from rural properties have been on the increase recently, causing significant concern for local people. The posters have been proven to work well in reducing crime in other areas. Our message to criminals is very clear; we have a team of people who are on the look-out for anything or anyone suspicious. Thieves

attempting to steal from properties here will be spotted, the police will be alerted and they will be caught.

We are also working with local people to ensure that their property is fully secured. We will be offering words of advice about how best to store items of value and discussing with them the impact that not doing so can have on household insurance. We will also be installing shed alarms where needed.

For further information, please contact the Consett neighbourhood policing team by calling 101. PCSO 7425 Vikki Ord

COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Last January the Community Centre was facing a potential loss of £10,000 because the Richmond Fellowship ceased to operate from Lanchester. An appeal was made to the public for financial help which resulted in special donations totalling £5,000 being made. I would like to thank all of you that have contributed and this is appreciated by staff and volunteers who give up their time to provide a facility to be proud of.

We obviously have to reduce our costs in 2015 to match our new income expectations and have repaid our outstanding loan of £25,500, The Community Centre is a large building to maintain

and about £10,000 per year from grants and donations needs to be raised to maintain our high standards so please continue with your donations to help us make it a successful 2015.

Sadly, thefts from the Community Centre of a Collection Box, an Advent Quilt and two electric heaters have had to be reported to the Police. You may now find that you only have access to the room that you have booked.

Arthur Maughan, MBE, Chairman

Further information including What's New and What's Planned is detailed in the January 2015 Newsletter available in the Community Centre Conservatory.

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WIND FARM AT WINDY FARM?

A public consultation drop in exhibition was held at the Community Centre on Thursday 11th December from 4.30 - 7.30 pm. For a meeting of this kind in Lanchester the attendance was remarkably low. It was not well advertised with very few posters and the only newspaper advertisement was in the Northern Echo, but probably in the wrong regional edition for the village.

Staff at the exhibition representing Energiekontor UK Ltd were extremely courteous and knowledgeable answering pertinent questions in great detail. The site for the proposed Wind Farm is near Five Road Ends on the road to Satley, 2k west of Lanchester. It is intended

to place four 100m wind turbines on Windy Farm not far from this junction. The scoping report for this project was received by Durham CC in June 2014. Independent experts will examine the site for its suitability for this kind of usage and effects on the local environment.

The benefit to the village would be £50,000 per annum for the life of the Wind Farm. This would have to be administered in a professional way.

Areas where the turbines will probably be most visible are: Hollinside, from houses near the junction, houses at Woodlands Hall, Knitsley and Hurbuck Cottages. Screening from trees may or may not prevent the turbines being seen from the village but they may be visible from

the A691 to Consett. This information is speculation and may not be accurate. The turbines would serve 6,633 homes. Various research of current technologies for large scale production of power, conclude that wind power is the most effective.

This would probably be the last site for turbines in this area due to the conditions and size of the local generator.

It is suggested you visit EnergieKontor website

for further information. The section on 10 myths about Wind Farms makes interesting reading. Go to

www.windyhillwindfarm.co.uk.

More consultations will take place throughout 2015.



Members of the public viewing the exhibition

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

Happy New Year! Parliament resumed on 5th January and immediately went straight into the start of the General Election (GE) period with the election rhetoric heating up on all sides. This is the first time we have had a fixed term 5 year parliament and are only now beginning to learn fully what that means. In the past the only real certainty we had was that Parliament could not continue beyond 5 years. In the past a general election could be called for 2 reasons (i) a vote of no confidence in the government (ii) The Prime Minister would decide when the election would be held and would ask the Queen to dissolve Parliament three weeks before the date of the election. We knew that the election would always be held on a Thursday

(tradition) and that the election would be held sometime between April and November (because of the weather). We knew that elections are not usually held in July or August (because of the summer holidays) and that historically most elections have been held in May or June. This parliamentary session we have known the date of the election for 5 years. The election takes place on May 7th.

There are implications of a dissolution of parliament for me as your MP and for you as constituents of North West Durham. From the date of dissolution - 31st March 2015 - I will formally cease to be the Member of Parliament for North West Durham. My parliamentary office will be 'sealed' on that date. My constituency offices in Consett and Crook will

remain open but only to deal with 'emergencies' and I can only represent constituents in the same way as any other citizen. From 31st March your only elected representatives will be your local councillors Ossie Johnson and Richie Young and anyone with a problem needs to go to them in the first instance. If it is an 'emergency' you can contact me. If there is a national or international emergency between 31st March and 7th May Parliament can be recalled but it will be a Parliament of citizens not a Parliament of elected members.

I hope that I will be returned as your Member of Parliament on 7th May but that is in the hands of the electorate of North West Durham, as it should be. Pat Glass MP



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THE FINAL 'GATHERING'

On Tuesday, December 9th, a beautifully decorated Community Centre, crisp white table coverings, sparkling floral Christmas table centres along with gentle piano playing from Neville and the scene was set for the last 'gathering' of the year. It had been a 'sold out' event well before the day - lots of folk looking forward to Mel's sumptuous 3 course meal. The History Society even held their Christmas get-together with us. Over the course of the year we have enjoyed some lovely meals but the last

one was a delight. After Grace, which was said by our new Methodist minister Rev Stuart Earl, we ate, to start, fan of melon, main course was roast loin of pork with stuffing, potatoes and vegs and we finished off with a pud of hot brandied cherries and ice cream. And a 'well done' to Mel and his team who, on the day, were 2 down.

The aim of the 'gatherings' was to try, over the course of 4 lunches, to raise £1000 for the village bus, a really worthwhile, and to some people vital, village

enterprise and at the same time to give everyone a good meal and an enjoyable time.

We've enjoyed 4 memorable, feel-good community occasions while at the same time raising money for the bus - £1800.32p to be exact. Also, at the final 'gathering', the raffle was in aid of Willow Burn and £240 was raised.

Finally, Mike Gladstone on behalf of Lanchester Partnership - the organisation which runs the Village bus - thanked Olive, Mel and all their helpers for a job well done.

NEW LUNCH CLUB

A new monthly lunch club exclusive to people aged over 50, organised by Age UK County Durham's 'Come Eat Together' team, will be starting in January in the King's Head. Set in the traditional village pub, this monthly lunch club includes a hot two course lunch followed by a variety of social activities such as bingo, a quiz or a guest speaker.

The lunch club will run on the fourth Tuesday of the month bringing people together with good food and good company. Why not come and join us? Come Eat Together is funded by Big Lottery Silver Dreams. To find out more or to book a place please contact the Come Eat Together Team on 0191 3746 577 or email cet@ageukcountydurham.org.uk.



A full Community Centre for the final 'gathering'

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TABLE TENNIS CLUB UPDATE

Lanchester Table Tennis Club held its presentation evening at the Black Bull on 12th December 2014. Organised by the team manager, John Cook, this was a great evening which helped raise funds and fun levels for everyone involved. Awards were given to:
Adam Butler - Player of the Year
Thaaqib Saleem - Junior Player of the Year and Winner of the Junior Knockout Competition
Josh Tilney - Most Improved Junior
Andrew Firth - Competition Winner

David McAllister - Competition Runner Up
Liam Ord - Team Player of the Year
Lindsey Beacham - Adult Player of the Year
Francis Guthrie - Plate Competition Winner
Tom Firth - Most Improved Cadet
Senior Doubles Winners - Edith Lucas and Frank Clarke
Our Community Centre Chairman, Arthur Maughan, presented trophies to all of our champions.
We would like to extend our warmest welcome to juniors in our community

and offer the opportunity to take advantage of the coaching and table time offered every Wednesday and Friday, 6-7. This successful nursery programme, with a recent training session carried out in tandem with local schools, and Friday's regular 5-7pm development/team player practice held at St Bede's school is growing, and we would like to see this success continue. Two of our members have improved tremendously and are planning to take their Level 1 Coaching Award in the coming months.



Some of the players with their trophies

Our regular training sessions, run by our not-for-profit volunteers at Lanchester Community Centre, come at the bargain price of just £2 for Juniors and Veterans and £2.50 for adults, with all proceeds returning to our club and community, so please come and join in the fun.

Frank Clarke, Chairman

CRICKET CLUB NEWS

Hope you all had a great Xmas and New Year. The Xmas Feast was a roaring success as the club was transformed with decorations, a tree, tablecloths, crackers and table centres, thanks to Joy and Jeff Wingfield. Those present sat down to four courses, with melon and orange juice to start, followed by a winter broth, both prepared by Jeff Wingfield with a main course of Turkey, Beef and Pork with every vegetable imaginable. Jacqueline

McConnell then supplied a choice of seven desserts for those who had room for them. After the feast, the Pretty Weeds provided lively entertainment so that everyone could dance off some of those calories. All in all a fantastic night. Dave Black did a great job

on the work in the changing rooms. They look fantastic and just need decorating inside once the plaster work is completely dry. Indoor nets start Sunday 1st February at Fyndoune with juniors on first from 2-3 and seniors 3-4. Any newcomers are welcome.



The Cricket Club does not get much luck. In a recent gale, the roof began to come off.

BEER FESTIVAL 2015

Organisers have been approaching the sponsors from 2014 and the majority have agreed to show their support for 2015. Local businesses such as Harlands Accountants, Lanchester Dairies, Talking Heads and Alexander Lettings are just

some of those who have signed up. Hopefully Life @ Durham Gate will continue as the main sponsor. The beer festival website is up and running where sponsors' details are displayed, new sponsors can see what they get for their money

and you can buy tickets and drinks in advance. We expect demand to be greater this year after last year's success, so to make sure you get in, book your tickets in advance. Anyone interested in a sponsor package can make contact through the website.

THE WI START A NEW YEAR

President Jennifer Macdonald opened our first meeting of 2015, welcoming the group, and introducing a very busy evening. Jill Gladstone addressed the members, encouraging us to begin a debate about the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan, in which the local community can offer their views about planning issues, future housing requirements, new shops, offices, leisure facilities etc. We had the chance to examine the Plan and to consider our responses.

Ann Carr gave a very amusing reading, 'The Tea Dance' then Jennifer addressed several current topics. Updates were reported on the Darts team, the Quiz Group and the Book Club, all resuming their programmes over the next weeks. Members were invited to opt for the issues they would like the NFWI to raise awareness about this year, and a reminder



Gwen Davis presents a fascinating talk

was given about our Open Evening in March. The competition this month was entitled 'Keep Calm' and the two prizes were awarded to Jennifer and Ann. The raffle prizes were won by Dorothy Beadling and Irene James.

Our speaker this month was Gwen Davis, a resident of Lanchester, who has been involved in Hypnosis and Hypnotherapy for over 20 years. The terms might suggest an air of mystery, but Gwen brought her own very practical account of her work, giving a brief history of early forms of 'mesmerism' in ancient times, down to the

development of current scientific techniques. She described how mind, thoughts and feelings operate on the brain. Hypnotherapy works on the subconscious mind, opening doors to alleviate worries and anxieties. She gave several examples of how she has been able to help many people with problems and concerns. This was a fascinating presentation and it made us realise how complex the human mind must be. The meeting ended with time for relaxation, and soups made by June and Maisie, a warming end to a winter evening.

THURSDAY CLUB UPDATE

2014 was rounded off at the Christmas meeting by 'A Meander Through France', a presentation given by Olive Simpkins, and followed by a few seasonal goodies and drinks. The presentation was a pictorial compilation, with music, of a journey from Monte Carlo in the east, along the south coast of France via Provence and

the Pyrenees to Biarritz, and then north taking in the Dordogne, Isle de Re, the Loire, and ending on the Normandy coast. In 2015 we shall be celebrating our 35th birthday. The year began for us with a New Year party at Crinnion's where we enjoyed a tasty buffet, a good natter, and tried our hand at the 2014 quiz.

The February meeting is at 1.30pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre when we shall be listening to a talk by Glynis Grainger entitled 'Women behind the Wire'.

Subscriptions for the Thursday Club have been maintained at last year's level of £12. Anyone wishing to join us will be most welcome.



Thursday Club members enjoying their New Year party at Crinnion's

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Happy children on the Village Green

It was a magical 'Carols on the Green' on Christmas Eve. It did not rain, it did not snow, it was not windy, and it was cold but not freezing cold, all of which made for a good outdoor event. The lights from the trees and the colourful Christmas Tree, cast a magical glow over participants and performers and we seemed transported to a night long, long ago when two

wear weary travellers found rest in an inn and the Saviour of the world was born. Canon Spence introduced the evening and David Hughes led the singing of favourite carols accompanied by Lanchester Brass Band, with their conductor Lewis Wilkinson. A favourite moment was the many children who were present singing 'Away in a Manger'.

It was the best turnout of people for some years, which made it extra special this year. Reverend Rupert Kalus brought the evening to a close in prayer and the crowd dispersed to their homes, anticipating no doubt a joyous Christmas and one which would be much more meaningful for them.

Brenda Craddock

(See more pictures on back page)

There couldn't really be a better title for Christmas and the marvellous story was brought alive in Lanchester on December 18th, when the Northwest Durham Methodist Circuit choir sang 'Night of Miracles' by John W Peterson. The choir of over thirty voices was conducted by Harry Carr and accompanied by excellent musicians on piano, brass, bass guitar, flute and drums with Eric Skipsey narrating.

The joy of Christmas could be felt from the moment the singing began with everyone joining together, to sing O Come All Ye Faithful. Then the wonder of Christmas started to unfold. From the Prophet Isaiah come the familiar words, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" and from John's Gospel, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The incredible realisation of God on earth

was portrayed beautifully through songs such as Glorious Night of Miracles, No Room only a Manger and Sleep, Holy Child. For everyone listening, the power of the incarnation could be felt and as the musical continued, so too the response to the miracle of Jesus' birth could be understood. The stories of the lowly Shepherds and the learned Wise Men were told through the message of the Gospel writers and in the words of the songs, Glory to God in the Highest and We have come to Worship Him. Following the song from the choir, This is the Wonderful Story of Christmas, everyone sang together O Holy Night. Indeed, Night of Miracles stirred the hearts of everyone present so that the celebration of Christmas was truly ready to begin in our village of Lanchester. Thank God for His Gift of love to us all. Margaret Coates

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BISHOP OF JARROW VISITS EP SCHOOL



Reception teacher Mrs Jones and the children with the Bishop

The Bishop of Jarrow or Bishop Mark as he is known in the Diocese, spent a morning in Lanchester EP School on Tuesday January 20th. He was a very special visitor to the school and the pupils certainly made it special for Bishop Mark, with their welcoming, winning smiles and friendliness. His first class visit was to the Reception Class, where the emphasis was on books and Reading. He had brought with him some of his favourite books, which included two very, very old books, one of which was a huge, very thick Family Bible. These he showed to the children and then read a book to them chosen from the classroom book library. These very young children

one or two pertinent questions. There was of course the link of the curved head of the crook, and the shepherd who always carries a crook. Someone had the answer and Bishop Mark said how impressed he was with the intelligent answers the pupils gave.

Another children's hymn was sung and then Bishop Mark took out of his case the garments which a Bishop has to wear when he is taking a service, particularly in a cathedral or church. These were a long purple garment, along with a white over garment like a shirt, a long, narrow piece of material worn round the neck, a beautiful long cloak which had flames of fire embroidered on the back, and finally a special hat called a 'mitre'. All these garments had a special significance which Bishop Mark explained. He certainly looked impressive in his full 'uniform' as he called it. All the pupils and staff had a part in making Bishop Mark's visit so memorable for him and the whole school benefited from his interest in them and the knowledge he imparted. Brenda Craddock

EP SCHOOL CHRISTINGLE 2014

The Junior School pupils presented their Nativity Play to a packed church on the last day of term. They always do their Nativity Play well and this year was no exception. The pupils who were not acting provided the music for the play and sang a number of Christmas songs. Almost all children enjoy dressing up and the Nativity characters were well dressed for their performance. They were obviously enjoying their participation in this last event of term. These year 6 pupils were no doubt

conscious that the Year 5 pupils would be watching carefully, as next year it will be their turn to produce a Nativity Play. Well they were certainly given a very good performance on which to model their own. The play was followed by a procession around the church by pupils carrying a Christingle Orange, very, very carefully. The orange represents the world and the red ribbon or tape which is placed round the middle of the orange, reminds us that Christ died on a cross and shed blood

so that we may have Eternal Life. The candle found on the top of the orange is seen symbolically as the Light of Christ, reaching the whole world in an effort to bring peace to every country in the world, instead of the unbelievable acts of violence which have made appalling headlines in 2014 and shocked us all. It was a heartening sight to see the glow made by the candle on each child's face; their innocence gives us hope of a better world! Brenda Craddock



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CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Lanchester Male Voice Choir and Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society



David Hughes conducts the Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society

To read or hear that these two great choirs are singing, is to make a mental note to attend wherever they are performing. We are so proud to have such excellent musicians in Lanchester. This is an annual event, organised by the Male Voice Choir, and is always very well attended. This year it took place in the Roman Catholic Church, where every pew was filled. The beautiful singing from these choirs is a joy and the choice of music and Christmas songs was superb. All the

performers always give of their best, encouraged by their conductors, Mr Harry Carr and Mr David Hughes, both very well loved and respected in our village. As always the pianists Noreen Bridgewater and Bill Gray gave impeccable performances. The audience participated too in the singing of certain carols and thoroughly enjoyed doing so. There were readings interspersed with the musical items, read meaningfully by our three clergy. The music and readings that evening

touched every heart. The words of one of my favourite Christmas Songs were so apt for the occasion, 'Christmas isn't Christmas till it happens in your heart'. It was a beautiful sacred event, based on the Word of God and His Son who was born on Christmas Day, to be the Saviour of the World. Brenda Craddock The collection at the end of the Celebration of Christmas raised £500 which was donated to Willow Burn Hospice by Canon Spence.

LANCHESTER METHODIST JUNIOR CHURCH UNDER 8s

We have had a fun filled Christmas period with our crèche and Sparks group (for Children 3-7). On Sunday 7th December we had our Christmas party at The Ark soft play in Crawcrook. 23 children enjoyed lots of soft play fun, party games and a delicious party tea. We even had time to make a cracker which we are going to pull with our families on Christmas Day to remind us of the story of the birth of Jesus.

On 14th December, we put on an excellent Nativity, with a bit of help from the older members of our

Junior Church. This play invited everyone to 'come to a party' to celebrate Jesus' birthday. The teenage group in our Junior Church (called Fires) played all the music for the Nativity service and the large congregation all seemed to enjoy singing favourite Christmas carols old and new.

Our Junior Church and crèche are on most Sundays (unless we are having a family service) at 10.30 am. We have different groups for ages ranging from 0 to 18. If you would like to join us we would love to see you.



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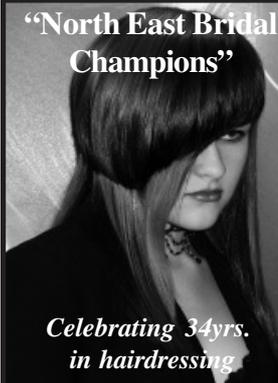
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A HAPPY WRIGGLY CHRISTMAS!

The infants of All Saints' School invited family and friends to their nativity play with a difference. The 'wriggly' performance was a blend of ancient and modern, telling the well loved story of the birth of Jesus in a stable at Bethlehem. There were several modern touches - the children sang about how excited and 'wriggly' they felt about Christmas, and besides Mary and Joseph, shepherds, innkeepers, kings and angels, there was a camel, several gambolling sheep and a rabbit present! This was a fun performance, the youngsters looked and sounded wonderful, and the retelling of the nativity in a modern and humorous manner really worked! Well done everyone!

EP INFANTS NATIVITY

Another lovely Nativity play was performed by the children in the upper infants school, (Key Stages 1 and 2). It was all about the traditional Christmas story but told from the view of a 'Christmas Bauble'! The man who made the special baubles, Mr Bauble, was played very well indeed, and of course there were all the other elements of the Christmas Story ie, the donkey, the Innkeeper, Joseph and Mary, the Villagers, the Shepherds and their sheep, and the Wise men with their camels, not forgetting the Angels and their leader Angel Gabriel. In addition there was the guest appearance of ballerina Mice dressed in full costume and who performed lovely ballet dancing. Looking very smart in their school uniforms, some pupils were the narrators and of course there was some beautiful singing, all of which contributed to an excellent performance by these youngsters. Everyone knew what they had to do and say and played their part splendidly. It is so good that everyone has a part to play in their Nativity play. This keeps them interested all the time and makes them give the best performance that they can. There were some very proud parents in the audience and one or two tissues could be seen! Yet another lovely afternoon in the EP School. Well done everyone!

Brenda Craddock

ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY CHRISTMAS FAIR



The Christmas Beauty Salon ... we're ready for the festivities!

All Saints' Primary School held their Christmas Fair on December 12th. It was a great success, and the crowds came out in force. As well as the usual stalls selling books, games etc, there was a tombola and a huge raffle for everyone to join in. Refreshments as always proved popular with children and their parents, and of course Santa made an appearance to check everyone's Christmas list. A Beauty Salon was a favourite of the girls. They had the opportunity to have nails and faces decorated and hair styled and braided, in readiness for the Christmas season.

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The cast taking a bow

LANCHESTER SINGS 2014

This concert which took place on Friday December 12th in the Methodist Church, was a great success. It was organised for the Red Cross by Mr Bill Gelson, who is well known for organising concerts at the Gala Theatre in Durham. It was attended by the Senior Community Fundraiser for the British Red Cross, Mrs Margaret Musgrave, who is based at Newcastle upon Tyne. Our Red Cross ladies from our village shop provided refreshments at the interval, tea/coffee

and mince pies, and it was a very happy enjoyable evening. The ensemble from the Brass Band accompanied the carols as well as playing some seasonal pieces of their own, conducted by Mr Lewis Wilkinson. Miss Libby Paxton a young soprano from Durham who is currently studying at Oxford University, came home specially to sing in the concert. Her selection of Christmas songs did full justice to her very beautiful singing voice. Lilian Dixon accompanied



The Drama Tree Children's Choir from Chester-le-Street

her singing. The third component of the concert was 'The Drama Tree Children's Choir' from Chester le Street. They sang a medley of Christmas songs very well indeed and their enthusiasm was infectious. They seemed to enthuse the audience when they were asked to contribute to the programme by singing along to some well loved and familiar songs and carols and 'didn't they do well'.

There was one special non-musical item provided by Mr Bernhard Nausner who co-owns 'Kaffeehaus Amadeus' in our village. He gave an excellent rendition of the poem written by Clement Clarke Moore, 'The Night Before Christmas' or 'A Visit from Saint Nicholas'.

Everyone was reluctant to leave when the evening came to an end. The money raised for the British Red Cross that evening amounted to £500, after expenses were paid and will be used to fund their work of caring for people in crisis. Thank you everyone who

contributed in any way to this splendid concert and special thanks to Mr Bill Gelson for his meticulous organisation. Sadly because of failing health he is retiring from organising concerts and we wish him well for the future.

Brenda Craddock



Libby Paxton, soprano

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CONCERT FOR THE NSPCC AND CHRISTIAN AID



East Stanley School Children's Choir

On Thursday December 18th, a special concert took place in All Saints Parish Church. It had been organised by our organist and choir master Mr Craig Davies and Mrs Janet Jackson. Together they are responsible for the church Music Group which contributes regularly to the worship of the parish church. They were presenting the concert as a fundraising event and the money was to be divided between the NSPCC and Christian Aid. Mrs Jackson is the school secretary at East Stanley School and has formed a children's choir there, with a member of staff. They performed in our church last year at a similar concert and once again, this year, performed their songs beautifully. For several of their songs they sang with the Music Group and the blend of voices was perfect, as was Craig's skill on both the organ and piano. The large audience was very appreciative and joined in with some of the carols at Janet's invitation. A main representative from the NSPCC spoke to the audience about the needs of the charity to care for abused and neglected children and said how much he appreciated Craig and Janet's efforts to raise money. Mr Steve Bailey

THANK YOU FROM LANCHESTER NSPCC

The members of Lanchester NSPCC Committee would like to say thank you to Janet Jackson and the Lanchester Parish Church Music Group for organising such an excellent Christmas Concert in their church on 18th December. The Music Group was joined by pupils from East Stanley Primary School choir who performed

spoke about the work of Christian Aid across the world and explained how the government over the Christmas period had promised to match any money raised for Christian Aid. Both these representatives encouraged everyone to give generously and indeed they did, as over £700 was raised that night. It was a joy to be present. Very well done Music group and children of East Stanley school choir. We look forward to more such concerts in the future.

Brenda Craddock

CAROLS AND HOT CHOCOLATE



Joining in the singing

This has become a very popular event in the life of the EP School. It is an occasion when pupils, staff, parents, brothers and sisters, child-minders and family friends are all involved in a big way. Members of staff take over the kitchen to serve cups or mugs of hot chocolate, topped with delicious marshmallows. Wow! Parents and pupils thoroughly enjoy this, while they chat with their friends and other families and then while the chocolate and marshmallows are being drunk, familiar carols and songs are sung, accompanied by Mrs Davis on the piano and Mr Johnson on his guitar. Children and adults seem to

need no encouragement to sing along with the staff who are clustered around the piano. There is no excuse for not singing because the words of the carols are printed overhead for everyone to see. There were smiling faces everywhere you looked, in the packed to capacity big hall of the school, making an extremely happy ending to a busy school day.

Brenda Craddock

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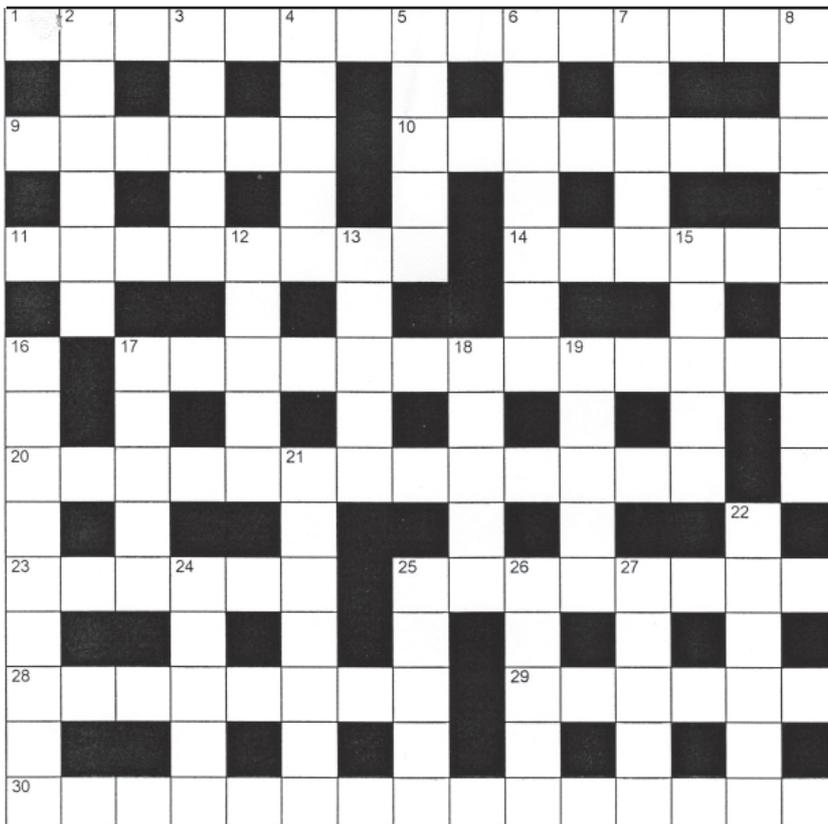
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CROSSWORD 105



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LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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



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CROSSWORD 104

There were just 12 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to Neville Hartley of Foxhills Crescent who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

ACROSS

8. saliva
9. languish
10. falsetto
11. planar
12. shampooed
13. Sofia
15. sop
17. concoct
18. pry
21. ideas
22. infertile
25. impala
26. totality
27. on the job
28. in tune

DOWN

1. Kazakh
2. winsome
3. gastropod
4. fluorescent tube
5. inept
6. run amok
7. espalier
14. eccentric
16. on demand
19. panache
20. athlete
23. litany
24. banjo

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 104

ACROSS

1. Children's game (4,2,3,6)
9. Accurate (4-2)
10. Opted (sic) to be authoritarian (8)
11. One form of carbon (8)
14. Spread out (6)
17. Understanding (13)
20. Machine responsible for mass literacy (8,5)
23. Goes with yellow, baby's and snake (6)
25. Colouring agent (8)
28. Suffer from Iona Ping (2,2,4)
29. Indifference (6)
30. Be resolute (5,2,4,4)

DOWN

2. Polluted (6)
3. Arise (3,2)
4. "Death Cap" and "Lawyer's Wig" for example (5)
5. Goes with laying, hog and sparrow (5)

6. Goes with jewellery, swimming and drama (7)
7. Eat quickly (5)
8. Steps that move you! (9)
12. English composer (d.1934) (5)
13. Offspring of male tiger and female lion (5)
15. Drug addicts (5)
16. Vegetable sugar returns to a mineral spring (9)
17. Law is cited (5)
18. Slightly intoxicated (5)
19. Essentials (5)
21. Imprecise (7)
22. Someone from Helmand? (6)
24. Phillip (5)
25. Doing for dog (5)
26. Remove (5)
27. Pronounced nasal tone of voice (5)

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.

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

LIGHT UP A LIFE



Lanchester Brass Band conducted by Lewis Wilkinson at the Light Up a Life service at Willow Burn Hospice

The Willow Burn 'Light Up a Life' Service is an annual service in December, held in St Bede's School. It is a very special service for the families who have lost a loved one during the previous year, or in recent years, and who has been cared for at Willow Burn Hospice. The latter is a special place, where amazing love and compassion is given by the dedicated staff, both medical and voluntary. The hall is always absolutely filled, but though it is essentially sad remembering loved ones, there is a feeling of great thankfulness that loved ones have

been cherished to the end of their lives and have lived with dignity and as pain free as possible. On entering the hall for the service each person is given a candle. Mrs Helen Mills, Chief Executive Officer, welcomed everyone and said how important it is to express feelings in the mourning process, and share our loss with others, so that the healing process can begin. She also paid tribute to the devotion of the staff at Willow Burn, who also do so much to help the families to cope with their loved one's terminal illness.

The service proceeded with readings, one of which was a poem about a candle read by Reverend Stuart Earl and candles were lit, while Reverend Rupert Kalus spoke words of comfort. Carols were sung, accompanied sensitively by Lanchester Brass Band and just before the final prayers, Andrew O'Connor who died this year, and who loved this service, was remembered. There were mince pies and ginger wine for everyone afterwards. It was such a lovely afternoon from which so many people drew strength.

Brenda Craddock

CAROLS AT WILLOW BURN



The talented choir of All Saints' Catholic School brought a touch of Christmas to Willow Burn Hospice. They sang a wide variety of songs, from the very traditional carols to more modern, up beat festive music. Their audience took great pleasure in the performance, and the youngsters obviously enjoyed entertaining the appreciative gathering.

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WHAT'S ON?

Sunday Bridge Open House

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon playing Bridge in the Community Centre on 1st February at 2.00 pm. Only £3.

WI

Our next meeting will be held in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 2nd February, starting at 7.15. Norman Kirtlan will give what sounds to be a very interesting talk on the Customs of Victorian Durham, and the competition is 'Made in Durham County' which gives a lot of food for thought! Members are reminded that subscriptions of £36 are now due, many thanks to those who have already paid. There is still time to choose an issue which you would like the NFWI to raise awareness about over the coming year. Details were printed in last month's WI Life magazine.

Royal Visit

Lanchester WI proudly announce Royal guests at their Open Evening on Friday, March 27th. Julia Soares-McCormick has appeared on TV and at many major venues, and will be accompanied by her husband, 'King Henry VIII'. The event will be held in Croft Hall, and promises to be a lively and informative Renaissance costume show. Musical entertainment will be offered by 'Windy Gyle' with light refreshments during the interval. We look forward to sharing our Centenary celebrations with our friends in the village. Entry is by ticket only - price £5 and available at the Red Cross Shop.

The Village Voice Page 18

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

Flower Club

Our next meeting on Wednesday 25th February at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre will have a demonstration by Ian Murrey on the 'First World War'.

Paradiso Social Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday February 8th, at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual refreshments, raffle and a film. The film we will be screening that evening is 'THE BOOK THIEF'. Based on the best-selling book comes the story of a girl who transforms the lives of those around her during World War II, Germany. When her mother can no longer care for her, Liesel is adopted by a German couple. Although she arrives illiterate, Liesel is encouraged to learn to read by her adoptive father. When the couple then take in Max, a Jew hiding from Hitler's army, Liesel befriends him. Ultimately, words and imagination provide the friends with an escape from the events unfolding around them. The film stars Sophie Nélisse, Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson. All are welcome to come and view the film on the BIGSCREEN!

Entry: £2.50 members, £3.50 occasional visitors, £2 young persons. Entry covers everything, raffle, refreshments and film.

Fool's Gold

Beat the Drum in Lanchester library.

Libraries are so much more than shelves of books these days. Computers, DVD's spoken word books, periodicals and information all form a part of the library offer to visitors and members.

Musical performances, are still however quite rare, so when they come around, it's well worth knowing about them!

On Thursday 19th February at 2.00pm local folk duo Fool's Gold return to Lanchester Library - this time to present their commemoration of the First World War entitled 'Beat The Drum'. Many readers of The Village Voice will know that Steve and Carol are no strangers to the library having twice before successfully presented their 'Stories with Strings' show. The new performance mixes together stories, images, video and live music to commemorate the people and events of the First World War and features some moving, informative and even funny moments. Steve and Carol, who as a husband and wife musical duo make up Fool's Gold, will present the narrative and also will perform the songs live. The music is loosely in the folk tradition, but contains enough hooks to appeal to a wide audience.

Admission to the event is free, and refreshments will be available. More information about Fool's Gold can be found on their website www.foolsgoldacoustic.co.uk.

PACT meeting

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

Lanchester Agricultural Society

will hold a Family Ceilidh at Lanchester Social Club on Saturday February 25th at 7.30 pm.

Guest Band Fiddler's Elbow!!!

Pie and Pea Supper £10 per ticket. Please email helenfletcher10@googlemail.com or call Gemma on 07722004980.

Lanchester Show

Lanchester Agricultural Society are pleased to announce we have confirmed the return of the Fur and Feather section for 2015! We are also expanding our stalls this year and will have a larger craft tent and the addition of a Farmers Market tent!

We still require volunteers who would be interested in running the following sections that we would like to see a return/growth to the show this year.

* Sheep and Cattle

* Industrial section - includes baking and home produce and vegetables, horticulture etc etc.

If anyone has any suggestions or would like to get involved please contact Helen Gascoigne at helenfletcher10@googlemail.com.

Short Circuit Walks

Venue: Great Lumley

Date: February 14th

OS Ref: NZ294492

DH34JG

Miles: 5

Leader: Edna Hunter.

Phone: 0191 3889570

Meet/park at Community

Centre on Front Street.

From there we take a flight

of steps (or a Flight of

fancy) to country lanes

and Lumley Park Wood.

Avoiding the golf course,

we progress to Lumley

Castle grounds and then

back home.

(Some roadside walking involved).

Choral Society Goes Viennese?

No, not Johan Strauss this time but Josef Haydn, Vienna's favourite composer of the 18th century. His oratorio 'The Creation' is usually regarded as his masterpiece, and Lanchester Choral Society will perform this work on 6th March at 7.15 pm in the Methodist Church. 'The Creation' is almost as English as it is Viennese, since Haydn set about writing it after his visits to England in the 1790's when he was inspired by the oratorios of Handel such as 'The Messiah'. In fact the text he used was written by an Englishman and the work was published in both English and German. 'The Creation' received its first English performance in London in 1800.

The soloists at our concert in Lanchester are Susan Jordan, Richard Woods and Ian Gray with Bill Gray at the organ. The conductor is David Hughes. Tickets are available from any society member or from 521458 or 520172.

Adult Wildlife Group

The meeting on 10th February at 7.30 pm will be entitled 'The North Sea' with Rachel Hepburn.

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

February 22nd. Meet in the Community Centre Car Park, 9.30 am to go to the place where we intend to build a Bug Hotel.

Vintage Tractor Club

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

Willow Burn

If you're looking for that perfect Valentine's gift or a treat for yourself, then look no further than Willow Burn Hospice.

We will be holding a Pamper Day on Saturday February 14th from 10am - 4pm in our delightful Day Hospice; places are limited so get booking today!

We are asking for a suggested donation of £10 which includes a hand or foot massage, lunch and entry into our raffle - what more could you possibly want?

Also on offer are a variety of beauty treatments, massage, Reiki, Tai Chi, manicures and stalls to explore to your heart's content.

To book your place please call 01207 523900.

Introduction to Meditation

Five weekly one hour sessions beginning on Tuesday 24th February at 7.00 pm in the Chapter House, Lanchester Parish Church, followed by 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th March.

Meditation is easy to learn and has proven benefits in improving health, peace of mind and emotional well-being.

It also lies at the heart of many of the world's major religions.

These sessions are free of charge and open to people of all faiths and none.

Everyone is welcome. For more details please contact Reverend Rupert Kalus on 01207 521170, r.kalus737@btinternet.com or simply come along on the day.

Lanchester Social Club

Entertainment during February 2015

Saturday 7th February Marty

Sunday 8th February Sunday Night Buskers

Saturday 14th February John Andrew

Sunday 15th February Sunday Night Buskers

Saturday 21st February Leah

Sunday 22nd February Sunday Night Buskers

Saturday 28th February Connor

Sunday 1st March Sunday Night Buskers

Churches Together in Lanchester and Burnhope

The Lent lunches will be held at the Methodist Church on February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. Please bring lunch to share between 11.30 am until 12.00 midday, tea and coffee is provided.

Between 12.00 and 1.00 pm we will be following the York course, PRAISE HIM. Everyone is warmly welcome.

Thursday Club

A Coffee Morning in aid of The Great North Air Ambulance will be held on 12th March from 10.00am till 11.30am in the Community Centre Dining Room. Tickets are £1.00 or pay at the door. Come and join us for tea/coffee, home baked cake or scone and meet up with 'old' and make new friends. There is also a Raffle and Tombola.

Hope to see you there.

Lanchester Local History Society

Our first meeting this year will be on Friday 6th February at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. Entitled 'The Bodysnatchers', the talk given by local historian Heather Munsey promises to be very interesting and everyone is welcome to attend.

Country Market

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

Community Centre Events

Spring Craft Fair

Saturday 28th February 10.00 am until 2.00 pm.

Coffee Morning

The Community Centre will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 12th February from 9.30 - 11 am.

Folk Concert

Saturday 25th April. The line up will consist of Phylosan, Kidders Luck, Copperhead Duo, Jim & Marylin Gibson, Jeff Grant and Chris Kelly. Proceeds will be shared between Henry Dancer Days and the Community Centre. Tickets only £4.

The Crafter's Hub

is open in the Conservatory of the Community Centre. Come and have a look at the many craft items on sale.

Mothers Union

At the meeting on Wednesday 11th February in the Chapter House, the speaker is Mr East who will give a talk about prisons.

FESTIVE FOOD FAIR



Right: Shirley Lamb, Ann Carr, June Wallace and Jennifer Macdonald with Graham Prior, Wellness Coach, and his wife.

A Festive Food Fair was held at the Community Centre on Saturday 13th December from 10 am - 2 pm. After a slow start the numbers built up to enjoy a good variety of foodstuffs and drinks on offer.

There were about 10 stalls which included Weight Energy food and Fitness Drinks, Blackhill Brewery, and from the

village, the tasty products of Hanley and Swinbank. Other stalls displayed Aloe Vera products with Christmas gifts, cup cakes, ginger wine, preserves, and of course the raffle this time run by children volunteers.

It was an interesting morning which raised £151 for the Community Centre.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Chicken Marengo

I like to find out about the origins of different foods, where they began, and how they developed. This is an easy chicken dish, and a popular myth tells how Napoleon's chef was instructed to prepare a meal for him after the French army defeated the Austrians in the Battle of Marengo in 1800. Forced to scavenge in the local area as the supply wagons were too distant, the chef had to create a meal from what he could scrounge.

INGREDIENTS

50 g of butter
3½-4lb chicken joints
300 ml white wine
400 g can of tomatoes
100 g mushrooms
2 cloves of garlic, crushed
1 chicken stock cube, crumbled
50 g chopped, dried apricots (optional)
Bouquet garni, made up of a bay leaf, sprig of parsley and sprig of thyme.
1 tablespoon flour

METHOD

1. Heat the butter in a large pan and fry the chicken until browned.

2. Transfer to an oven-proof casserole with the frying juices and add all other ingredients, except for the flour.
3. Cover and cook for 45 minutes at 350 degrees F, (180 C), gas mark 4.
4. Gradually blend the flour with a little of the liquid then stir into the casserole and cook for 15 minutes.
Serve with potatoes boiled in their skins, seasonal vegetables, or accompaniment of your choice.

PICTURES OF SOME OF THE FESTIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGE DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD



A very full dance floor at the New Year's Eve ceilidh organised by Lanchester Wildlife Group.



A demonstration by three members of 'Step This Way', Appalachian cloggers, at the New Year's Eve ceilidh.

Apologies for the heating going to bed at 10 pm at the ceilidh. Hope it didn't spoil your evening. Thank you for your support. Elaine



Lanchester Brass Band giving festive cheer to shoppers at Dalton Park.



The Babies and Toddlers groups held a joint Christmas party at the Community Centre with free play, lots of food and a visit from Santa. Here they can be seen tucking into some sumptuous food.



*Some of the estimated 600 crowd enjoying the Carols on the Green with the magical tree lights in the background.
See article on page 10.*



A few more of the crowd for the Carols on the Green on Christmas Eve.

NEXT DEADLINE

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

Published by Lanchester Publications Ltd, 2 Fenhall Park, Lanchester, DH7 0JT and printed by Durham County Council, Design and Print, Comeleon House, Tanfield Lea Industrial Estate North, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 9NX. Tel: 03000 261414. The views expressed in this periodical are not necessarily those of the publishers. Whilst all efforts are made to check the authenticity and accuracy of all articles submitted for publication, occasionally something is bound to be printed incorrectly. Please let us know and we will endeavour to correct the mistake.