

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 4 Volume 17

Lanchester, April 2016

For contact information, see page 2

## NEWBIGGEN LANE PLANNING INQUIRY



The inquiry into whether to allow the appeal by Story homes for 149 dwellings on land off Newbiggen Lane is over and we await the decision of the inspector, Mrs Kay Sheffield. She addressed 3 main issues: accordance with local and national policies; effect on the landscape and flooding.

A packed Community Centre hall at the start of the Newbiggen Lane Public Inquiry. Photo, Ian Trusswell

(Full report, page 5)

## AN EGGCELLENT DAY



Imaginations have run riot for the egg decorating at All Saints' School. (See page 10)

## EASTER DAY ON THE GREEN



An Easter Day service was held on the Village Green at midday, led by Rev Rupert Kalus, at which those who attended were invited to dress the bare cross with daffodils. (See page 6)

## EGG BOULING



Edith Pierce and sister Ruth judge the four winners. (See page 7)

## VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN



Organisers and pickers at the start of the Litterpick. (See page 4)

**VILLAGE VOICE UNDER THREAT OF CLOSURE**  
(See article on page 5)



# 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  
It has been my thought for some time that the 'A Message from The House ...' article is inappropriate for a village publication. Unfortunately I think the March article completely over-steps the mark. I don't believe that space should be given as a vehicle for the expression of political views which directly relate to self interest. As no alternative or opposite argument is given, one might assume the publication supports such a political view. Whether one agrees with the views expressed or not,

the Village Voice is a respected community publication and should be politically impartial. This article, to me, is devaluing its reputation.

Ideally I would suggest that you reconsider whether to include such articles, or at the very least offer the same space to other political parties in order to provide a balanced range of opinions.

Name and address withheld by request

**Editor's note:** *It is the policy of the Village Voice to remain as politically neutral as possible. The column by Pat Glass is included because she is the elected political representative of our area and we feel people should know what she is doing on our behalf. The column is not principally intended to be political but can stray in that direction. In such circumstances readers can respond on the letters page.*

Dear Village Voice  
A number of us feel that the article on EU membership expressed in the March edition by Pat Glass should be followed by an alternative view. I therefore enclose answers to the points made by our MP which should provide some balance.

1. "4000 people in makeshift camps in

Calais." The reason they are stuck in Calais is that France is part of the Schengen agreement (we are not) and is doing its best to apply the rules - and paying the price, given the slack border control in the South and East of the EU. Those people the MP mentions, smuggled their way across Open Europe. Had they applied for asylum under the rules they would have either been sent back by Greece or Italy or wherever they landed, or they would have been given EU passports. If accepted, at that point - UK here we come!! Dover is irrelevant to this process unless we do the sensible thing and leave the EU. We need the Australian 'points' system. We should not be opposed to immigration, provided we need their talents. Economic migrants should be banned.  
2. "Trade Deals." The MP overlooks the fact that under the Kennedy Agreement which just predated the 1972 Common Market accession, we were heading towards World duty free trade anyway. There are now very few countries in the World who would welcome new tariff barriers against their produce - it is an open door for us to push on. "EU rules". The UK Government objected on 42 occasions to new rules last year. Do you know how many times our view was held up? Answer - nil.

So much for our "seat at the table". Yes, the EU is a good trading partner - we have in fact been trading with Europe for over a thousand years. That will not stop just because we have been part of a club for the last 40. There is no question that the EU will impose a tariff barrier against UK manufactures - we import more than twice as much from them as they do from us. It is not in their interests to offend us.  
3. "International terrorism". Here we see someone who, although you would have hoped was privy to the workings of things at the heart of Government, in fact has no idea how intelligence gathering works. The EU is not involved in these matters and their presence or absence makes absolutely no difference to our co-operation with our friends in Europe.  
4. "Peace Dividend." Has our MP not heard of NATO? In every conflict in over the last 100 years, these have been as a direct result of a treaty obligation - nothing more. No country has tried to invade us and then needed to be repelled. The EU has had no influence in stopping Russia invading Ukraine - but had they been part of NATO - this might have been a different story.  
5 "Gender equality". Another missed opportunity to mention the leading role UK has played.

The very first of such rules was instituted by the RAF during WW2 for ferry pilots. Nothing to do with the Labour Party nor Europe.

John Macdonald

Dear Village Voice  
Denise and Diane would like to express our thanks to the following after our recent bereavement:

All friends and neighbours for their flowers, plants and sympathy cards, so many had hand written messages which were very comforting; Reverend Rupert Kalus and Curate Ali Miller for the prayers and church service which was so personal and Canon Spence for his thoughts and prayers; Barbara Kelly and staff at the funeral directors for their thoughtful suggestions and help; Sarah and her helpers for providing refreshments in the Chapter House which we are pleased to say was packed with Noreen's friends from near and far; and finally our wonderful families who provided such support during the past few weeks and were a tower of strength on the day of the funeral.

Mrs McDermott and Mrs Davison

### Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for February is 86. The draw was made by A Cummings of the Thursday Art Group.

### How to contact the Village Voice

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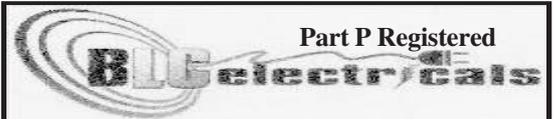
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# A REMARKABLE LADY

One hundred years ago, on March 28th 1916, a baby was born in Yorkshire, who was going to be alive 100 years later. This very remarkable lady is a very well respected and well loved person in Lanchester. She is Mrs Edith Pierce!

Edith is still active in the community and speaks of her love of meeting people. She has said that "You can't live well without meeting people from

different backgrounds, and it's the people I meet who keep me alive and always looking forward". It comes as no surprise that Edith has numerous friends and is always interested in all that happens in our village. She has been involved in many of the groups which are part of the community and she has a special interest in sewing and embroidery. Evidence of her excellence can be seen

in the Parish Church, in the form of cloths used in worship and in altar fronts, which, with several others, she designed and crafted. Throughout her life Edith's Christian faith has been of utmost importance to her. She has said that the Parish Church is essential to her life. She married Martin Pierce who was a Parish Priest, and whom she met at a church camp. They had four children, two sons and two

daughters, and Edith now has 12 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Sadly Martin died in 1973, soon after they moved to Lanchester. Edith never misses Sunday worship. She has been a great support to members of our church family who have been sick or in need of any kind, in addition to being a tower of strength to her own family.

Edith was a staunch bell ringer, until two years ago, when the stairs to the bell tower became too much for her. Edith is an avid reader of 'The Guardian' and indeed of all books, which means she is an authority on many subjects and especially on the 'natural' world.

It was a great joy to share in Edith's 100th birthday celebration in the Community Centre, on Easter Monday. Over 250 people were present and enjoyed the excellent buffet provided by the village butcher, 'Hanley and Swinbank'.

A toast was drunk in Edith's honour by everyone, who all agreed that it had been a privilege to be part of Edith's celebration of her very long life.

Edith remained serene and calm throughout the afternoon, greeting her guests so graciously. She received a beautiful card from the Queen, which you could say was from one great lady to another!

Brenda Craddock



Edith Pierce cuts her very specially designed cake on her 100th birthday.

## BELLRINGERS RING FOR EDITH

On March 28th the bells rang out for Edith Pierce's 100th birthday. Until recently, Edith was an active member of this thriving band of ringers at All Saints' Parish Church, and still takes an interest in

everything we do. We still think of her as a member of the band! On this very special occasion we began with a Quarter Peal, after which general ringing took place involving other members of the Sunday

service band and visiting ringers from various towers in the Diocese. In all, two Peals and three Quarter Peals were rung for Edith throughout the Diocese in celebration of her very special day!



Lanchester bellringers, ringing for Edith on her special day

Dear Village Voice Thank you so much for helping me to celebrate such a wonderful 100th birthday. It was lovely to see so many people at the

Community Centre on that memorable day. Thank you too for your very generous donations to Christian Aid and RVI Plastic and

Reconstructive Surgery General Fund. Both organisations shared a magnificent total of £1805. Yours sincerely Edith Pierce



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## VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

Thanks to everyone and County Councils, those who helped during our litter pick on March 19th. The number (54) was lower than in previous years, but maybe this is because the village is generally cleaner than in previous years. Huge thanks to those who picked, but also to those who put up the tent, those who manned it, the Parish



*Lisa Whitton with Ella and Jay enjoying the litter pick.*



2016 was the 11th litter pick organised by the Lanchester Partnership, but there have been many others. Thanks to Chris Phillips for sending us the photo above which was taken 30 years ago.

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# NEWBIGGEN LANE PLANNING INQUIRY

(Continued from page 1)

The details considered by the inspector were:

1. Whether in principle the proposed development would accord with local and national policies having regard to housing land supply and sustainable development.
2. The effect on the character of the landscape and visual amenity having regard to the scale and form of the proposal on the functioning role of Lanchester.
3. The effect on flooding.

On day one, the Community Centre was packed with residents and throughout the proceedings there was tremendous support from the village. Our opportunity to speak came at the end of the first week. Pat Glass MP, Lanchester Parish Council, The Lanchester Partnership and Campaign to Protect Rural Lanchester presented the objections of residents, followed by some passionate and well received comments from David Smith, Alan

Oliver, Heather Muir, Jill Gladstone and Stuart Earl (Chair of Lanchester Churches). Ian Tute and Paul McNicholas made an impact by showing some excellent digital images and videos of the recent flooding and features around Ridgeway and Newbiggen Lane. Councillor Ossie Johnson who was unable to attend on the first day, made a heartfelt statement the following week.

Proceedings were very formal with Durham County Council and the appellant facing each other across the Community Centre hall. Both sides put their cases to the inspector and followed with some incisive cross-examination. The inquiry will end with both sides and a community representative summing up their cases. This will take place on Wednesday 27th April and be reported in the next Village Voice.

Whatever the outcome, the village could not have done more to make our objections heard. From attending the first village meetings at Croft

View Hall, to sending numerous letters of objection to the Council, to going to County Hall for the planning decision and to attending the inquiry, the community has played its part well. Thank you to everyone. Lanchester Parish Council, the Lanchester Partnership and Campaign to Protect Rural Lanchester are all representative organisations and it is very important that your attendance demonstrates publically that our presentations are supported by the whole community. You did that clearly and, at times, audibly by your applause even when that was discouraged!

Let us hope the decision is in our favour and that the appeal is dismissed. We should hear the inspector's verdict later this year. Should we win, this case will help us considerably should there be further housing developments to be challenged. There may well be!

Lanchester Parish Council, the Lanchester Partnership and Campaign to Protect Rural Lanchester.

# ATTENTION VILLAGE VOICE READERS!

The future of 'your' Village Voice is under threat. Last month we appealed for a volunteer to take over from our advertising manager who is leaving to live in Australia. As yet no one has responded and without the services of someone in this key role there is a real possibility that the paper could, within a short time, cease to exist. The production of the paper is only possible because of the advertising, so to carry on publishing we need someone to liaise with our advertisers and organise the correspondence with them, usually by email. It is not a full-time job; the majority of our advertisers sign up for a contract for a year, so there is minimal

contact required. There is no cold-calling or visiting customers. The technical and editorial team have volunteered to help, if needed, with the advertising graphics and the invoicing is done by our treasurer. Depending on how quickly we can get someone, our outgoing advertising manager would be happy to help and advise before he leaves.

If you think you could help in this vital role and would like to join the small team of volunteers who produce the paper, please contact us by email at [lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk). If you would like to discuss this further, you could ring a member of our team on 01207529001.



All of the team at Westlands Dental Studio would like to wish our loyal and loved receptionist Dorothy all the best

as she starts her well deserved retirement! Dorothy would like to thank all patients for making her time here at Westlands so enjoyable. Please join us in thanking Dorothy for all of her help and service over the years!

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# HOLY WEEK ON THE GREEN

This year 'Churches Together' introduced something new for Holy week, in preparation for the great Christian Festival of Easter. The three schools in our village were involved in this, together with Reverend Rupert Kalus, Reverend Alison Miller, Canon Bob Spence and Reverend Stuart Earl. Every day at 12 noon, beside the three crosses on the village green, there was a short act of remembrance of the death of Jesus on a cross.

The first school to take part in this remembrance was St Bede's School and this took place on Monday at 12.00 noon.

On Tuesday, it was the turn of All Saints' Catholic School pupils, who presented a dance movement to the music of 'When I survey the Wondrous Cross'. It was very moving.

On Wednesday, the EP School performed part of their excellent presentation of the Easter Story 'Tragedy to Triumph', which they presented in full, in the Parish Church on Wednesday afternoon. The short service at 12 noon on Thursday was led

by Stuart Earl and some of his congregation and a good number of other faithful people from our three churches shared in the worship.

Friday of Holy Week is of course Good Friday and again people gathered around the three crosses at 12 noon to remember the death of Jesus on a cross. On Easter Saturday, everyone was invited to the Coffee Morning in the Methodist Church, where Hot Cross Buns were eaten.

On Easter Sunday every one celebrated this special Sunday in their own church, before going to stand beside the crosses at 12 noon to celebrate the glorious news that Jesus had risen from the dead. Holy Week is always a very special week but this year it was 'Eggstra' Special, with so many more children and adults being involved. Thank you to all those who participated and for helping us to realise once again that Jesus very much wants to live in the heart of every one of us, so that we can help to bring peace in our troubled world.

Brenda Craddock



*Churches Together asked the three village schools to be involved with services on the Village Green during Holy Week. Our photograph shows St Bede's School Choir. Canon Spence welcomed everyone; Kirsty Hutchinson, Chaplain to St Bede's led the service, with pupils taking part with readings. The Choir sang a lovely rendition of Amazing Grace, later followed by Elizabeth Doyle who played the guitar and sang so well, 'I will Rise', accompanied by the choir. After prayers, Canon Spence thanked the schoolchildren and a congregation of about forty people who attended.*



*A well attended service was held in glorious sunshine at midday on Good Friday, led by Curate Ali Miller, from All Saints' Parish Church.*

## CHURCHES TOGETHER COFFEE MORNING

On a cool Easter Saturday morning there was a very good attendance for this annual event where those who attended enjoyed a

convivial time chatting and eating the Hot Cross Buns on offer. Four people, David Hughes, John Lowes, Shirley Dixon

and Richard Hume were dispatched into the village to give away Hot Cross

Buns to villagers in the street and in all the shops. They seemed to have a

great time doing this and came back several times to refill their trays.



*Helpers in the kitchen: Di Oram, Bill Whitehead, Helen Hedley, Judith Wilkinson and David Hughes.*



*John Lowes meets a postman outside Hanley & Swinbank. He was delighted to receive a Hot Cross Bun.*

## EASTER SERVICE IN CHURCH

The Special Easter Service which is held in All Saints Parish Church every year, at the end of the Spring Term and which is presented by the pupils of the EP School, is always a lovely service and is very well supported by parents, family members and friends. A very warm welcome is given to every visitor as they enter church, by Reverend Rupert Kalus and the curate Reverend Alison Miller. The whole school attends this service and the behaviour of every pupil is exemplary.

The title of the presentation is 'Tragedy to Triumph' and could be said to be in two parts, namely the before and

after of the Easter Drama. In the first part, all the symbols of the death of Jesus on the Cross are brought forward to the large bare wooden cross, which is placed on a table in the front of the chancel.

When all the symbols are placed around the cross, there is a short pause before each of them is removed and then it is time to think about the Triumph of the cross. Jesus died on the cross but He rose again. He conquered death and brought light and hope to the world.

During all the activity around the cross and throughout the service, the pupils sang appropriate Easter songs and hymns



*The beautiful cross, covered in daffodils.*

accompanied by Mrs Davis on the piano and very nice they were too. The second part of the service is showing the cross in all its glory, as each pupil brings out a daffodil and attaches it to the now bare wooden cross. After the pupils, every adult in the

congregation is given a daffodil to attach to the cross if they so wish and now the cross looks very beautiful. In fact it is shining like a great light to reach every corner of the church. The Light of Christ and the Joy of the Resurrection of Jesus are the images to take

home. Reverend Rupert Kalus thanked all the pupils and staff for the great message of Easter which they had portrayed so competently and so reverently, before closing the service with a blessing for everyone. Brenda Craddock

## EGG BOULING AT PASTE EGG

Cold windy conditions greeted the 40 or so people who turned out for this marvellous village event. Missing was Burt Hunter recovering from a very serious illness in the RVI hospital and Noel Jackson on holiday in India. Not fazed by this the Wildlife team carried on brilliantly! Rachel Hepburn did the Egg wrapping demonstration, then it was off to collect the leaves, flowers and shrubs before families gathered in groups to

wrap their eggs. Special guest was Edith Pierce who was celebrating her 100th birthday today. She wrapped her own egg then judged the four winners along with her sister, Ruth, born the same day as the Queen! Eggs were boiled at the Community Centre this year and whilst this was happening the Egg Hunt took place with Elaine Williams in charge, and Ian Tute's Yolk Folk Band sang the 'The Easter Jolly Boys Song'.

Conditions got slightly better for the Egg Bowling (French spelling this year) and sun actually appeared for a few minutes. Everyone bowled, bouled or threw enthusiastically, and adjudged the winner was the Garside Egg, owned by the youngest child and hurled by her Dad, Ben.

Burt Hunter has everyone's best wishes for a full and speedy recovery and Dr Ian Brunt who attended is thanked for the use of Paste Egg Bank.



*The Garside family gathering leaves etc.*



*Ian Tute's Folk Band entertaining the egg bowlers.*



*Egg wrapping with the Bell family and Lilly (left)*

# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

## Notes from the meeting held on Tuesday 12th April 2016

### Minutes

Ordinary Meeting on 8th March 2016 - approved.

**Police Report** - PCSO Lisa Jackson attended the meeting and presented the report.

### Correspondence

1. The Clerk Magazine - March magazine received.

2. Lighting on bridge near Brook View and tree stumps on path from the valley walk to Lee Hill Court. With regard to the lighting on the bridge a response is still awaited from Durham County Council. The County Council have inspected the tree stumps and consider there to be no problem.

3. Letter of thanks for

donation - The Monday Club - letter received.  
4. Society of Local Council Clerks - Regional Roadshow - agreed that the Clerk attends the event.

5. Letter - Durham Constabulary - Members received information on the 'outstanding' grade awarded to Durham Constabulary on its recent inspection.

6. Letter of thanks for donation - Great North Air Ambulance - letter received.

### Area Partnership and Parish Councils Committee

The AAP are considering their work programme and

priorities for 2017/18 and have asked that all Councillors complete a form and also pass several forms around colleagues and friends.

### Neighbourhood Plan

The minutes of the meeting were approved. Mike Wardle gave an update on progress.

Work continues on the Heritage Audit. Due to the volume of work generated by the audit it has been necessary to increase the input from the North of England Civic Trust. It was agreed that the North of England Civic Trust undertakes a further three days work at a cost of £1200.00.

The Conservation Area Appraisal is to be approved by the County Council in the near future.

The second topic based questionnaire was administered during February. 307 returned questionnaires have been received and inputted onto Survey Monkey. A basic analysis has been circulated to the working group.

A meeting has taken place with the planning consultant who supported the work on the second topic based questionnaire. He is to provide information on further support he is able to offer to progress the Neighbourhood Plan. There is the opportunity to apply for a grant from 'Locality' to fund the work, however the Parish Council may also need to make a financial contribution. It was agreed that in principle the Parish Council will contribute to the cost of engaging a consultant.

### Cricket Club

Members received details from the Cricket Club on their 2016 Beer Festival which is scheduled to take place at the end of May.

The Cricket Club asked for permission to display temporary advertising banners around the perimeter fence. It was agreed that permission be granted and the Cricket Club ensure that they comply with any planning regulations.

### War Memorial

Members were informed that the two County Councillors were considering a project to include a list of names

on the War Memorial. The Parish Council supports the project.

**Maintenance Progress Report** - discussed and received.

### Policies

The following policies were reviewed and approved:

Financial Regulations; Public Filming, Recording or Reporting at Council or Committee meetings Policy; Standing Orders; Health & Safety Policy; Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy; Equal Opportunities Policy; Public Participation Policy; Training - Statement of Intent; Publication Scheme; Complaints Procedure; Grants Policy; Community Engagement - Statement of Intent; Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations - Employer Discretions.

**Financial report** - discussed and approved.

**Accounts for Payment** - approved.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 10th May 2016 following the Village Conference and AGM at 7.15 pm at Lynwood House.

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## POLICE REPORT

The only current trend in Lanchester is antisocial behaviour with older youths congregating under the Lanchester Valley Walk bridge behind the Kings Head Public House to smoke cannabis. Local officers are currently conducting additional patrols to deter further issues and local males identified as being involved will be stop-searched if seen. This month a gentleman from Deneside has appeared at Durham Crown Court where he was

found guilty of Causing Serious Injury by Dangerous Driving. At court he received 12 months' imprisonment and was disqualified from driving for 2 years. PCSO Lisa Jackson will be attending the next Lanchester Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 10th May in Lynwood House, therefore if you have any problems or concerns please come along. Alternatively you can email me on [lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk) or telephone 101.

## VILLAGE BUS CHANGE

You may have noticed that the Village Bus is now being run by Stanley Travel. They say, "The service is a joint enterprise between Durham County Council and Lanchester Partnership and has been running since April 2001. It is often referred to as

the lifeblood of the Village and is essential in providing links for the community, particularly for the more senior residents of the Parish." For details of the route and timetable, please visit <http://stanley-travel.com/bus-timetables>



The new Village Link Bus provided by Stanley Travel.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

The Chancellor's budgets have not always been the unequivocal success he would like (remember the Omnishambles budget) but this year his budget seemed to unravel before he even sat down. The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Iain Duncan Smith) dramatically resigned over the budget, recriminations were flying around and one of the key elements, the proposed cuts to personal independence payments made to the disabled was dropped like a hot potato. Next in the firing line seems to be the government's key policy of forced academisation of all schools as last week Tory MP after Tory MP lined up to criticise. I sense another policy U-turn so watch this space. One of the unexpected outcomes of all this is that I now see Iain Duncan Smith every day as his office is on the same corridor as mine. Previously, as a Minister of State, he was never seen in his personal office but now he is a constant visitor. I spoke in the Budget Debate and chose to focus my remarks on tax avoidance which

has subsequently become a real hot topic. I believe that the public generally take a practical view of tax and inheritance. We know we must pay our taxes, we accept that it is the price of living in a civilised and protected society, but we equally demand fairness in the system. We want to believe that tax is not just for the poor and that the rich cannot simply avoid paying as a perk of being wealthy. For most of us, any wealth we accrue during our lifetime is held in the bricks and mortar of our home and we hope to pass this on to our children and look to the Government to make

sure that we can do this in a way that is fair. Seems simple enough to me. I spoke at the recent public hearing (Story Homes) and tried to focus my remarks on the impact such a development and others will have on the Village and its people. I was very impressed at the way the people of Lanchester have organised ourselves to fight this development and have presented an information-led and articulate argument to the Inspector. I am grateful to be part of the efforts to contest this planning application and I hope the end result is what we all hope for. Pat Glass MP



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## VILLAGE LOSES VITAL NHS SERVICE

A monitoring service vital to the health of people with heart conditions has been removed from the village. The drug warfarin is given to help prevent strokes and heart attacks and The Village Voice believes around 150 people in the local area are using this drug. The drug itself is relatively inexpensive but requires regular monitoring to ensure the correct dosage is administered. People on the drug require checks to be made usually at a frequency of 1 to 4 weeks. Up to now this monitoring has been performed by Lanchester Pharmacy, however they have decided it is no longer

economically viable for them to continue this service. While housebound patients will still get home visits, others have been told they have to attend pharmacies at Stanley or Consett. This is a great inconvenience to a lot of people especially as many people with heart conditions are not permitted to drive. A round trip of one and a half hours on a regular basis for the rest of your life is very upsetting. The Village Voice hopes that the doctors and local politicians can bring some pressure on the NHS to provide a weekly clinic in the village.

## LANCHESTER YOUTH CLUB

We are open from 7.15 to 9.00 pm on Monday evenings during term times in Croft View Hall. We have masses of sports equipment including football, table tennis and pool. Also come for craft, chat, cookery and our computers, which have recently been installed - or just chill out. You can join in youth trips away. Duke of Edinburgh Awards can be achieved here.

The cost is 50p for each session, although the first one is free. It is open for Year 6 onwards.

It is a great venue, but where are the young people? Do come and try it for yourselves. You can say what else you would like to do.

So why not come and bring your friends. You will be welcomed. Just turn up or ring Jill Gladstone on 528 114.

## AN EGGCELLENT DAY!

The last day of term before the Easter break was greatly enjoyed by the youngsters of All Saints' School. All kinds of materials were used to decorate their Easter eggs and the children worked hard at tables covered with coloured wools and threads, glitter and beads. Lots of small masterpieces were produced and everyone enjoyed this very traditional custom. (Photo on front page.)

There was an air of excitement in the EP School on Tuesday, March 22nd. All the school were going to take part in a sponsored walk they had organised for the newly formed 'RotaKids', which is the initiative of Rotary Clubs. It is an exciting way for children, 12 years and under, to lead and engage in important lively activities that will make a positive difference in their school, in their local community and even globally. At the same

## DRIVING AROUND NEAR YOU



Henry Dancer Days is thrilled to have been sponsored by Dennis Common Cars and Heighley Gate Wyevale Garden Centre with a fantastic new car! The people of Morpeth, where Henry's Mum was brought up, have been extremely generous to the charity, much like the very kind folk of Lanchester. Fundraising events continue to be held, donations given, challenges undertaken and now a car given. Bearing in mind that Jane Natrass has lived in the Lanchester area for over

26 years, this is quite remarkable. The car is also able to carry wheelchairs, an extra bonus. Heighley Gate Garden Centre have taken Henry Dancer Days on as their Charity of the Year and are keen to raise money to help the children and families they support. They brokered the arrangement (Dennis's Cars are now displayed in pride of place at the Centre) and this was their first way of helping.

**Driving and a round near you (Apologies!)** Harlands Accountants have also been incredibly

supportive of Henry Dancer Days and are sponsoring a Charity Golf Day at Houghton le Spring Golf Course. The event is to be held on Monday 13th June, 2016. £35 secures 18 Holes Individual Stableford in the morning followed by a shotgun start at noon. There are many prizes and the fee includes breakfast and a one course meal after the golf. Please contact Jane Natrass for more information at henrydancerdays@aol.com.

## ROTAKIDS - EP SPONSORED WALK



EP School pupils ready for their sponsored walk

time RotaKids develop the ability and confidence to take up their place in society, as responsible, successful, effective citizens. Citizenship is part of the school curriculum and RotaKids fits very well into this. The pupils have taken as their project the education of girls in India and have begun finding ways of helping this cause.

The whole school was involved in the sponsored walk. Reception and Key Stage 1 were walking to Malton, where they would be met by the Rotarians for refreshments. Juice and biscuits were just what was needed after all that exercise! Key Stage 2 and years 3, 4, 5, and 6 were all walking in the opposite direction, to Knitsley Farm. To add to the fun, Fancy Dress

could be worn for the walk and many pupils had taken up that challenge. No doubt each RotaKid is going to keep the pledge he/she has taken: 'I endeavour to be fair to all, to serve my community and to show respect for others.' The money raised (a massive £1242) will be sent to India, to promote girl's education. Brenda Craddock

# ARTHUR MAUGHAN'S RETIREMENT

A large number of colleagues and friends gathered together at the Community Centre on Saturday afternoon March 19th, to congratulate Arthur Maughan MBE on his retirement as Chairman of the Community Centre after some 21 years. Councillor Ossie Johnson in his own inimitable, comfortable style, paid great tribute to Arthur for his achievements during his 21 years in office. He described how desperate the situation was when he took over, with the Centre in such a state of disrepair that it may well have been demolished. Ossie continued by thanking Arthur on behalf of the village and Community Centre users for all his hard, dedicated work. He explained how the Centre had gone from strength to strength under his leadership and that Arthur thoroughly deserved the national honour bestowed upon him. Arthur took the floor and spoke eloquently without

notes quoting a multitude of figures. The Community Centre was on its knees financially but through good business plans put into practice raised a total of £35,000 during the first three years of his stewardship. He particularly thanked Judith Lund for advice on grants and the various teams around him during his tenure. Arthur was President of the Lions Club when he first became involved and subsequently the club rallied round with great monetary support to the tune of £17,000 over a few years for the LEAF Project (Lanchester Emergency Appeal Fund). Arthur concluded by reporting that the Centre was now in a good financial state and that preparations for handing over to his successor had been put into place for the last nine months with the Treasurer, Carol Graham, adapting appropriate business budget profiles. He thanked all the staff currently around him

particularly for the high standard and welcoming appearance of the building, the Management Committee, the Trustees and all those very important volunteers, including the public, who have supported the Centre. Arthur, who has been working with his successor Bernie Fox for the past three months said with a wry smile, "I will now fade into obscurity"! Harry Taylor (who also retired at the same time) made a brief light hearted address wondering where the time had gone during his nineteen years working with Arthur in various capacities, but could now see what he was doing with new cataracts. He will continue his membership. The afternoon continued with the fifty or so who attended enjoying a certain je ne sais quoi atmosphere, with a lovely buffet complete with wine. It was a wonderful appreciative farewell for Arthur Maughan, MBE.



Arthur Maughan MBE, left, and Harry Taylor (right) receive parting gifts from Councillor Ossie Johnson.



Left to right, Arthur Maughan MBE, Dr Ian Brunt, President of the Community Association, and Bernie Fox, the new Chairman.

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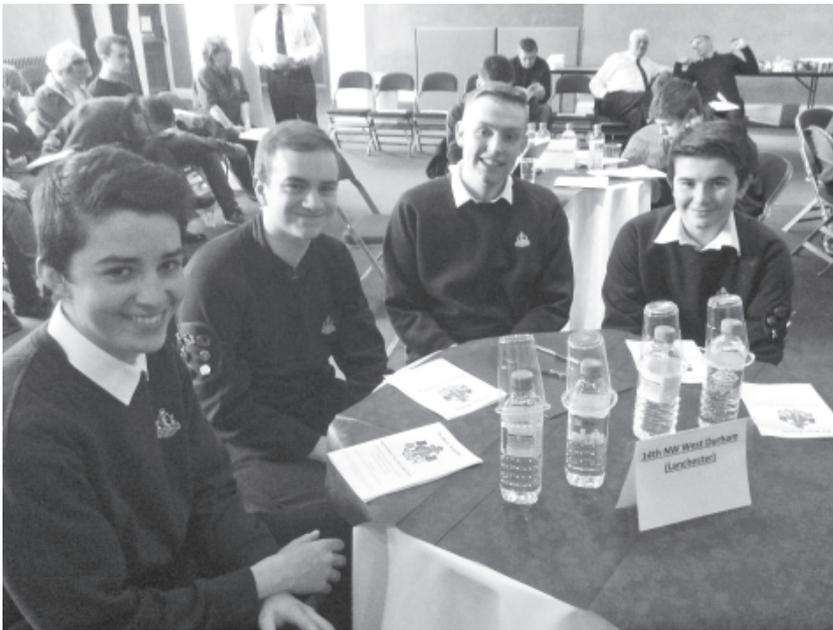
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## BOYS' BRIGADE MASTERTEAM



Left to right, Jacob Lloyd, Cameron Hume, Harry Carson and Tom Bartles-Smith

Lanchester Boys' Brigade Company represented England in the National Final of the Masterteam competition in Falkirk earlier this month. The four young men had already won through three previous rounds to earn their place in the final for the second year running. Ten rounds of various subjects were endured by all six of the teams in Falkirk and it was a very close and interesting competition. Lanchester finished fourth behind the winning team from Dunblane, however for the second year running they were the highest placed English team. A fantastic effort, well done boys.

## BRENDA W CRADDOCK - AUTHOR

Congratulations to Brenda Craddock, of Briardene, Lanchester, who has just had her first novel, 'Abigail's Secret', published. Brenda is a tremendously active person in All Saints' Parish Church and the village, not least as a busy Village Voice reporter. She is a retired teacher, born and bred in Newcastle upon Tyne, married to Steve, a retired Consultant Anaesthetist. They have two married children and two grandchildren. The younger daughter designed the cover for the book. This intriguing story is about a family living in Newcastle in the late 19th Century and the time line spans the next 90 years recording their intricate, intimate lives. The plot is well thought out, making the book a fascinating read with several twists and turns, culminating in a very emotional ending. The book has been painstakingly researched and Fenwick Department Store features prominently in the script, with the owners' permission. Many other well known features, places and the famous from Newcastle's history are referred to in the novel. The book is published by UK Book Publishing, a trading name of Consilience Media, currently on sale at Waterstones and Amazon priced at £4.99.



Brenda Craddock proudly displays her first novel, 'Abigail's Secret'.

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# TEENAGER MAKES COMEBACK TO HELP HOSPICE



Elaine Ryder, Alice Kitchen and Elaine Graham

A champion gymnast, whose dreams were shattered by a devastating injury, is making a sporting comeback to help her local hospice.

Eighteen-year-old Alice Kitchen, who is head girl at St Bede's School, was on crutches for more than two years after an injury during a friendly basketball game

wrecked one of her knees. But after much pain and tears, Alice is slowly on the mend and wants to fulfil an ambition to take part in the Great North Run and raise money for Willow Burn Hospice. "It was hard to stay motivated and keep positive about the fact that my knee was actually going to get better. At the time I felt that I was never going to be able to do anything ever again," she said. But a new physiotherapist has helped put her on the road to recovery. Alice - who is in her final year at St Bede's,

hopes to study maths at Newcastle University and become a maths teacher - was a highly successful acrobatic gymnast. She was a member of a pair and trio who were age group British champions four times. Alice is still involved in gymnastics through coaching and, even when she was on crutches, coached school netball teams. Carefully, she has started running again but is realistic about what she can achieve: "I intend to run the whole 13 miles, but if I have to walk, it will still be a massive

achievement from nine months before when I wasn't even able to put my foot on the floor." She will be cheered every step of the way by her family, fellow students and teaching staff at St Bede's. Elaine Graham, the school's Director of Sixth Form and Assistant Headteacher, said: "It was a shared celebration the day she came into school without crutches. She is a truly remarkable young lady - as an individual and an academic student. To want to give her time and commitment to Willow Burn is absolutely admirable."

## "I LIKE TEA ME"

An intriguing title for a very interesting event which no doubt made lots of money for Willow Burn Hospice. It began with a film of legs tramping or dancing about on tea leaves. Exceptional patterns were produced to put on wall hangings and made into cards to be used for any celebration. Some fabulous artworks have been created through tea, taught and mentored to patients, staff and volunteers at Willow Burn, by Francis Anderson and Paula Turner, of Dry Water artB4age. The 'Tea Tree' which hangs in the main

room at the Day Centre has been made from leaves created by patients in the most astonishingly bright and beautiful colours. It is incredible what has been achieved by just thinking about a simple cup of tea, something most of us drink every day of our lives. The afternoon continued with Meg Middleton from Willow Burn who had arranged the music and sang her own words all about tea to some very familiar tunes, with help from Sharon Butler, who wrote some of the lyrics. It was very cleverly

orchestrated and a beautifully delivered piece of entertainment, which the audience joined in, and emphasised the message about tea and caused much laughter. This was followed by duo Jinski, in the form of Steve Wegrazynski and Dave Kennedy, who played guitars and sang some lovely folk songs whilst reminiscing about some of the amusing times they had enjoyed with tea in their travels. At the end flowers were presented to the aforementioned Francis and Paula, and Willow Burn CEO Helen Mills gave



The Tea Tree

a huge vote of thanks to all those who had contributed to the project and all those who attended and performed on the day. This was inevitably followed by excellent tea and scones.

The exhibition of tea-themed art works will be on permanent display in the day hospice, as a legacy of the project, and will be open to view from 9 am to 4 pm on weekdays.



CEO of Willow Burn, Helen Mills makes her speech after the flower presentation to Francis and Paula

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# STAR PERFORMERS IN VILLAGE



*Noel and Tricia Richards*

On 12th April, Lanchester music lovers enjoyed a rare treat with a visit from Noel and Tricia Richards. They are a British, Majorca based duo who left a warm impact last time they were here in our village a couple of years ago. Both have exceptional singing voices, great harmonies, and accompany themselves on guitars, to a very high standard of professionalism.

Many of their songs, such as 'All Heaven Declares' are virtual standards within the Methodist Church and the wider music circuit around the world. Other songs covered many aspects of life, with a central theme of the power of love, in all its forms. 'Beautiful Love' stood out for me in particular. The music was interspaced with warm and amusing anecdotes with regard to their lives. One

example of this was when Noel explained that in his attempts to speak Spanish he accidentally announced to Majorcan friends that he was pregnant! The couple, who are regarded as big stars with past venues played up to Wembley Stadium level, were warm, approachable, friendly and a sheer delight. We can only look forward to the next time they visit, and hope that even more villagers get the opportunity to see them perform. Anyone who wishes to appreciate them can check their website [www.noelandtricia.com](http://www.noelandtricia.com). Income from the night, after costs, will be shared between The Methodist Chapel's nominated charities for the year, namely ME North East, Bible Society Cambodia and Cancer Research. May I conclude with warmest thanks to Mervyn Burdon, Di Tute and the many helpers for a wonderful evening. Ian Tute

# WILLOW BURN FAIR



*Mama's Crafts, a high quality gift stand with plenty of customers.*

The queue at the entrance was enormous at the start time for this ever popular Spring Fair. Willow Burn certainly receives the support they deserve from the general public for the fine job that they do. As usual there were probably something like 40 stalls, far too many to name them all. There were lots of varied tombolas, handicraft stalls, jewellery, books, cards, etc. Greencore of Consett provided a huge amount of cakes, biscuits and pies all free of charge which made a very attractive area in the middle of the hall. The refreshment area was kept busy in the entrance hall. Something different and lovely for children, was a petting zoo brought by 'Animals About Town'. Terry Lewins on the microphone kept a lively

commentary throughout the afternoon, sometimes teasing the children about very large animals at the zoo, or escaping from it! Entertainment was provided by CBS Consett with excerpts for their forthcoming production of 'Annie'. It really was a very good afternoon, which resulted in a massive profit in excess of £5,820. Willow Burn staff, patients and volunteers would like to say a massive thank you for your continued support in helping to raise valuable funds for the Hospice and a special mention for St Bede's School who once again supported by allowing the use of their premises, a perfect location for such an event.

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*Joseph and Emily Heron enjoy petting one of the animals.*

# THE ARGUS SINGERS AND LANCHESTER BRASS BAND



*The Argus Singers and Band play to a full house*



*Cornet soloist Jonathan Holden*

In the Methodist Church on Saturday April 9th a wonderful concert took place. The audience were treated to a feast of excellent music from the beautiful singing of the Argus Singers and the competent playing of Lanchester Brass Band. They played to a large and very appreciative audience.

The Brass Band opened the concert with a piece called 'Fanfare and Flourishes' which set the scene for a concert which had great flourish. Mr Steve Robson conducted the band and Mr Tony Harries conducted the Argus Singers. Their choice of songs and music was superb. It included two combined Easter items, which were sung by the singers and accompanied by the Brass Band, namely 'All in the April Evening' and 'When I survey the wondrous cross'. They were beautifully sung and very sensitively accompanied.

The Argus Singers included in their programme a medley from 'Les Miserables'; Simon and Garfunkel's 'Scarborough Fair'; 'The Wind Beneath My Wings' composed by Henley and Silbar; 'A Foggy Day' by Gershwin and Gershwin; 'In My Life' by Lennon and McCartney and 'Fields of Gold' composed by G M Sumner. There were solo voices blended into a number of the songs, one of whom was Sharon Murray, who is well known in Lanchester for her beautiful voice.

The Band also included individuals in their programme; Cornet Solo by Jonathan Holden, Trombone Trio by Katherine Bradshaw, Lesley Wilkinson and Andrew Hedges, and Euphonium Duet by James Draper and Calvin Hayton. All played to a very high standard. The conductor Mr Steve Robson had himself made a special arrangement for the band to play of the hymn 'My Song is Love Unknown' which was beautifully played. Another piece was 'The Journal of Phileas Fogg', which is great fun to play, because it is in effect a journey round the world and incorporates well known music from different countries eg France (the Can-Can) Austria (Viennese Waltz), etc.

The programme ended with the hymn 'When I survey the Wondrous Cross' and for the last verse the audience were invited to join in. The sound was superb and very moving and marked the end of what had been a very successful concert and an extremely enjoyable evening. We are used to high quality musical performances in Lanchester and this was no exception.

Brenda Craddock

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# SATLEY WI APRIL REPORT

Our President Lynda Horn welcomed our members along with our speaker, then the usual business was conducted.

Lynda had attended the AGM at Bishop Auckland and gave us a report. The proposed resolutions were voted on and passed. This was followed by the arrangements for the

Summer outing to Skipton on May 26th, leaving Satley at 9 am. A coffee stop will be at Ripley Castle then the journey will continue to Skipton. A number of our members had tickets to attend a 'Regency Evening' hosted by Waterhouses WI in Newhouse Parish Centre on April 12th.

A visit to Durham Gala Theatre in July to see the Jekyll and Hyde musical was suggested and was well received. Arrangements are being made for tickets to be purchased for the matinee on July 13th. Lynda introduced our speaker, Anya from Silk and Satin accompanied by her mother. She gave a

very interesting talk on the origins of silk, supported by a beautiful display of silk handbags, some embellished with jewels etc. There were also handbag accessories which could be purchased. She mentioned the origin of silk as early as 800 BC and there was silk in St Cuthbert's robes. After

a very informative talk, Anya was thanked by Freda.

The raffle was won by Freda Scott. Kathleen Snowdon won first and second places in the competition 'An article of silk' and Grace Hall was third. Tea and biscuits were then served and enjoyed along with some time to chat.

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## HIMALAYAN BALSAM

(*Impatiens glandulifera*)

Common names: Policeman's Helmet, Bobby Tops, Copper Tops or Gnomes Hatstand.

Last year a Village Voice article covering the invasion of this aggressive plant brought this to many people's attention as it could be found by the river and the railway track in vast areas. Last year 2015 saw the plant gaining more ground in Dora's Wood, the Malton area, the Smallhope Burn and various railway track areas in the village.

It loves moist ground. It grows tall and is often packed tightly together, so it shades out other plants. When it dies in winter it leaves bare soil prone to erosion. The flowers are pretty and a good source of nectar. However insects are attracted away from our natural plants to the rich balsam nectar, therefore reducing pollination and the proliferation of our native flowering plants.

The plant grows up to 4 metres high, it has a soft green or red tinged stem and toothed lanceolate leaves with reddish mid ribs, from 2 to 9 inches long. The flowers are pink with a hooded shape. After flowering between June and October the plant



*The dreaded Himalayan Balsam*

forms seed pods 2-3 cm long and 8mm wide which explode when disturbed, scattering around 200 seeds to 7 metres or 23 feet! Discussions at the Wildlife Group decided to tackle areas particularly Dora's wood or areas near member's homes. If we can remove the young plants before they flower and produce seeds we might be able to make a difference. In the long term a survey needs to be undertaken to find out the sources upstream of the River Browney and Smallhope Burn to further tackle the problem. The plant can be easily pulled out by hand or

using gloves with a good grip, then put in a pile; some advise that the roots should be squashed. When uprooted or badly hacked, reddish purple roots spread from every node which will root again in the soil which needs to be avoided! If you are interested in helping with this, contact a member of the Wildlife group for planned removal in certain areas. We will need help in July, please look in the What's on section in the next Village Voice. For more details contact [lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com](mailto:lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com).

# INNOVATIONS



Pat Glass MP cuts the ribbon to officially open the Innovations, with Jeanette Robinson, Manager, right, and attendees at the rear.

Innovations is the name of a private limited company which operates a service as a Day Centre for activities for adults aged 16+ with learning difficulties. Opened in June 2015, it is situated in the former Park House Surgery, now re-named Corner House, and provides various facilities between the hours of 8.30 am - 4.00 pm each weekday. Currently there are approximately thirty people from Lanchester and district who attend the centre to enjoy activities that they really want to do. The staff are guided by the attendees in this area. There are rooms for relaxation (called the underworld room), a music

room with guitars and other instruments which they can learn, encouraged by members of staff. Adjacent is a computer room where skills may be developed, with social media training included. They have outside events such as visits to the swimming pool, ten pin bowling, visits to various parts of the region and more locally to the park and walks on the Lanchester Valley Walk. Events are planned for the Queen's 90th Birthday and the Olympic Games. Jeanette Robinson is the site manager and Victoria Aitken is a Director of Innovations. The ribbon to celebrate the official opening was cut at 1.30 pm on

Friday, 15th April, by Pat Glass MP, accompanied by Jeanette Robinson, other staff and attendees. It was followed by a brief speech by Mrs Glass, a former Director of Education, in which she said how delighted she was to be invited to this wonderful, worthwhile facility. She emphasised that throughout her career she had been involved with children, particularly those with special needs. She opined that this venture was so important to the parents of those using it as well as their children, as it was an opportunity for them to continue their learning skills. There followed a superb buffet and a tour of the building.

## LADIES WHO LUNCH

We hadn't been for a while, so we decided to go and have lunch at the Black Horse at Beamish. Not far from the village, lots of parking and a pleasant place to be. Friendly staff settled us at our table with menus and we spent a while in a favourite occupation - deciding what to eat. We chose for a starter Tempura prawns cooked in a crispy batter simply served with a sweet chilli sauce and a mixed leaf garnish + a side

of sweet potato fries. Mains were Confit of duck slow cooked served with a white bean and pancetta stew with buttered broccoli, Bombardier and ale pie with garden veg and mash, the Black Horse famous fish and chips with mushy peas and lemon wedge and a Vegetarian Ploughman's Platter - a selection of cheeses, home made French orchard chutney garnished with radishes, celery, grapes, apple salad served with warm crusty

bread. For dessert it was Baileys crême brûlée, Lemon drizzle cake with Chantilly cream and for some of us just a latte/cappuccino. The food is quite delicious and we thoroughly enjoyed our meal but we did have to wait a while for it to arrive, as one of our members said "it got to the limit of waiting". The Black Horse - excellent food - but be prepared for very relaxed service.

The Gourmet Girls

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## THURSDAY CLUB BIRTHDAY

On Thursday, March 17th, we celebrated our 36th year with a party in the Community Centre Main Hall. We had decided on a members' Faith Supper for our food and what a super spread evolved as all the contributions arrived. A feast for everyone + a refreshing glass of elderflower wine. We then enjoyed a riotous game of beetle, which is an excellent way for folks to mingle and get to know some new faces. Each game was interspersed with amusing monologues



Luscious food

or jokes from various members. Half way through the evening we lit the sparkly candles on our birthday cake, sang to ourselves and enjoyed a lovely piece of cake. The evening ended with raffle winners, a beetle and booby prize winner and everyone quite replete with food, fun and laughter. A thoroughly good night!

## OUR REGULAR TRAVELLER

Our regular visitor to the bypass is Andy McCourt, from Sacriston. Andy's hobby is travelling the countryside enjoying the outdoor life. Sometimes his wife accompanies him. This time it was just his horse, Storm, aged twelve. Andy's working life is also travelling as he is employed as an HGV lorry driver which takes him to all parts of the UK. He will



Andy McCourt tends to his horse, Storm.

be back at the end of May Fair, a round trip which on his way to Appleby will take three weeks.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Classic Chicken Curry

Serves 4, ready in 1 hour 10 minutes

Curry is officially the UK's favourite meal. This lovely Indian dish is very tasty, easy to prepare and is a healthy alternative to a take away meal.

You need:

1kg skinless and boneless chicken thighs or breasts, cut into large pieces.  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
Low calorie cooking spray  
1 onion, peeled and finely chopped  
2 tsp peeled and finely grated root ginger  
2 tsp peeled and crushed garlic  
1 tbsp mild or medium curry powder, according to your taste

1 tsp each of ground cumin, ground coriander, ground cinnamon and paprika  
One half teaspoon crushed cardamom seeds and one quarter teaspoon each of ground cloves and turmeric  
400 g can chopped tomatoes

300 ml chicken stock  
Chopped coriander, sliced green chillies and fat free natural yoghurt to serve.

**METHOD**  
1. Place the chicken on a plate, season well and set aside.

2. Spray a frying pan with low calorie cooking spray and place over a medium heat. Add the onion, stir fry for 5-6 minutes or until it starts to lightly brown.  
3. Stir in the ginger, garlic, curry powder, cumin,

coriander, cinnamon, paprika, cardamom seeds, ground cloves and turmeric and stir fry over a high heat for 1-2 minutes.

4. Add chicken and cook for 2-3 minutes until sealed, then add the tomatoes and stock. Bring to the boil, cover tightly, reduce the heat to low and allow to simmer gently for 40-45 minutes, stirring occasionally until the chicken is cooked.

5. Remove the pan from the heat, adjust seasoning to taste and serve garnished with chopped coriander and sliced green chillies. If you would like a creamier curry, or want to make the curry milder, swirl in some fat free natural yoghurt.

## LANCHESTER WI - 'STAY SAFE'

President Marie Murphy opened our April meeting with several notices. For reasons of Health and Safety, we requested that members enter the hall at 7.15, to ensure the changeover period between activities is smooth and safe. The Community Centre thanked us for understanding the issues involved; we will continue meeting in our current location, as the choir are happy to continue with present arrangements. Members were urged to keep up to date with future events. Plans for our Summer Outing to Skipton are being finalised and our Birthday Outing to Castle Howard looks like being very popular. Members are invited to take an active part in our meetings - guidance will

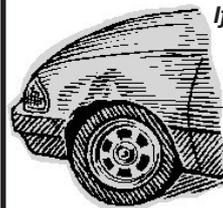
be given to new Tea Hostesses, and we welcome contributions for future raffles and for competition prizes, etc. We value your support! Notice was given about proposed cinema visits and Jill Gladstone reminded us about the importance of attending the Public Inquiry into planned future building in the village. Raffle prizes were awarded to Janet Vasey and Marjorie Raper, with Ann Carr and Christine Gibson winning the 'Be Scam Aware' warnings. We then settled to hear Trudi Jameson speaking about how we should be on our guard against scamming, an increasing crime in our society. Huge advances have been made in online communication, with many older people using

the internet regularly. This sector of the community is often targeted by fraudsters, they often live alone and may be isolated, sometimes housebound. They are often financially secure and sometimes at risk of forgetfulness or even dementia. There have been many sad cases of senior citizens losing large amounts of money and subsequently suffering emotional distress, lack of trust and confidence. Trudi urged us to be aware of any scam and to keep an eye on friends and neighbours, making use of agencies and services which offer protection. Such a cruel crime against the most vulnerable in society shows no sign of abating and we must not let down our guard.



*Trudi Jameson guided our members through the issues of Senior Fraud Protection, urging us to be scam aware, for ourselves and for friends and relatives.*

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## ROTARY BIKE RIDE



*Left to right: On bike, Keith Stewart; support members: Maureen Bennett (Lanchester resident); Moira Quigley; Peter Quigley; Brian Stobbs.*

The Rotary Club of Consett organised a fund raising ride out, supported by Derwent Valley AAP, for some of their fitter members who enjoy cycling. The ride took place on Sunday, 17th April, beginning at the Station Road entrance to the Lanchester Valley Walk where a gazebo had been erected as the start point. Ten hardy members took part and rode over the moors to Parkhead Café near Crawleyside Bank, on the edge of Stanhope. The round trip is about 28 miles and takes just over two hours to complete. Raffle tickets were sold by the support team members and Mr George Gascoigne of Esh won a Fitbit device in the draw. The weather kept fine for the day and proceeds from the event went into the Rotary Club's general fund for charities.

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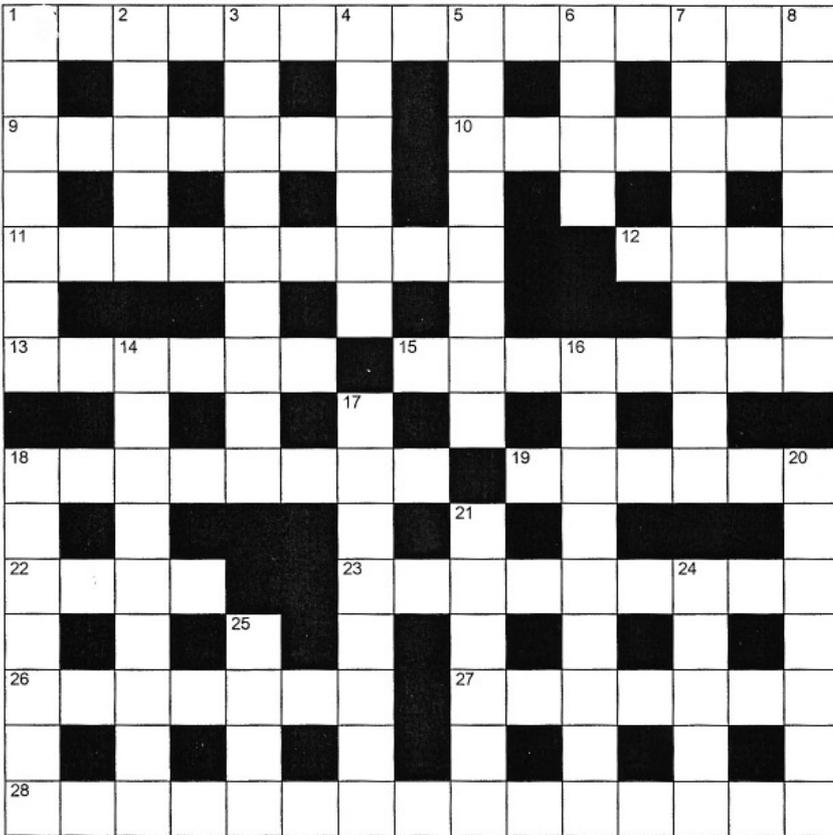
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# CROSSWORD 120



- ACROSS**
1. Hedonism (8,7)
  9. Pull out (7)
  10. Feeling (7)
  - 11,15. Convoluted road system (9,8)
  12. African country (4)
  13. Easily lead (6)
  15. See 11
  18. Chairperson (8)
  19. Betrothed (6)
  22. Bloodsuckers (4)
  23. Honourable (9)
  26. Energise (5,2)
  27. Lethargy (7)
  28. Trivial (2,2,11)
- DOWN**
1. Ps super exercise (5-2)
  2. More from sex trafficker (5)
  3. Hence a gas transformation (3-6)
  4. Turn (6)
  5. Misleading (8)
  6. School of up and coming note ? (4)
  7. Replica (9)
  8. Agent in showy flower (7)
  14. Author of "Atonement" (3,6)
  16. Cautioner produces liqueur (9)
  17. Reptile produced by RN pirate (8)
  18. West Indian satirical ballad (7)
  20. Subjugate (7)
  21. Light (6)
  24. Author of "Loot" murdered in 1967 (5)
  25. Small reptile found in Palaeolithic rocks (4)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

## CROSSWORD 119

There were 18 entries in last month's crossword competition, though not all were correct (7 down caused a few problems). Congratulations to Mr I Cliff of Humberhill Drive who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 119

- ACROSS**
8. self-deprecation
  9. nightingale
  10. hoedown
  11. woe is me
  12. trounce
  13. Lucifer
  14. Debussy
  16. fleeced
  20. heavyweight
  21. deliver the goods
- DOWN**
1. Isaiah
  2. blonde bombshell
  3. adagio
  4. trait
  5. ravage
  6. diversification
  7. on hire
  14. decade
  15. starve
  17. engage
  18. debase
  19. twite

## LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

## SUDOKU

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

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

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# LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB



*Pam Greenhill showing off her many beautiful arrangements.*

**'Just for You'** monthly meeting which visited us on many occasions. Pam has never let us down; she entertains us with some Helen our Chairperson was held on the 23rd. Pam Greenhill who has warmly welcomed The demonstrator was Pam Greenhill who has everyone to the March Pam Greenhill who has

lovely stories, then produces some beautiful flower arrangements which are raffled to the delight of the winners. As on other occasions Pam filled the stage with many arrangements of all colours and sizes. Once again the ladies of the club enjoyed a relaxing and very entertaining afternoon. Tea and biscuits were then served to complement the convivial conversation. We look forward to the return of Pam Greenhill in the future. The next meeting will be a talk by Howard Leslie of Quiet Corner Plants. He will be telling us a little about the best shrubs and plants for the flower arrangers among us, then we can have a question time on our gardening queries. Everyone is welcome. On 22nd June our outing is all but arranged. We will be stopping at Blackwell Grange Hotel Darlington for lunch then on to visit Val Guest's Garden at Hurworth. If anyone would like any information about the Lanchester Flower Club, ring Helen Tomlinson 01207 503667, Norma Jenssen 01207 520574 or Lestrine Kelly 01207 521494. New members are always welcome.

## LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY - APRIL

Nearly 30 folks ventured along to the April meeting and although it was the first of the month there were no fools, however there was a slight hiatus as the speaker was delayed by traffic. Refreshments and updates about things associated with history and the village filled the time. Marian introduced the speaker, John Balmer, and the audience settled down to a fascinating hour on the Early Bishops of Durham. We heard how they had made their mark on the region and what somewhat more self interested. We heard about Flambard and his escape from the Tower of London but also of his Saxon ladies, the mothers of his several children. The theme of Church and Crown infighting persisted. We heard about Bishop Hugh Du Puiset (Pudsey) surveying the holdings of the episcopate in 1183. The information was gathered in The Boldon Book, possibly done to fill in the blanks, as 100 years earlier The Domesday Book had been created. This was a survey of the Kingdom but for some reason the area north of the Tees was not included; no doubt the Bishop and the King's Commissioners were not seeing things eye to eye. There was no change to the lifestyle of living beyond their means with wives, lovers and decadence. The later years known as the Golden Years did see significant community investment with buildings that we still have standing and in use across the county although their lifestyle did not change from earlier incumbents. It is safe to say that each one could provide an excellent outline for a Le Carré novel. The meeting closed at 8.30 with everyone being reminded that the next meeting on May 6th would be the Hadrian Cloggers on the History of Clogging.

Marian introduced the speaker, John Balmer, and the audience settled down to a fascinating hour on the Early Bishops of Durham. We heard how they had made their mark on the region and what

skulduggery they got up to either when in office or on their route to the job. The period known as the Harrying of the North was described and how it was common for the Bishop and the monks to disagree quite violently. There was bloodshed, interfamily rivalry, the French and Scots ganging up on the English. The Bishops were meant to be the King's representatives, however sometimes they seemed

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# WHAT'S ON?

## Open House

Join us in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 5th May, 11.30 am to 1.00 pm.

## Vintage Tractor Club

Meet on Wednesday 4th May at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Social Club.

## Country Market

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

## Thursday Club

There will be no meeting of the Thursday Club in the Community Centre on May 19th. Instead we will be off on an away day to Alnwick Gardens. The bus will leave the village at 9.30am from outside Cooplunds.

## Local History Society

Subject: Hadrian Clogs  
Speaker: Georgia Shorrocks  
Date: May 6th  
Time: 7pm  
Venue: Lanchester Community Centre  
Georgia Shorrocks tells the history of traditional clog and hard shoe dances from the North East of England and beyond with demonstrations. Visitors are always welcome (£2). For more information about the History Society contact [marianmorrison@btinternet.com](mailto:marianmorrison@btinternet.com).

## Lanchester Library

The library offers Songs and Stories on Thursday afternoons from 2-3 pm. All children under 5 years are welcome.

## Lanchester Methodist Church

Traditional Afternoon Tea on Wednesday May 25th 2-4.30 at Lanchester Methodist Church. Our Wives and Friends group is hosting this event to raise funds for our 3 nominated charities for this year (ME Northeast, Cancer Research and the Bible Society).

## Flower Club

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th May at 2 pm in Lanchester Community Centre, everyone welcome. There will be a talk by Howard Leslie on 'Quiet Corner Plants'.

## Community Centre

### Coffee Morning

The Community Centre will be holding a coffee morning on 12th May from 9.30 - 11.00am.

### Events

Folk Music Night with **Fool's Gold** on Saturday 14th May, starts 7.30 pm. Tickets £8.

Spend an Evening with **Medium Debra Chalmers** on May 28th at 7.00 pm. Tickets available from the Community Centre.

## Library Book Club

Our next book club is on Monday May 23rd at 2.30, we will discuss **The Last Runaway** by Tracey Chevalier. A review by Rose Tremain describes this book as 'the best thing she's written since *Girl with a Pearl Earring*'. Dates for your diary of future meetings: June 27th, July 25th and 22nd August. We look forward to seeing you then.

## Lanchester WI

Our next meeting will be held on May 9th, in the Main Hall of the Community Centre, with entry at 7.15. Many thanks to everyone for their kind understanding about the new time and venue for meetings. Planning for our Summer Outing to Skipton is well advanced - the date is Wednesday 6th July, the cost is £18 and should be paid before the June meeting. A secret ballot will take place, part of the process of voting in support of a Resolution to take forward to the WI Annual Meeting. Many thanks to everyone for supporting our April coffee morning, it was a lovely social occasion. Jill Swift will talk about 'Jewilicious Jewellery Making' and our competition will be to produce a piece of handmade jewellery.

## Short Circuit Walks

Venue: **East Rainton**  
Date: May 14th  
OSRef: NZ335477  
DH59SB  
Miles: 5  
Leader: Edna Hunter  
Phone: 01913889570  
Meet/park adjacent to St Cuthbert's Church in Quarry House Lane, East Rainton, A690

Venue: **Brocolitia and Simonburn**  
Date: May 28th  
OSRef: NY935648  
NE463HJ

Miles: 5  
Leader: Ian Hunter  
Phone: 01912745723  
Meet Tyne Green, Hexham, near toilets, to car share to site on B6318, the Military Road, NY860713/NE464DB.

## The Paradiso Social Club

The final Social of this season will take place on Sunday May 8th in the Main Hall of the Community Centre at 7pm. There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and a film.

The film we will be screening is the Oscar winning film 'SELMA', starring David Oyelowo. It tells the gripping and moving story of the pivotal moment in Martin Luther King Jr's epic civil rights struggle. The historic protest march that he led from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965 was a triumphant demonstration of the power of the people. An inspirational movie. All are welcome.

Ticket entry:  
Members £2.50  
Occasional visitors £3.50  
Young persons £2.

## Lanchester Writers

Lanchester Writers meet in Lanchester Library every Tuesday 2 - 4 pm. during school term time. New members are always welcome.

## Mothers Union

At our meeting on Wednesday 11th May 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, 8.00 pm in church, we will be entertained by Consett Salvation Army Songsters.

## Junior/Family Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on Sunday 8th May. We will meet in the Malton car park at 10.00 am.

## Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th May at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre Dining Room. The subject will be 'A Naturalist's Notebook', with Malcolm Birtle.

## Willow Burn Events

**Evening with Hypnotist** Ricky Moore - 27th May. Get your tickets now to enjoy this fantastic Hypnotist Laughter show starring the highly entertaining Ricky Moore. Described as 'the most unique audience participation show in existence' you are guaranteed to have a great night out. The evening starts at 7.30 pm and tickets are £5.00 per person. To get your tickets call Will Gardner on 07703807383 or Willow Burn Hospice 01207 523900. For more information email: [fundraising@willowburnhospice.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@willowburnhospice.org.uk).

**Spring Art Exhibition -** 7th - 21st May  
Grand opening on Saturday 7th May 11am-1pm with a variety of stalls.

Over the following two weeks the art can be viewed - Tuesday 10th, Thursday 12th and Friday 13th between 3.30 - 5.00 pm and Saturday 14th 11.00 - 1.00pm. The days and times will be the same for the following week. This event has been organised by Greencroft Art Group who would love to invite local people to meet them and enjoy their works of art.

Refreshments will be available and 40% of all sales will be donated to Willow Burn Hospice.

## Satley WI

Our meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7.15pm in Satley Village Hall. Anyone wishing to come along as a visitor or prospective member will be made most welcome. The next meeting is 'Members Night' with a Faith Supper.

## CRICKET CLUB

Well, weather permitting, the season should have started with two weekends having been completed. The firsts start with a tricky game at Leadgate, a side that beat them four times last year. It doesn't get any easier as they then entertain champions Shotley Bridge, followed by a trip to runners up Swalwell. The seconds will start by entertaining Bedlington and have the reverse fixtures of the firsts to contend with. The third team start with a home fixture against Marsden and then visit Washington before entertaining Backworth. The Under 18s start at home to Swalwell and then go to Ryton. There are high hopes for the 18s this year led by Chris Tully and well supported by the returning Arran Halliday, new signings Chris Halliday and Keanan Proctor and

regulars David Selby and David Killeen. The under 15s are at Whickham in the cup and if successful would play the next cup match the following week with the first league game at Swalwell in May. The under 13s are at Annfield Plain in the cup with the second round to follow before starting their league campaign with Shotley Bridge. The under 11s start at Ryton in the cup again with a second round the following week before entertaining Swalwell. Prospects are good for the 11s as a team who have played together for three years. The annual season preparation went well with lots of painting having been done to smarten up the outside of the club, the seating and fencing. With John Bell and Steve McPhail toiling hard over the wicket, fingers crossed for fair weather and a bit of luck!

## BEER FESTIVAL 2016

Preparations are nearing completion, so just a chance to recap what's in place for our third annual beer and cider festival. Life at Durham Gate are the event main sponsor, with Sustain Landscapes sponsoring the glasses and Durham Workspace sponsoring the marquee. Hanley and Swinbank will provide food throughout. We will be supporting the Bubble Appeal on the Friday sponsors' night and the Saturday whilst Henry Dancer Days will be raising money on Sunday. We have fantastic entertainment over the three days from Steve Daggett on Friday, to The Smokin Spitfires on Saturday and then three bands on Sunday, The Castells, The Four Forty Ones and The Pretty Weeds will keep everyone entertained. As ever we have qualified door staff to ensure that everyone enjoys themselves whilst

Consett Police have promised a presence in the vicinity to ensure that people go home quietly. There will now be 25 real ales and 20 ciders available and we hope to have a sponsor for each one. Local wine merchant Pip Stop are supplying a great selection of wines for those who don't like the ales and ciders. The following local businesses have given their support:- Westlands Dental Surgery, New Image, Black Bull, Talking Heads, Alexander Lettings, Alby Driving and Lanchester Dairies. We'd like to thank everyone who has sponsored us as we couldn't do it without you. Let's now hope for some good weather. Tickets can be purchased in advance through our [lanchesterbeerfestival.com](http://lanchesterbeerfestival.com) website and if you buy them now the price is only £5 per day, whilst the price on the day will be £7.

## LANCHESTER

### BOWLING CLUB REPORT

The bowling club is up and running for the new season. Fixtures can be found on our website. Please note new bowlers and spectators are always welcome. The club runs get together sessions so new and improving players can get together with established bowlers to improve their game and have an enjoyable afternoon of bowling. These get-togethers are run on Thursday afternoons at 1.45 pm. The club has some bowls to loan to new bowlers; please wear flat shoes. If you cannot come on a Thursday afternoon, please ring secretary Ken Raper 01207 521673. Please note there will not be a session on 5th May because of the election.

## GREAT BRITISH TENNIS WEEKEND - FREE!

Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club will be hosting a Free Tennis Fun Day on Sunday 15th May. The Great British Tennis Weekend is part of the Lawn Tennis Association's initiative, and will follow an intensive nationwide media campaign to try to get players, young and old, to take part in the sport. Hopefully the weather will be fine and the participants can enjoy some fun tennis action. The event will be from 1 pm to 4 pm, at the grass courts along Ford Road, with all equipment provided and light refreshments for sale.

Activities will include cardio tennis, family time, 'Tennis Factory' and more. There will also be a 'Quorn' sponsored family tournament held for parent and child under 10 years old. Registration and the booking of different sessions can be done online by going onto the Great British Tennis Weekend website, search for Lanchester and follow the links. Alternatively just turn up on the day. Come along and give it a go whether or not you have played before. For further details, please contact Dennis on 01207 520278 or email [den.lizjane@gmail.com](mailto:den.lizjane@gmail.com).

## DURHAM RAMBLING CLUB

This year Durham Rambling Club celebrates its 50th anniversary. Started in 1966, it has taken walkers from Durham and the surrounding areas by coach to some of the most beautiful places in the North of England - Northumberland, the Durham & Yorkshire Dales, the North York Moors and the Lake District. And there we have walked, kept ourselves fit and made

lifelong friends. We would love to see more people of all ages joining our Club so that it can continue for another 50 years! We walk alternate Sundays all through the year - there is no annual membership and you just pay for the trips you do. Our coach picks up all around Durham, from Newton Hall, via Neville's Cross and the city centre, to Belmont. We have 2 levels of walk - a B walk,

usually around 9 miles, and an A walk of 12 miles or so. One advantage of having a coach is that we can do linear walks - also we can relax on the way home without having to do a long drive after a good day out. If you would like to know more about our Club, please look at our website [www.durhamramblingclub.org.uk](http://www.durhamramblingclub.org.uk) or phone Ruth on 01913843676. We'd love to hear from you!

## FITNESS COACH RETIRES AT 86

Jenny Robson has at last decided to call it a day. She has been an inspiration to so many people with her 20 year plus dedication to running fitness classes at: Lanchester Community Centre, The Louisa Centre Stanley, Consett Sports Centre and Community Centres at Burnopfield and Dipton. She has made so many friends in those

places. Her mentor and trainer at the beginning of her career was Sylvia Hocking of Lanchester, who is renowned in the fitness world for her many achievements. Jenny has a son, daughter in law and two granddaughters in Australia and has spent most of her holidays visiting them. Gentle persuasion from her son

has helped Jenny make the important decision to retire. She will be missed by the many people she has coached during the last 20 years for her great sense of humour, skills, and lovely manner, which has encouraged women to keep coming to her classes to attain good fitness throughout their lives. (Picture on back page)

# AN ODE TO SPORT (with apologies to William Shakespeare)

Citizens of Lanchester, you may answer the call. The tables do beckon in our Community Hall. Would you like to keep fit merely dressed in own kit On a surface that's level without any bevel? You can come and enjoy fun, freedom and learning If you choose to present with a positive yearning. We meet every week in the Community Centre. Play by yourselves or with professional mentor. In a welcoming group you'll find it's not hard, To blend in with others including this bard. *Chairman/Coach Frank Clarke*



*Here are some of the 20 children in the junior section of the Table Tennis Club, aged 8-12, being coached by Frank Clarke, assisted by Treasurer and potential coach, Edith Lucas. Times and sessions:- primary learners/junior group on Thursdays 5 pm - 6 pm, adult leisure and competitive groups on Fridays 7 pm - 9 pm.*

## CHARLIE MEETS RAFA



*Charlie McPhail, captain of Lanchester under 11 cricket team, meeting Rafa on his first win which coincided with Rafa's birthday.*

## FITNESS COACH RETIRES AT 86



*Jenny Robson, 86 on April 8th 2016, was presented with flowers from Jean Surtees (Fitness Group) and Margaret Laycock (Community Centre) surrounded by her Lanchester Fitness Group. (Article, page 23)*

## CRICKET CLUB TIDY UP



*The tidy-up group ready to start work. (Cricket Club.news, page 23)*

## NEXT DEADLINE

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

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