

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 16

Lanchester, March 2015

For contact information, see page 2

RED NOSE DAY



Reception children at All Saints' School dressed in red with appropriate noses for Red Nose Day. Form Teacher Miss Udell is on the left and Student teacher on placement is Miss Munt, right.

HAS SPRING ARRIVED?



Taken on St David's Day, some lovely crocuses on the bypass.

**FOR THE
VERY
LATEST
NEWS ON
THE TWO
PROPOSED
HOUSING
SCHEMES
IN THE
VILLAGE
SEE PAGES
4 & 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
Huge appreciation to all who attended Anne McKenzie's funeral; your generosity raised just over £700 for Willow Burn Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thanks also to the Beamish Quilters and creative friends, who added another £105 to the total. Donations are still trickling in so we're well on the way to making it a cool thousand!

Thank you.

Katherine McKenzie

Dear Village Voice
I think you've dropped something ... don't worry, I've picked it up!
I live in the village and have just started volunteering with the Durham Voluntary Countryside Ranger Service (DVCRS). I'll be out and about joining work parties across

Durham most Wednesdays. We also do some work at Malton. In addition, my volunteering includes doing site patrols (liaising with Durham County Council) and litter picking work locally along the Lanchester Valley Way between Malton through Lanchester and beyond. You may also have noticed some new posts and rails along the Railway path - yes, recently installed by other Lanchester volunteers and myself assisted by DCC.

That was the fun bit, now for the not quite so nice bits ... the litter and dog mess. The more I pick up, the more I see that needs to be picked up ... mostly food, snack and sweet wrappers as well as drink bottles and cans! Dog mess not cleaned up and just as bad, dog mess in plastic bags just left lying or hanging from tree branches. It really is disgusting and unpleasant not to mention a health

hazard, especially for young children.

I like to make a difference and don't mind doing my bit. However, I would like to spend more of my time doing more positive things to make Lanchester an even more attractive and enjoyable village and community in which to live rather than picking up somebody else's constant litter and dog mess.

Please pick up your dog mess and put it into one of the MANY red bins provided along the way. Please pocket your litter and take it home, too. You'll see me out and about quite regularly along the Way. If so, do stop for a brief chat and to say hello ... sometimes even I need that little bit more encouragement when walking along the Railway path picking up that litter!

Dave F

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for February was 38. The draw was made by Jim Goddard of the Gym.

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Dear Village Voice
I am researching and co-ordinating details of South Moor and Holmside Colliery Co Ltd and its connections with South Moor to help progress the Regeneration of South Moor Project and its heritage trail, work on which will start early April covering the area South Moor, Old South Moor and Quaking Houses. I am looking for details on colliery housing in the area, colliery buildings and mines, shopping in South Moor, trades and occupations, schools, churches and chapels, miners' halls, pubs and clubs, the social life of the area, the local colliery band, drawings, photos, written work. I also require any details on South

Moor Memorial Park, opened July 1920.

I can be contacted by telephoning 01207 284344 or at 'Yesterday Belongs To You' at New College, Durham on 9th May (between 10am and 4pm) when I shall be on the South Moor Local History Group stand. This is a bi-annual event organised by Durham County History and Heritage Forum which involves local history groups with topics of current interest and new research being investigated and released. Why not come along and share the local knowledge of your area with people with the same interest? Every little helps to bring our local history alive.

Yours sincerely
Ian Finlayson

How to contact the Village Voice

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A BIG THANK YOU



From left to right: Matthew Watson, Thomas Watson, Lewis Thompson, James Thompson, Jenny Hall, Kate Tomlinson, Scott Johnson, Amanda Watson, Richard Darlington, Ellen Hall, Billy Smith, Robert Tomlinson, William Hodgson and Rebecca Wilson. People not on the photo but who also helped: Michael Moralee, Lizzie Bradley, Matthew Bradley, Emily Watson and James Harrison.

Well done to Butsfield Young Farmers Club who came to St Cuthbert's Church wood, Satley, on Saturday February 28th to do a clear up. This was part of a community project led by Richard Darlington, their chairman. There is now a big compost bin made by Richard, new gate posts provided and fitted by Gordon Proctor of Gro-Green Landscapes, a fresh gate provided by Janice and Raymond has been hung by Gordon, he has also made the far gate into the graveyard fasten. A big heap of compost from behind the wall has been spread on the woodland floor. The ivy has been cut back and got rid of. The Thompson boys provided a tractor and big 10 ton tipper trailer which was stacked by Lewis and filled 5 times with branches and rubbish from the woodland floor.

Everything had to be brought out by hand and carried down the path past the church. Every time I saw the girls they were carrying branches and throwing them into the trailer. There were 2 or 3 wheelbarrows being pushed by the boys and lifted into the trailer with the help of Colin Hodgson. A hedgehog was found and they made a home for it. I was asked if they could make a pond. I had no hesitation in saying yes as water is essential in a natural wildlife area. A path has been edged with branches and meanders from the top gate to the gate into the graveyard making it safe and easy for anyone to walk. I am delighted with what they have achieved; I didn't think the wood would look anything like it does now. The work was well organised, the companionship amongst the members and the

members themselves are a credit to Butsfield Young Farmers and their chairman Richard Darlington. I hope they will come back next year to see how the wood has developed and perhaps do more for the wildlife. Enid Murray, Church Warden

GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATIONS



The Methodist Church was turned into a banqueting hall on Saturday 28th February when 100 people arrived to help Eric and Marjorie Skipsey celebrate their Golden Wedding. The guests enjoyed a delicious 3-course meal prepared by Mel Somersall and his team, followed by an indoor Car Rally and lots of reminiscing among family and friends.



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TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD!

On Sunday March 1st there was a very important meeting in Croft View concerning the whole village because it was about more houses being built in our pretty, rural, busy village. Presiding over the crowded meeting was the chairman, Mr Eric Hepplewhite, leader of 'The Campaign for the Protection of Rural Lanchester'. It was he who informed the Village Voice that Story Homes had submitted amended plans to Durham County Council regarding the Ridgeway/Newbiggen Lane development. Also present were Elaine Hogg, representing the Lanchester Partnership and Paul McNicholas, both ex-Planning Officers. Mr McNicholas gave the PowerPoint presentation, which was clear and informative. Local MP Mrs Pat Glass and Councillor Ossie Johnson also attended. Many objections were raised to the first proposed Story development, resulting in its rejection and now amended plans have been submitted. The original plan had been to build 151 houses on the Ridgeway site at the top of Newbiggen Lane. The refusal of the application was on three

counts, Economically, Socially and Environmentally. The audience was given the opportunity to comment on Story's amendments, listed below:

- The amended application is for 149 dwellings with less affordable housing than originally suggested.
- There are a few minor changes to plot position.
- Additional information on Lanchester's housing needs.
- Extra information to show the visual impact of the site from Newbiggen Lane and the railway path.
- Updated information on highway matters and information to show the bio-diversity features of the site, ie awareness of quality of the land and all that it sustains.

There are still strong feelings of opposition to this amended application. No-one wants to see Lanchester lose its beauty and appeal by becoming urbanised. There is great concern over the lack of parking facilities, a greatly increased number of cars using the village will worsen that situation. The fact that all three of our village schools are "bursting

at the seams" as one head teacher described it, indicates that more housing will bring problems. We all want the best education for children in Lanchester and an increase in the class sizes will not be to their advantage. There have been housing developments in recent years but at this moment there are many valid reasons why more housing will be detrimental to the village. Lanchester has a thriving community and is attractive and well cared for, this will be severely threatened. There is evidence that young families are moving to the village with many very well run organisations for young people already well attended. We are certainly not a dying village. We are very much alive, but well aware that too many more people and their cars (at least one per family in 149 houses) will severely threaten the safety and well being of all.

Durham County Council will hear the amended application at a later date and will inform us whether the amended plan has been accepted or rejected!
Brenda Craddock



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NEW HOUSING PROPOSALS FOR CADGER BANK



Left to right: Mike Gladstone, Jill Gladstone, Christine Lever, Andrea Stoddart with Andrew Ross, Ward Hadaway law firm.

The consultation regarding the proposed building of 52 homes at Cadger Bank took place at the Community Centre on Wednesday 18th March between 1.00 pm and 5.45 pm. Representatives of David Wilson Homes (part of the Barratt Group) and Ward Hadaway law firm were in attendance to answer the many questions put to them by residents. The planning seemed well set out with a good mix of housing which included an area for sheltered housing to be sold to a housing association and a small number of 'affordable homes'. The previous plans were set out for 95 homes. The exit/entrance has been moved about 15 metres towards Hollinside from the current gateway, to improve access. A quick canvas of people at the exhibition indicated that one couple were undecided but were obviously interested in buying a home sometime in the future; the rest were objectors to the site going ahead.

One of the complaints was the short notice that people had been given of this consultation. According to staff at the centre, 1837 leaflets were delivered to houses in Lanchester but only two days before the meeting! A notice of the consultation was published in the Northern Echo on Tuesday 10th March. So very little notice was given for this very important event which was published in a low circulation newspaper in this area, approximately 46 per day from the local newsagent, with other purchases made from SPAR. The hall was booked about 3 weeks ago. Furthermore the timing of the consultation 1.00 pm - 5.45 pm afforded those who work outside the village very little opportunity to attend and express their views, either positive or negative. Further consultations will be held in early April, August, and early September with the targeted completion date being

mid 2019. Hopefully more notice will be given of the confirmed dates.

ZEBRAS ARE COMING TO THE VILLAGE

Now this could be in a circus or a zoo, but sadly not. These zebras could be useful! At last we may be able to cross roads safely in this rapidly expanding village of ours. So what is planned? We know that if all the housing plans go ahead ie Newbiggen, Cadger Bank, Malton and Maiden Law, there will be several hundred more cars travelling in and around the village. So planners have to be ready to protect pedestrians as well as finding parking places

for many more cars. The people who drop off children, and those who walk to the four schools would benefit from this new initiative, as would walkers/cyclists who cross Station Road at the Valley Walk crossing, Newbiggen Lane similarly, and the crossing near Lynwood and the Parish Church. That would make a total of seven - almost a herd! Some of us may even develop an affinity to zebras! Watch this space as the village expands.



Lirpa the zebra spotted crossing Durham Road from the church to Lynwood House.



Here she is again crossing the road on the Lanchester Valley Walk.

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the meeting held on 10th March 2015

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting on 10th February 2015 - approved.

Planning Meeting on 26th February 2015 - approved.

Lanchester Flood Alleviation Scheme

Simon Longstaff from the County Councils Drainage & Coastal Protection Team attended the meeting and provided information on the flood alleviation scheme. He explained that the County Council are working with the Environment Agency to tackle the problem of flooding in Lanchester. The proposed scheme includes reducing the size of the entrance to the culvert at Alderdene Burn. This will reduce the amount of water entering the culvert at peak times. The basin at the entrance to the culvert will need to be

increased which will store the water. The scheme will also increase the size of the drainage pipe from the Valley Walk leading to the village.

The County Council have done site investigations, survey work and modelling exercises and are working with the Environment Agency to finalise the scheme.

Members of the public attended the meeting and asked questions regarding the scheme.

Neighbourhood Warden Report - January - discussed and received.

Correspondence

1. County Durham Training Partnership - Training Opportunities Members considered the training offered.

2. Campaign to Protect Rural England - newsletter received.

3. Traffic Survey - A691

Members discussed the results of a recent traffic survey and comparisons with a previous survey.

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

The minutes of the recent PCC meeting were received.

Neighbourhood Plan

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Members were informed that returns from the recent questionnaire survey had been analysed and that the working group had split into smaller groups to look at the information and sharpen the results.

This will produce a list of issues from which further work can be undertaken to produce policies for the document. It is intended to report results of the survey to the community. Work also continues to prepare a

funding bid to pay for sections of the plan preparation.

There is concern regarding the latest developments with the Durham County Plan and what this may mean for the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that it is important to continue with the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Memorial Plaque - World War I

Members were informed that the event to unveil the relocated plaque would take place on Saturday 11th April. Refreshments would be served at 11.00 am with the unveiling at 11.30 am. An article is to be submitted to the Village Voice inviting the community to attend.

Risk Assessment Schedule

The Risk Assessment was reviewed and approved.

Internal Audit Arrangements

The Internal Audit arrangements were reviewed and approved.

Schools - Distribution of newsletters

It was agreed that a donation of £75.00 be sent to each of the Primary Schools as a thank you for distributing the Council newsletters.

Grants/Donations

The following donations were agreed: Lanchester Parochial

Church Council - Maintenance of Tower Clock - £300.00

Lanchester All Saints Parish Centre - £300.00
Lanchester Agricultural Society - £300.00.

Financial report - discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment - approved.

Grass Cutting Contract 2015

Press and public were excluded from this item. Members discussed and agreed a 3 year contract for 2015-2017.

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

Members considered the licence agreement entered into with the County Council in 2014 which had allowed the Parish Council to undertake a number of cuts to the grassed area. A discussion took place on whether the Parish Council should cut the grass in this area again in 2015 under a similar arrangement.

It was agreed that a licence agreement be entered into with the County Council for 2015 to cut the grass in this area and that a review of these arrangements takes place at the end of the season.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 14th April 2015 at 7.15 pm at Lynwood House.

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POLICE REPORT

This month our PACT priority has been parking on Front Street following concerns from the public that vehicles frequently park directly in front of the war memorial preventing access to the memorial and preventing pedestrians from walking on the pavement without obstruction. Local beat officers have been monitoring the area daily and although three vehicles are regularly parked in front of the memorial, only one vehicle was creating an obstruction. The owner was given suitable words of advice and immediately moved her vehicle. Local officers will however continue to monitor this area. Concerns of speeding continue to be a problem

across the county and attention is regularly being given to Durham Road and most recently Maiden Law. This month PC Iain Nelson has deployed our Laser Speed Gun equipment and stopped a driver speeding at 49 mph on Durham Road. The driver received a Traffic Offence Report which may result in the driver receiving a fine and penalty points on his licence. Police volunteers have also been deploying our Community Speedwatch equipment daily and identified 8 drivers speeding on Durham Road and 33 drivers speeding at Maiden Law. Rural crime continues to be a main priority especially in Lanchester, Burnhope, Langley Park

and Cornsay. Local officers are providing additional resources in our rural locations until the early hours with the intention of stopping/searching any suspicious persons or vehicles in the area. If you see any persons or vehicles acting suspiciously please telephone 101 with descriptions and registration numbers. Rural burglaries are an increasing problem so please make sure you are keeping everything locked and secured. If you would like to receive additional crime prevention advice please email lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk for information. The next PACT meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th April at 6.30pm outside Burnhope Primary School.

SHED AND OUTBUILDING BURGLARIES

Your local Police Team is currently investigating a number of sheds/outbuildings and garages which have been broken into in the area of Hollinside, Lanchester overnight Sunday 15th March - Monday 16th March with items stolen including bicycles: a Cannondale Cad 10 in matte black, Cannondale sypapse, Orange evo 2 mountain bike in white, a Boardman FS Pro mountain bike in silver and a Santa Cruise Juliana mountain bike in blue.

Did you see anything in and around this location which may assist us with our enquiries? Do you have CCTV which picked up any suspicious activity which may be related? No matter how insignificant you believe it to be, give us a call on 101 and quote reference: DHM-16032015-0057. In the meantime, don't forget the team offer a FREE bicycle and scooter marking service or alternatively for more expensive bikes we offer BikeRegister marking kits

for sale at a discounted price of £9.90 each. We would also recommend registering your tools, electricals and other items for FREE at www.immobilise.com which will increase the chances of the team returning your items to you if reported lost or stolen. For more information contact Consett Neighbourhood Police by calling 101 or dropping us an email: consett@durham.pnn.police.uk. PCSO 7425 Vikki Ord

WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The World War I memorial plaque was displayed in the entrance hall at Park House. However following the sale of Park House and the relocation of the Parish Council to Lynwood House it was felt that the memorial plaque should be relocated to a suitable

venue in the community where members of the community could view it. Lanchester Community Centre has given permission for the plaque to be displayed in the building. An unveiling event will take place on Saturday 11th

April at 11.30 am at Lanchester Community Centre. Refreshments will be available from 11.00am. All members of the community are welcome to attend the event and we hope that many of you will be able to join us on 11th April.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

This will be my last 'Message from the House' during this Parliamentary session and as we approach polling day I have started to reflect on how quickly it has all passed. I remember how it felt to be elected and turn up at the doors of Parliament clutching my election address so I could prove who I was and why I had a right to be there. As it happened I didn't need the address as the first Policeman I met addressed me by name and welcomed me in. Clearly the officers of the House had done their homework as within an hour I had a parliamentary pass, a laptop, a map of the place (completely undecipherable), a great pile of post that had been sent to me over the weekend and a hot desk to work from. Simple!

It took about a month to get a Government in place and about the same length of time for me to be allocated an office in Parliament. In the meantime I had set up a constituency office in Consett and in Crook and recruited staff to work in them.

Over the session I have learnt the Parliamentary language, the way things work, how to stalk Ministers on behalf of my constituents and how to get in and out of the five storey car park situated beneath the House of Commons and lots more, just as it is all coming to an end. From 31st March (the day of Dissolution) I am legally no longer the MP for North West Durham unless and until I am re-elected on May 7th. I have had to pack up my parliamentary office, which will be officially

sealed on 31st March and which it will be criminal offence for me to re-enter thereafter unless I am re-elected.

From 31st March I can act on behalf of constituents in emergency situations only, so if you have a problem that you think constitutes an emergency and that you think I can help with, contact my office as usual. If you have a problem that is not an emergency I will have to refer you to your County Councillors, Ossie Johnson and Richie Young.

I have been delighted and honoured to serve as your MP for the last five years. I hope that I will be able to do so again after the vote on 7th May but that is in the hands of the electorate. Pat Glass MP

NORTH WEST DURHAM CONSTITUENCY MULTI PARTY HUSTINGS

Last month, in the Village Voice, we wrote of a proposed multi party Hustings for Prospective Parliamentary Candidates in North West Durham, to be held in the Methodist Church in Lanchester. This meeting has now been arranged for Wednesday April 15th from 7.00-9.00 pm. We have had a positive response from the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democratic parties, and are waiting to hear from the Green party and UKIP. If you would like to put a question to the

candidates, there will be a box placed at the Post Office, in Lanchester. Please provide your name and a contact telephone number.

In the event that your question is selected, we will be in touch to give you the opportunity to put that question to the candidates, in person, at the meeting. Alternatively, you can send your question and contact details by e-mail to: lanchesterhustings@talktalk.net The closing date for receipt of questions is Monday 6th April. Lanchester Hustings Planning Group



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LANCHESTER PLAYGROUP UPDATE

The Annual General Meeting of Lanchester Playgroup was held on 12th February. The committee for the coming year is to be chaired by Mandy Cutter who will also be overseeing a programme of fundraising events.

2014 was again a tough year financially for the playgroup, with only a small surplus being made. The basic costs continue to be covered but only with the help of additional fundraising events. The committee agreed that action should be taken to raise awareness of the playgroup and encourage residents of Lanchester and the surrounding communities to use the facility to prevent the potential closure of the group. Ideally the staff would like to reach a position where the costs are covered by the fees and any additional fundraising is used to refresh the toys and resources and bring a variety of interesting and exciting sessions to the group.

Feedback had been collected on the current sessions from parents and carers prior to the AGM. An action plan to address any negative feedback and enhance aspects which received positive comment is being developed and this will be shared with parents

and carers in due course. In the meantime, where it was felt that improvements could be made immediately, these have been implemented, such as more variety in the snacks provided and the inclusion of craft activities in the main free-play session.

Any parents or carers who didn't have an opportunity to comment prior to the AGM but who would like to have input regarding future plans should speak to Liz Smith, Playgroup Leader or Mandy Cutter, Playgroup Chairman.

The staff would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to bring their child along to playgroup for the first time. The first session for new children will be free of charge. Lanchester Playgroup runs from 9.20 until 11.15 am on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during term time in the Small Hall in the Community Centre. Pre-school children aged 18 months and over are welcome. Parents of children over 2 years old may accompany their children or leave them under the supervision of a qualified member of staff. The cost of a session is £3.75 per child. Thank you to all who have supported Lanchester Playgroup over the past year and we look forward to working and playing(!) with you in future.

OPEN CHURCH OPENS ITS DOORS!

The Methodist Church's Open Church initiative has got off to a good start. Every Thursday morning we welcome in parents and carers with their children to our crèche facility as a stop off point when they have the children in the village, as well as shoppers who are glad of somewhere to rest and catch up with friends

or chat with some of our church members who come along to provide a welcome. Table games and an IT facility are also available as well as refreshments.

We want this to be something the whole village can enjoy, so why not pop in next time you are in the village on a Thursday Morning.



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HAYDN'S CREATION

The story of the Creation of the World was presented to a very appreciative audience in the Methodist Church on Friday evening March 6th. The title of this beautiful rendering, written by Haydn is 'Creation' and who better to sing it than Lanchester and District Choral and Amateur Operatic Society, conducted by their Musical Director David Hughes. There were three soloists: Richard Woods, Tenor; David Gray, Bass; and Elizabeth Woods, Soprano, all of whom sang with excellence and sensitivity. Bill Gray accompanied the choir on the organ with his usual quality performance. There was an added touch which led to

even further enjoyment of the evening. David Hughes used the facility of PowerPoint to show his carefully chosen slides which depicted the various stages of the biblical story of Creation and gave true representation of the wonders of nature and the glory. The slides and all the singing were absolutely wonderful. This beautiful music came to its finale with a magnificent crescendo, and everyone left the church uplifted by what they had seen and heard, and with renewed certainty that with such a Creator God, goodness will triumph over the evils and atrocities of our modern world. Thank you again David and your choir for such a wonderful evening.
Brenda Craddock



Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society conducted by David Hughes



Soloists, Elizabeth Wood (centre); to her right Richard Woods; to her left Ian Gray

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BEATING THE DRUM WITH FOOL'S GOLD

On February 19th, popular folk musicians Steve and Carol Robson of 'Fool's Gold' made a welcome return visit to Lanchester Library. They were greeted by a large audience as they introduced 'Beat the Drum', a portrait of World War One in music, words and pictures. In many ways, the War was the first 'modern' conflict, its songs reaching out to many through the music halls which were so popular at the time. At the outbreak of war in 1914, there was enormous support among the population, with a great many young men flocking to join up. Gradually, as the war ground to a halt in

the trenches of France and Belgium, the mood changed to grim acceptance of the suffering and loss. The songs of the time reflected the popular mood, and were sung at home, in the work place and at the front. 'Fool's Gold' offered a range of tunes, the old traditional verses as well as their original, self-penned material.

Various aspects of the War were described: 'The White Feather' was given by women to any man not in uniform, 'The Cage' referred to the dreadful conditions of mines at the time and 'The Long March Home' told of the yearning of the soldiers to return to

loved ones. 'The Wall' was inspired by memorials such as the Menin Gate, recalling the thousands of men who have no known grave. Songs were funny, informative and moving. We learned that 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' was originally 'Long way to Connemara' and 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' was penned by Ivor Novello in 10 minutes.

Steve and Carol paint vivid pictures in words and music and their audience are appreciative, enjoying participating in songs. This was an effective and moving tribute to the War of a century ago. We look forward to their return.



Steve and Carol Robson are 'Fool's Gold'

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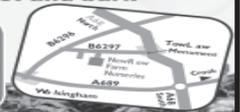
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COMMUNITY SHOP TO OPEN!

Willow Burn would like to announce that the rumours are true; we will be opening a new Community shop in Consett.

However, we are currently in the midst of finishing the shop and making it look beautiful for our opening, which hopes to be by the end of this month.

The community have been helping us all the way and we are so grateful for everyone including; Graeme Heppell Plumbing and Heating, Howdens Joinery, Dave Barkess of Elddis Transport, Victory Signs and Carillion but we're sure there will be many more to thank by the time we

are ready to open! We even made it onto BBC Newcastle on March 8th with Sue Sweeney. You can listen back to the show and find out a little more about our plans by visiting BBC Radio iPlayer and selecting most popular shows. Listen from around 1 hour 13 minutes and you can hear the interview.

As per usual with a new shop, we would love any donations to keep this and our Stanley shop full of delightful bargains, just pop them into our Stanley shop between 9.30am - 4pm Monday to Saturday.

But that's not it, we are also hoping to open a shop in Chester le Street

in the not too distant future and will also need as much help as possible. So, if any local businesses could lend us a hand either with their time or even with paint/paint brushes, we would greatly appreciate it!

If you can help us in any way please call 01207 523900. Even by spreading the word that we're back in business in Consett will be helping. Our address is 3 John St, Consett, DH8 5LA and was previously Dove's Beauty Salon. Please keep your eyes peeled for an opening date as we'd love the community to get behind us and be part of this exciting new phase of Willow Burn's future!

LANCHESTER BEER FESTIVAL 2015

We have some good news for the ladies in particular, Lanchester Wines will be supporting the Beer Festival by supplying a selection of their wines for sale again this year as well as sponsoring a beer or two.

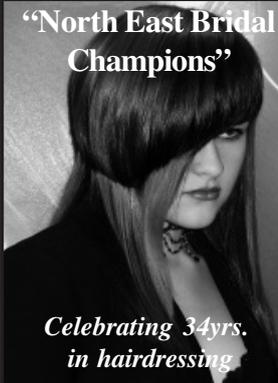
The Festival will support the Bubble Foundation as its charity of choice this year. In its 28th year it is something of a return to its starting point as Lanchester Cricket Club was one of the earliest supporters of the charity. The Bubble Foundation, based at the RVI in Newcastle, does the same work as Great Ormond Street in working to save the lives of babies and children born without an immune system. They will hold

fundraising initiatives throughout the three days of the festival and have already lined up some fantastic prizes. They will also receive a cut of the tickets they sell on the Saturday. There are still opportunities to sponsor a beer and this guarantees entry for two people each day. Hanley and Swinbank and the Fish shop have recently been added to the list of local sponsors. Tickets are available on the website Lanchesterbeerfestival at £7 for a day and £10 for the weekend. Tickets bought on the day will be more expensive.

A list of sponsors and entertainment can be found on the website with contact details if you require more information.

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NEW HOTEL OPENS IN LANCHESTER!



Members of the Junior Wildlife Group with their new bug hotel

On a very chilly, windy Sunday morning in February, the Junior Wildlife Group met at the Lanchester Community Orchard to build a very snug home for the resident wildlife. In other words, a bug hotel!

Bug hotels provide a safe, warm shelter for all sorts of bugs and small wildlife to sleep during the cold winter months. Since bugs need different types of home, the Junior Wildlife Group collected a variety of recycled materials such as bricks, old roof slates and plant pots and foraged on the day for sticks, branches, hay and logs.

Under the expert guidance of the Wildlife Group leaders, Noel Jackson and Elaine Williams, the children and their families built a fabulous home for the Orchard bugs and wildlife. The Orchard is home to a range of wildlife from butterflies to Little Owls, and the Orchard Group hope that this bug hotel will encourage even more wildlife to move into the Community Orchard.

The Junior Wildlife group meets once a month and hold lots of outdoor activities. If you are interested in finding out more about our local wildlife then please contact Noel

Jackson (01207 560684). The Community Orchard is run by a group of enthusiastic, friendly volunteers and always welcomes new members of all ages. It's a wonderful opportunity to combine fresh air and exercise whilst helping to develop and maintain a new orchard in a beautiful part of our village. If you would like to join us, then please contact Di Tute (01207 529286).

Eleanor Johnson, Lanchester Community Orchard Steering Group

LANCHESTER AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

The Flower Club held their 41st Annual General Meeting in the Community Centre on Wednesday, 25th February, 2015. Two of our committee members, Anne Hutchinson and Audrey Wright, were resigning and were thanked for their commitment and hard work over the years. New members joining the committee were Mary Britton, Sylvia Hocking, Pat Spencer and Rosemary Wilson.

The business of the Annual General Meeting was followed by a very interesting and enjoyable illustrated talk by Ian Murray, a local

resident for many years. His theme was the First World War and how it affected people particularly from Lanchester, who served their country and lost their lives during the many campaigns. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 25th March at 2.00 pm in Lanchester Community Centre when we will have a demonstration by Rebecca Hough entitled 'It's a Vibrant Life'. We would welcome anyone wishing to join us as either a member or visitor. Annual membership fees are £20 and visitors pay £3 a meeting.

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LANCHESTER EP WORLD BOOK DAY

The school actually spent two days involved with World Book Day with pupils and staff thoroughly enjoying it. Thursday was spent with older children reading to the younger ones whilst on Friday the whole school including the staff dressed up for the occasion as characters from children's books (see photo on back page). Friday afternoon was extremely busy with a Book Fair and Fair Trade Coffee afternoon, which was attended by parents and children.



Right: Two older boys from the EP School read to one of the Foundation pupils.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK?



All Saints' Catholic Primary School took part in various activities to celebrate World Book Day, March 5th.

Children in the Reception Class worked with visitors from 'Seven Stories'. They shared their favourite tales, discovered Book Creatures, and learned how much fun reading can be!

Left, Children at All Saints' Primary hunting for book creatures.



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DAVID DEIN INSPIRES STUDENTS AT ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Students from St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College welcomed a very exciting visitor to their school on Tuesday 10th March.

As part of the Speakers for Schools programme, students in Year 11, 12 and 13 were treated to an inspirational presentation and talk by David Dein.

Football fans will know David for his many accolades, not least as Vice-Chairman of Arsenal Football Club between 1983 and 2007 and the instrumental role that he played in establishing the Premier League. David spoke to the students

about his background and experiences in football but his key messages reached far beyond the beautiful game.

He described the benefits of having what he called "a turtle mentality" – meaning if you don't stick your neck out, you won't get anywhere.

Persistence and pride were also central to his message, which he encouraged the students to apply to all aspects of life.

David had his audience truly captivated; the students were clearly inspired by his speech and asked some very



David Dein at St Bede's School

Photo by Chris Boundey

informed questions at the end of the session. Headteacher, Neville Harrison said: "It was

an excellent experience for all involved and the staff and students at St Bede's are extremely

grateful to David Dein and Speakers for Schools for allowing this to happen."

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classroom practitioners will introduce you to school life and help you to learn how to teach your subject and also provide you with regular feedback and guidance to improve.

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How to apply

You can apply directly at www.ucas.com/

apply/teacher-training. We do not accept any applications directly. Come and meet us! We are always happy to meet anyone thinking of becoming a teacher. If you would like to look around our school, meet some of the staff, students, current trainees or to find out more about the ITT programme please get

in touch. Contact Catriona Williams at cwilliams@stbedes.durham.sch.uk or 01207 520424.

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LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The subject of this month's talk, held in the Community Centre on Friday 6th March was the history of 'Coal Owners of Northumberland and Durham'. Local history indeed and the subject is very close to the heart of speaker Margaret Hedley, who has already given two talks to the society on the history of the coal industry in this part of the world. We were told of the history of the coal industry from the time of St Bede to the Nationalisation of the industry. In particular we heard of the power the minders had over the whole lives of the

miners, especially the Grand Alliance of owners in the area. Chairman John Thompson welcomed Mrs Hedley and members, particularly new faces, at the beginning of the meeting and thanked Mrs Hedley after several questions had been asked from the floor; it was a very interesting evening. Next month's meeting, too, should be very interesting as the speaker is Win Colman talking about her grandfather Peter Lee, again a local subject. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting on Friday, 10th April, at 7 pm in the Community Centre.

THURSDAY CLUB

At our February meeting we, once again, welcomed Glynis Grainger as our speaker. Her talk was entitled 'Women Behind the Wire' - a true Tenko story! We were taken on the emotional, traumatic and courageous journey of these

women at the hands of their Japanese captors, following the invasion of Singapore in the second World War. You could have heard a pin drop - we were spellbound. Glynis has to be congratulated on the quality of her research and presentation. The talk

was for an hour and she never referred to her notes once - what a memory and what a delivery. The meeting ended with tea/coffee, biscuits and, courtesy of one of our new members getting dates mixed up, delicious mini cakes which were enjoyed by all.

THURSDAY CLUB COFFEE MORNING



A crowded Community Centre Dining Room

The Thursday Club held a most successful Coffee morning in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance on March 12th. The Community Centre Dining Room was packed to capacity and we had to have overflow tables in the conservatory. It was a morning full of animated conversation and

expressions of delight over some scrumptious homemade cakes and scones. We would like to thank everyone who helped, plus a big thank you to Crinnions, Ringtons and Emmertons for their donations, in helping to raise a grand total of £355 to help fund the Air Ambulance cause.



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TRADCRAFT BIG BREW COFFEE MORNING

Traidcraft Big Brew was held at the Chapter House on Wednesday 4th March. Once again Olga Walker, organiser, asked church members to help with the raffle, cake stall, tombola and, of course, the Fairtrade produce table. A slow beginning soon changed when the Wednesday service ended in the church and the congregation rapidly filled the Chapter House. Tea and coffee ladies were quickly inundated with orders and the stalls became very busy. The sum of £473.20 was raised by the event.



Olga Walker showing Fairtrade products to Katherine McKenzie and Jean Young.

CRICKET CLUB COFFEE MORNING

A Coffee Morning was held at the Methodist Church, on Saturday 7th March, by members of the Lanchester Cricket Club who are in need of funds. Club members arranged a good weekend for this as it coincided with Country Markets, who were promoting their products at the same time, which drew in more people than usual for a Saturday coffee morning. People were generous and the profit made on the day was an excellent £125. Cricket Club members would like to thank all those who supported the event.

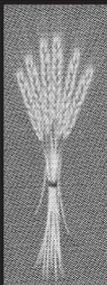


Left to right: Jeff Wingfield, David Selby, Stewey McFail and Joy Wingfield all working in the kitchen.

RED CROSS COFFEE MORNING



Red Cross ladies serving at their recent coffee morning: Tracey Dobson, Marjorie Gray, Linda Shovlin, Betty Walton and Ann Horner. The morning raised £131 towards Red Cross funds and they would like to thank everybody who came along to support them..



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ERASMUS

Erasmus, formerly known as Comenius, continues to take place at the EP School. Fourteen teachers on exchange from Hungary, Germany, Italy and Switzerland are currently visiting Lanchester EP School to

learn about the way our schools operate, the culture, history and geography of the area. However, the main subject matter on this visit was Art and History of Art. A school assembly was held where the children,

with the help of a PowerPoint presentation of paintings and photographs, related to the visitors information about some of Britain's finest artists. Included in their excellent readings were the diverse talents

of William Morris, Lowry, Banksy and Anthony Gormley. The photo of the Angel of the North brought tremendous laughter as the first time it was displayed, it was adorned with the face of teacher, Mr Johnson.

It will be a busy, interesting week for the visitors at school, as their time there coincides with World Book day and a Fairtrade Coffee Afternoon before they return to their respective countries.



Teachers from Hungary, Italy, Germany and Switzerland visiting the EP School



Children relating information about some of the famous British artists to their Erasmus guests.

LANCHESTER CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER CARDS

The three churches in our village, All Saints RC Church, All Saints Parish Church, and Lanchester Methodist Church have been looking at new ways we can support local residents.

We are soon to launch an exciting project which will involve us praying for every street in the village. Within the next few weeks and months, residents will be receiving a prayer card from the churches. It will have a map and photographs of the village on one side. On the other will be contact details and a space for you to add in any prayer requests you may have. Each Sunday morning all three churches will pray for one or two streets in Lanchester during their service. Any individual prayer requests will be prayed for by a small group of people. You do not need to give us your name when you send in your prayer requests and at all times we will respect privacy and confidentiality.

Preliminary enquiries have indicated that the community in general would value and appreciate such an initiative. So, if residents would like to take advantage of the opportunity, this is how it works.

Each street in the village will be prayed for in turn so it may take us a while to

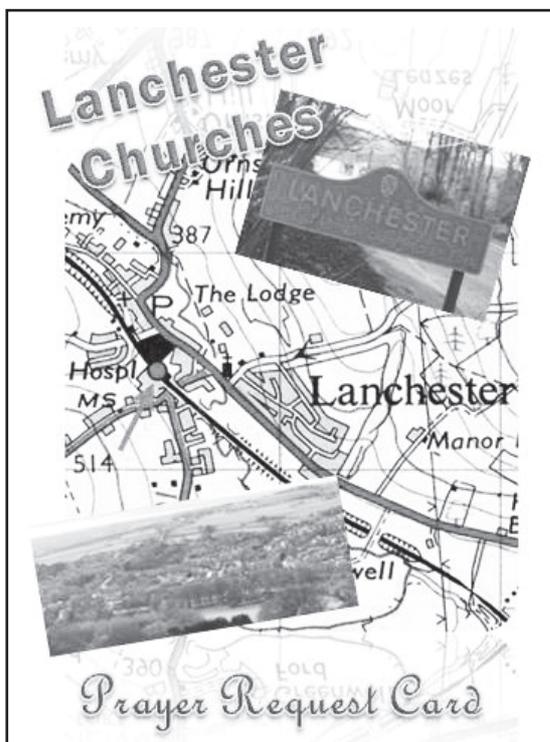
cover the whole village. Prayer cards will be delivered two weeks before a street is prayed for. Once you receive your card, you will be able to submit your requests in two ways: either by e-mail prayer@lanchestermethodistchurch.org or by going to the newsagents (Lanchester News) and dropping the

completed prayer card in a marked box on the counter.

However, if at any time you have something you would like us to pray about, you do not need to wait to receive your prayer card. Please feel free to contact us with your prayer request using either of the two methods above.

If times are hard and you don't know where to turn, or if you feel very blessed and would like to say thank you, then we would like to encourage you to try praying.

We hope you think this is a worthwhile project. We will keep you informed through updates in future editions of the Village Voice.



Every Sunday in our morning services we will be praying for a different street in Lanchester.

On Sunday we will be praying for you and your neighbours.

If you have any specific prayer requests please e-mail prayer@lanchestermethodistchurch.org.uk or fill in this card and post it in the community prayer box which is situated on the counter at Lanchester News on Front Street. If at any other point in time you would like us to pray for you, please feel free to contact us.

Prayer Request

Hosp MS Lanchester

A FIRST VISIT TO THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DOG SHOW

For the first time in my life I had the privilege and excitement of visiting Crufts, the largest dog event in the world. I had travelled with the Nibrass Borzoi team from Newcastle to The Kennel Club Breeders' Competition Grand Final. Lanchester was represented by Mavis Datta, who has previously been so successful with her lovely Elkhound Freya (now enjoying a well deserved retirement from the show ring). Mavis' young dog Lara (full name Nibrass Hail Aurora) is a beautiful black and white young

Borzoi. The Borzois, (literally 'fast') are also known as Russian Wolfhounds. For centuries this breed could only be purchased or given as gifts by the Tsar himself! During the afternoon of Thursday March 5th in rings 1 and 2 of Hall 1 the 52 teams in the Breeders' Championship were scrutinised in groups of 5 by a top international judge. The spectacular climax of the event took place in the evening when the teams all paraded together under the lights of the NEC's impressive main arena. Our local team unfortunately did not



Team Nibrass in the ring

make the final short list but it was a delight to see Lara with her brother and sister Billy and Dotty move

elegantly and gracefully around the ring. It was an event never to be forgotten - the arena

was packed and many millions more were watching live on Television's Channel 4 Kate Edwards

LANCHESTER CHARITY RECOGNISED



Jane Nattrass (left) with Richard Wilson, Melanie Hill and Brenda Blethyn at the awards ceremony

Jane Nattrass (Henry Dancer's Mum) enjoyed attending both the Journal NE Business Awards and the Royal Television Society's NE awards in recognition of the £200,000 she's raised for the charity Henry Dancer Days, set up in Henry's memory, for kids with cancer throughout the UK. Jane is pictured with Melanie Hill (Auf

Wiedersehen Pet, Finney, amongst others and about to be in Coronation Street), Brenda Blethyn (Vera) and the CEO of the Cinema and TV Benevolent Fund (Richard Wilson). As Jane said, "I couldn't believe that I was mixing with such famous people - Henry would be amazed and SO proud, and rather awestruck as I was!!"

COMMUNITY CRAFTS AND COFFEE



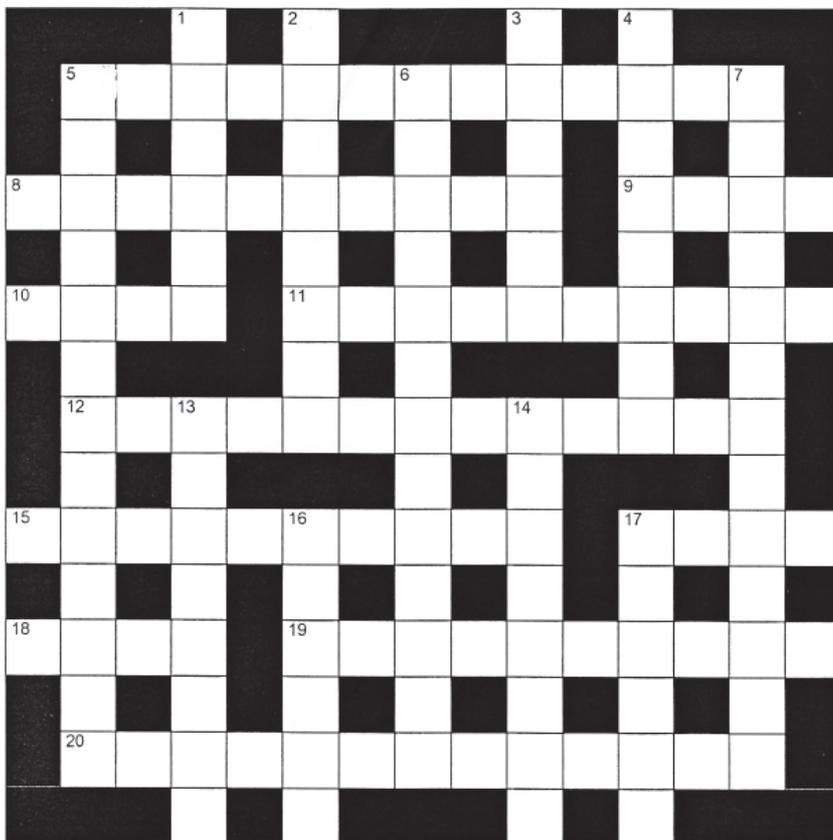
Early shoppers have a chance to browse before the crowds appear

The Community Centre's Craft Fairs and coffee mornings are become a popular part of the Lanchester social scene, and the event which took place on February 28th was supported by a large and appreciative crowd of shoppers. A really wide range of goods was on show, ranging from wonderful Artisan breads to beautiful embellished vintage clothes. Ceramics,

candles and cards attracted people who looked and bought, and a range of healthy foods was available for those still on a diet after enjoying too many Christmas goodies. Beautiful hand made cards celebrated every occasion, a good range of jewellery was on show and colourful cushion covers and quilts would brighten any room. When shoppers needed a

break, hot drinks and home made cakes and pies proved a popular attraction - a time to relax and catch up with friends. The proceeds will go to the Community Centre and the gym, which will benefit many local people. Great credit is due to our crafters, for their many hours of hard work and their great creative talent! Keep your eyes open for future Craft Fairs - there's a warm welcome for all.

CROSSWORD 107



Name _____

Address _____

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

LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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



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ACROSS

5. Sleepwalker (13)
8. Show lack of support (5,5)
9. Processed silicon wafer (4)
10. Formerly (4)
11. Raze tiny US overlordship (10)
12. Frenetic route to duplicator (13)
15. Hard bruise altered picture (10)
17. Goes with gap, full and cock (4)
18. Similar in making (4)
19. Referring to ones guts (10)
20. No way! (3,2,4,4)

DOWN

1. Run through (6)
2. Consequence of a failed high jump? (3,5)
3. More intimate (6)
4. Dealer (8)
5. She is no - - (6,7)
6. Indian politician assassinated in 2007 (7,6)
7. Question again (13)
13. Polish (8)
14. Consumers (3,5)
16. Mergers (6)
17. Goes with lamp, team and level (6)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 106

ACROSS

1. far-flung
6. limits
9. non-starter
10. trap
11. wayfarer
13. croak
14. staged
15. cold feet
17. protozoa
19. ice box
20. alarm
22. defrauds
23. Kiwi
24. inundation
26. benign
27. no leeway

DOWN

2. ago
3. fist fight
4. unaired
5. go to rack and ruin
6. lyrical
7. me too!
8. track record
12. alternative
16. Fremantle
18. Zambian
19. infidel
21. alibi
25. ova

CROSSWORD 106

There were 18 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to Peter Bridgewater of Alderside Crescent who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

SUDOKU

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

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

LANCHESTER WI NEWS

Our March meeting opened with President Jennifer Macdonald greeting everyone, offering a special welcome for 5 visitors. Ann Carr read an amusing poem about 'The Ladies of the Charity Shop', very apt as several of our members help out in the village shop! Notices were read about future events, with tickets available for our April Coffee Morning and names taken for the summer outing to the Kagyu Samye Ling Buddhist Monastery at Carlisle. There will be a 'mini trip' to Auckland Castle in June, and reports were given regarding meetings and events in our Book Club, the Quiz and Darts groups and the Cinema Club. The raffle was won by Carol Troy and Janet Taylor and our Competition, an original short sea poem, was won by Jennifer, with Ann and Angela worthy runners up. Our talk this month was 'Tall Ships Adventure' given by Mrs Quigley. For the romantics among us, who wonder at the beauty and grace of these ships, this was a real insight about life on board. In 2010, Hartlepool was the destination for the second

leg of the 2010 Tall Ships Race, with Mrs Quigley and her son joining the crew of the 'Lord Nelson', then bound for Edinburgh. As well as permanent crew members, 'new' sailors were welcomed on the trip, as well as several disabled voyage crew, the venture being sponsored by the Jubilee Sailing Trust. We heard about the daily routine on board, the cooking, rope work, the cabin accommodation and the daily 'Happy Hour' which turned out to be when the ship was thoroughly cleaned. Small, magical memories included watching dolphins, sailing up the Northumbrian coast, enjoying shore leave and making firm friendships with fellow mariners. When the Quigleys were given another chance to join a voyage on the Jubilee Sailing Trust vessel 'Tenacious' they

seized the chance and enjoyed sailing the Mediterranean. I think many of their audience would have loved the chance to join them! A ROYAL INVITATION To mark the centenary of the founding of the WI, a Special Royal Garden Party will be held on Tuesday June 2nd and there is to be one place per WI. The Durham County Federation is organising transport on Monday June 1st, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast at Park Inn, Radisson, Heathrow and travel to the Palace, for £130, which includes £25 contribution to the Garden Party. The event will be held in the presence of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. Any member who is interested in representing Lanchester WI at the Garden Party should contact Jennifer, as soon as possible on 01207520012.



WI members listen to Mrs Quigley describe life on board the Tall Ships.

SATLEY WI

Satley WI met in the Parish Hall on 9th March at 7.15 pm. We were given a very interesting and informative talk by Dr Madeline Portwood who specialises in Child Development. The talk entitled 'Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus' described the differences in the development of the male and female brain from birth. As an Education Child Psychologist, Dr Portwood has done lectures in various parts of the world and produced

many interesting stories. The most amusing one was being presented with a camel for her work in Dubai. Mrs Ann Darlington was the winner of the ballot for one member to attend the Special WI Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on June 2nd. The competition on a Cat theme was won by 1st Kathleen Snowdon, 2nd Lynda Butterfield and 3rd Kathleen Snowdon. The raffle was won by Lynda Butterfield.



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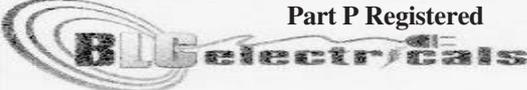
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WHAT'S ON?

Sunday Bridge

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon playing Bridge in the Community Centre on March 29th at 2.00 pm. Only £3.

Lanchester Social Club

Entertainment for April
Saturday 4th April
Kelly McWaters, Top Class Vocalist
Sunday 5th April
Sunday Night Buskers
Saturday 11th April
David McKenna, Popular Vocalist
Sunday 12th April
Sunday Night Buskers
Saturday 18th April
Mark Hodgson, Great Vocalist
Sunday 19th April
Sunday Night Buskers
Saturday 25th April
Marty Scott, Top Class Vocalist
Sunday 26th April
Sunday Night Buskers

Lanchester WI Coffee Morning

Lanchester W I host their Spring Coffee Morning on Thursday, April 16th. You'll find us in the Community Centre from 10.00am-11.30am, and tickets are £1, or you can pay at the door. You'll enjoy a fresh home made scone, enjoy browsing our sales table and joining in our raffle. Please come along and join us in this friendly social occasion.

PACT meeting

The next PACT meeting will be on Tuesday 7th April at 6.30 pm at Burnhope Primary School. All welcome.

Mothers' Union

The speaker at the meeting on Wednesday 8th April, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House is Mary Jarvis and her talk will be entitled 'Slavery with a personal link'.

Local History Society

The next meeting of the Society will be on Friday 10th April at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre. The speaker will be Mrs Win Coleman and she will talk about the Life of her Grandfather Peter Lee. Visitors are most welcome.

Lanchester WI

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 13th ... please note, the SECOND Monday of the month! We meet in the small hall of the Community Centre, starting at 7.15 pm. The speaker will be Sarah Davy, who will share her interest in recycling vintage buttons to make jewellery and accessories with a unique twist. It may be a good idea to bring along any buttons you may have collected over time, hopefully there will be an opportunity to ask our guest for help or advice in recycling them into something beautiful! This month's competition is a 'Picture made from Buttons'. We're all looking forward to our Open Evening on Friday March 27th, and tickets for our Coffee Morning on Thursday April 16th are now available.

Easter Monday Egg Bouling

Usual egg dyeing in the traditional way. Come and take part at Paste Egg Bank organised by the Lanchester Wildlife Group. Meet at 10am behind the Green School. Bring a raw egg.

Open House

Everyone is welcome in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 2nd April 11.30 am to 1.00 pm for a light lunch.

Adult Wildlife Group

The meeting on 14th April at 7.30 pm is in the Community Centre and features Pearls, Robbers, Rodents and Reptiles with Anne Porter.

Flower Club

Our next meeting on Wednesday 22th April at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre will be a demonstration by Heather Curry entitled 'Road to Discovery'.

Short Circuit Walks

Venue: Morpeth to Bothal
Date: April 11th
OSRef: NZ3202855
NE61 2SP
Miles: 5
Leader: Anne Dickinson
Phone: 01670517303
Easy walking close to the river on footpaths and quiet roads to an ancient castle. Meet at Morpeth Railway Station (Coopie's Lane), off the A192 south of Morpeth.

Venue: Housesteads/
Roman wall
Date: April 25th
OSRef: NY794684
NE47 6NN
Miles: 6
Leader: David Moore
Phone: 01912852925
Become a Roman soldier for a day and help patrol the bounds and repel the 'Northerners'. Plenty of ups and downs, but a long flat middle section... which can be boggy.
Meet Housesteads CP, off B6318, pay at meter.

Country Market

The next market will take place on Saturday 4th April from 10 am to 12 noon in the Methodist Church.

Vintage Tractor Club

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st April at 7.30 pm in Crinnions.

Lanchester Bowling Club

Lanchester Bowling Club will hold the pre-season Spring Meeting on Thursday 16th April at 7.00 pm in the Pavilion. All members and any prospective new members are invited to attend.

Castleside Art Club

Castleside Art Club will hold its 43rd Art Exhibition and sale of paintings on Easter Sunday and Monday in the Village Hall from 10 am. Home made refreshments will be available on both days and admission remains at 20p. Over 200 paintings will be on show - all original work by club members. A feature of this year's exhibition will be a display of works produced by members in response to poems by Rudyard Kipling and Robert Frost.

Folk Concert

On Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm another Charity Folk Music Concert will take place in Lanchester Community Centre. There will be six varied acts, comprising top talented and experienced bands, duos and singers. Tickets are £4 in advance from Lanchester News or the Community Centre, or £5 at the door (proceeds will go to Henry Dancer Days and the Community Centre). For further information please call Ian on 01207 529286.

Satley W I

Our next meeting will be on April 13th in the Parish Hall at 7.15 pm and will be a workshop by Lynda on Flower arrangement. All are welcome to join us.

Community Centre Coffee Morning

The Community Centre will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 9th April from 9.30 - 11 am.

Paradiso Social Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday April 12th at 7pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and a film. The film we are screening is BELLE, starring Gugu MBatha-Raw, the true story of an 18C English woman of mixed race raised in privilege by her aristocratic uncle. Despite these circumstances, she finds herself denied any proper social standing because of her colour. In her own bid for happiness she struggles to break down the barriers of ignorance and prejudice in the society around her. All are welcome.
Entry: £2.50 members
£3.50 non members
£2 young persons.
Entry covers raffle, refreshments and film.

Concert for Marie Curie Cancer Care

The Consett and Stanley Fundraising Group of Marie Curie Cancer Care are planning a concert in April at Christ Church, Consett, to be presented by Derwentside Singers. They offer a wide diversity of music including solos from members of the Singers and a mix of songs from well-known musicals as well as classical pieces. In addition, there will be a raffle and light refreshments served in the church hall during the interval. All money raised will go to Marie Curie to help the organisation in its work caring for those with cancer and other long-term illnesses.

The concert is scheduled for Thursday April 23rd at 7.00 pm, in Christ Church. Admission is £5.00, payable at the door or by ticket reservations on 01207591194, 01207775216 or 01207505722.

CRICKET NEWS

By the time you read this we should be practising on grass and looking forward to the season start. John Bell has already managed to get the grass cut which must be a good sign. The fixtures are out and our top two teams face teams from Northumberland in their three fixtures. The firsts entertain Ashington on April 18th, travel to Ponteland on the 25th and entertain Alnmouth and Lesbury on 2nd May. Of

course that means that the seconds have the reverse fixtures and so get the two longest travels straight away. A reminder that Teja Nidamanuru, a 20 year old right arm spin all rounder from New Zealand will be our overseas player, with Graham Brinton returning from Shotley Bridge and Sam Sanderson signed from Sunderland. The thirds start on 26th April with a home game against Lintz. They have a week off and then are at

home to Whickham. The junior fixtures have not yet been published. Work has started on the refurbishment of the club house and we hope to have some nice new facilities ready for the new season. Why don't you check it out as new members are always welcome? We are always looking out for new players, particularly juniors. Drop us an email at Lanchestercricketclub@outlook.com if you are interested.

BOWLING SEASON STARTS SOON

The good news is that Lanchester Bowling Club will be in business this summer. The County Council has postponed for a year the plans to stop cutting the grass on the green. Next year we face challenges but at least this year we can look forward to some enjoyable outdoor bowling. We very much need some new bowlers to join our club to keep it going. Sadly

three of our most active members have passed on in the close season including one of, if not the best bowler in the club, Dick Ball. He will be sadly missed and not only for his bowling prowess. We are offering reduced membership for new members of just £25 and we can organise sessions to get you started in bowling. The club does its best to put on a friendly

face to new bowlers and we will do all we can to get you playing competitively as soon as possible. While our membership is mostly from the older section of the community, we are open to all ages, both men and women. Please come to our spring meeting (see the What's On page) or visit our new website bowlingclub.wix.com/lanchester for more information.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Leg of lamb baked with butter and herbs

Roast lamb is always extra nice in the spring, and is a favourite Easter meal. This is one of the nicest recipes for roast lamb that I know.
(serves 4-6 people)
1 leg of lamb, weighing about 4 lb (2kg)
3 oz butter at room temperature (75g)
1 teaspoon finely chopped rosemary
2 tablespoons fresh chopped mint
2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley
1 teaspoon fresh chopped thyme
1 clove garlic, crushed
Salt and freshly milled black pepper
For the gravy ...
1 dessertspoon plain flour
3 fl oz dry red or white wine (75ml)

About 275 ml (half pint) vegetable stock
Seasoning
Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 5, 375F, (190C)
1) Mix the butter, herbs and garlic together, adding a level teaspoon of salt and some freshly milled black pepper. Stab the joint all over with a skewer, and rub the herb butter all over the upper side. These stabs will let the butter run into the joint during the cooking.
2) Wrap the joint loosely in foil, sealing it well. Place it in a roasting tin and cook for 2 hours, then open the foil and cook for another 30 minutes to let it brown. These times will cook the lamb to a slightly pink colour. If you prefer it well done, give it a little extra time in the foil before

opening it out. Remove the joint to a warm serving dish in a warm place and make the gravy.
3) Empty the juices from the foil into the roasting tin and tilt it slightly. The meat juices and the fat will separate, so spoon off most of the fat into a bowl, leaving the juices in the tin. Place the tin over a medium heat, and when the juices start to bubble, sprinkle in the flour and make it into a smooth paste using a wooden spoon. Cook it for a minute or so to brown. Pour in the wine and stock gradually, stirring continuously and add just enough stock to make a thin gravy. Check the seasoning, pour into a serving jug and serve with the lamb and your chosen vegetables.



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LANCHESTER EP SCHOOL WORLD BOOK DAY



Mrs Davis, Head Teacher as Cruella Deville, with pupils from various classes dressed up as characters from children's books. (See page 14 for details)

NATIONAL PARKRUNNER OF THE WEEK



Well done to Caitlin Quiney who won this title in January. She runs with her brother Lukas, both students of the EP School (Mum and Dad take part in the runs too). They started their runs in Autumn half term 2013 and both completed their 50th 5km parkrun (the vast majority at the hilly Blackhill course)

the week before Caitlin's 6th birthday. Caitlin said, "Until I did parkrun, I hadn't run very far before. Now I've done it in 32 minutes with my dad which felt super fast!" Given the variable weather, particularly in winter, this is quite an achievement. Parkrun organise free, weekly, 5km timed runs

around the world. They are open to everyone and are safe and easy to take part in. They take place in pleasant parkland surroundings and people of every ability and all ages are encouraged to take part; from those taking their first steps in running to Olympians.

NEW PILATES CLASS



One of the Pilates classes which has just started at Lynwood House.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 14th April. The deadline for **adverts** is 12th April.

The Village Voice Page 24

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