

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 17

Lanchester, December 2016

For contact information, see page 2



LIGHTING UP LANCHESTER - THE BIG SWITCH-ON



Lights switched on by: Terry Deary (centre), left, Adam McCrory and Hannah Madeley from All Saints' Primary and right, Eli Densmore and Catherine Armstrong from EP Primary with Councillors Ossie Johnson and Richard Young looking on at the rear (right).



Some of the crowd happily waiting for the Big Switch-on.



Members of Lanchester Operatic, conducted by David Hughes, braving the cool evening,



Lanchester Brass gave a lovely rendition of carols and Christmas music. **Article, page 5**

VILLAGE FLOODS AGAIN



Car going past All Saints' Parish Church where the water was quite deep.



Paul Jackson (front), volunteers, firemen and farmers, doing their best to tackle the flood. **Full story, page 4**



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
I have lived in Lanchester with my family since 1971. Much time, money and resources have been spent over the years to resolve the on-going problem of flooding in Lanchester. The recently installed kerb drains do not appear to have improved matters at all in heavy rain, as was demonstrated on Monday evening 21st November - a waste of time and money, plus the long inconvenience to residents. The main reason and cause of the problem is that the affected area lies in a depression. The

roadway carries the water from the west into the shopping area. It then rises as it passes towards the war memorial thus preventing a natural run off for the flood water.

The condition of the drainage system to the Smallhope Burn and the flood water level in that burn also affects the disposal of water from the street.

Is it not time now to be bold? Create a new large drain directly from Front Street across Station Road and through the park, into the burn, downstream of the Kings Head. Dredge and widen the Smallhope Burn through and beyond the village. Create a temporary flood plain in the park (or Malton) to prevent further flooding in the village centre.

A real solution must be found quickly. One thing seems fairly certain - we can expect more heavy and frequent downpours in the future.
J Lowes

Dear Village Voice **Burnhope Remembrance Service, 13th November 2016**

It was a change to have a nice dry day for the Burnhope Remembrance Sunday Services. Thank you to Mrs D Park, Rev Ali Miller of Lanchester Parish Church and Rev Peter Welby of Durham who led the services.

I would also like to thank other people: Ian and Mary for getting the church warm and looking after the door and collection which amounted to £71.40 and is now being sent to the Royal British Legion. Also to Mr Barry Henderson and Sarah McCormick who printed the notices for the shops and notice board and Mr H Barron who took care of the banner. To everyone who attended the service, may one never forget all who gave their lives for peace.

Best wishes, Stan Collins, Burnhope

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for November is 7. The draw was made by Mr B Hedley of the Gym.

Dear Village Voice
After the recent death of my wife, Pam Tilley, I would like to thank everyone for their support, well wishes and cards. The attendance at church far exceeded my expectations and there was an excellent service by Rev Rupert and Ali.
Thanks to Crinnions for the first class buffet. Collectively we raised £1140 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.
Thanks again to each and everyone of you.
Brian and family

NEWS HOUNDS NEEDED

The Village Voice is going through a transitional stage. A new generation of volunteers is needed to keep the publication going. A key element is to find more news reporters to sniff out good stories. Are you a people person who likes to talk and ask questions? Would you feel comfortable asking some workmen why they are digging a hole? You could be the person the Village Voice needs. Please email lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise, email: voiceadverts@gmail.com

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CELEBRATING JESSIE'S 60 YEARS IN MALTON

On 30th November, St Andrew's Day, residents gathered together to celebrate Jessie Goodall's 60th year of living in the small hamlet of Malton. We were a mix of both well established residents to those relatively new to The Terrace. As we went down memory lane and swapped stories there were many laughs and well remembered events that have shaped life in Malton. Jim Owens, retired clerk of the Parish Council and now living in Lanchester, brought up his family of eight

children here and swears the Malton air was responsible for his large family! His wit and humour are as sharp as ever. Hilary (née Riddley) came through from Jesmond to join us, bringing with her many photographs of her parents, Tom and Marg, taken in Malton. She reminisced on life in the old Malton School in her early days here. Although the street has seen many changes over the years the close community spirit lives on. Thanks to Janet for hosting the evening.



Do you recognise anyone in the photograph?

Jessie has requested that we publish the photograph above, to see if anyone recognises

any of the children from the old school. Any other photographs from the days of the

working colliery would be a welcome addition to the Maltonian memorabilia.

JANE NATTRASS RECEIVES ROTARY CLUB OF CONSETT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD 2016



President Terence Drought presents Jane Nattrass with the Rotary Club of Consett Community Service Award.

Jane Nattrass was presented with the 2016 Community Service Award at the end of November by the Rotary Club of Consett. She also received a £100 donation to Henry Dancer Days. President Terence Drought

explained, "Jane has dedicated her life to Henry Dancer Days in memory of her son, raising its profile throughout the North East and now extending across the UK helping

families and supporting research into Primary Bone Cancer. It is with pride and humility that I present her with the Rotary Club of Consett Community Service Award."

The charity helps over 250 families of children aged 18 and under throughout the UK offering practical support when it's most needed. This can include transportation, paying winter heating bills, exercise equipment to aid physiotherapy or a treat when times are tough. In addition the charity runs distraction projects such as the 'Storyteller' programme in the Great North

Children's Hospital in the RVI in Newcastle for which Jane has obtained BBC Children in Need funds. Jane added, "I had absolutely no idea that I was to be presented with the award when I attended the meeting. You could have knocked me down with a feather! I'm truly grateful to the Rotary Club of Consett and thankful for all of the support Henry Dancer Days has received from local people."

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The scene in Front Street, with a tractor collecting leaves from the drains.

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Lanchester has once again suffered from massive flooding. It began at about 7.30 pm on Monday 21st November. There had been considerable rain beforehand but nothing like the torrential rain which fell on the now infamous 'Thunder Thursday'. All villagers will have been aware of the recently installed anti-flood system in the centre of Front Street. The job overran by about three weeks. Traders lost thousands in takings and the system itself must have cost many thousands of pounds. It failed!

As usual the water came down Newbiggen Lane like a fast flowing river. The flood relief system at the entrance to the countryside also failed. Every drain in Newbiggen Lane was blocked with leaves, silt and other

rubbish. Water also poured onto the lane from the railway path in torrents. There had been heavy winds recently which caused the leaves to drop and blow around causing blockages. It is strikingly obvious that these drains and the ones in the village should be cleaned on a regular basis. Volunteer, Barry March, could be seen doing his best to clear the drains on Newbiggen Lane. The Flood Alert team were promptly in action and were joined by farmers Peter Suddes and Ian Wilson with a tractor and equipment. Paul Jackson and many others also helped to clear the Front Street drains and install sandbags outside various vulnerable properties. Two fire engines arrived at roughly 9.30 pm and those, coupled with the farmers,

probably saved the houses in Church View from being flooded. Despite a massive collective effort, the following premises were flooded to some degree, some worse than others: Alexander Sales and Lettings, Lanchester Pharmacy, Talking Heads, Moira Rutherford's house, The Village Green (new shop), Ray Emmerton Fruit & Veg, Red Cross Shop and New Image. Lanchester Hardware was saved by the quick reaction of Ged, the owner. Other places nearby where there was some flooding were part of Victoria Terrace, the bottom of Maiden Law bank and the area between the Parish Church and the King's Head. The water finally subsided sometime after 10.00 pm and the clean-up began. **More photos, front page**



Ged with stacked up sand bags, mops up at Lanchester Hardware.

LIGHTING UP LANCHESTER

All was well this year for switching on the lights, after very heavy rain last year. It was not too cold either and it was a joy to see so many villagers, aged a few months to a 90 year old, gathered on the village green. The Operatic Society sang carols and the band played carols and the singing and playing were of the usual high standard. Mr Ossie Johnson referred to them in his speech as having provided "an excellent selection of festive music". The switching on of the Christmas Lights is always a special occasion, but this year it was extra special, because Mr Terry Deary had agreed to do the Big Switch-on. Mr Johnson referred to this as an honour, in view of the

fact that Mr Terry Deary is a best selling author, who has written hundreds of books, both fiction and non-fiction, and is in fact, one of Britain's best selling authors of the 21st century. Children will know him best for his 'Horrible Histories' series of books. Two children from each of our primary schools are chosen every year to push the switch and this year Catherine Armstrong and Eli Densmore from the EP school and Hana Madeley and Adam McCrory from All Saints' RC school had the honour of pushing the switch with Mr Deary, after which there was appreciative applause. Many would agree with Mr Johnson when he said, 'It really feels like the start of Christmas,



Some of the crowd on the village green ready for the switch-on.

when the lights shine brightly on the village green.' Mr Johnson drew attention to the gazebo, where complimentary mulled wine, mince pies, cakes, juice and sweets were available. There

was also a small gift for all the children. He also thanked the many volunteers who had given up their time to help with all the proceedings. It was certainly a very happy village event and people stayed to mingle

with other villagers and gave thought to the idea that Christmas had now begun. Four more weeks of preparation and then - Happy Christmas Everyone!

Brenda Craddock
More photos, front page

MASSIVE ELECTRIC SURGE

Residents of Mount Park Estate, Mount Pleasant and Newbiggen Lane and several farms were severely inconvenienced by an electric power cut to their homes on Saturday 19th November at about midday. A fault in the substation in Mount Park Drive caused a massive surge and left absolute chaos in over 200 houses. Televisions, computers, routers, land phones, fridges, freezers, microwave ovens, heating boilers were seriously damaged - some beyond repair. Many items including light bulbs have been blown out of their sockets! One resident in Alderside Crescent had to call out the Fire Service to deal with an internal fire which began in a computer in a bedroom. They ended

up having to stay in a hotel overnight. Obviously street lighting in the above areas has also been off. Northern Powergrid has been forced to bring in many contractors from all over the North East, Yorkshire and Scotland to help rectify this very serious situation. Most days there have been more than a dozen contractors vans parked on the estate. Both Northern Powergrid and various contractors have been very helpful to residents. They are charging up mobile phones for those without land lines and have been getting on with the work as quickly as possible. They have also provided hot drinks when needed and had a microwave on hand as well. The first workmen on site just after midday Saturday actually worked all through the night until

morning, when another shift relieved them. Some residents who have been away may have had their gardens dug up to replace cables. Another problem for residents was that although visits were frequent from contractors, they could not give

appointment times so someone had to remain in the house all day and evening. Sometimes calls were made up to 11.00 pm. Every single house affected by the power cut has to be investigated by assessors and contractors as all damaged electrical

items need to be inspected. Northern Powergrid has worked day and night on this disaster in order to put things right. At the time of writing this situation has continued for a week and it looks like going on for longer than expected.



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CHILDREN IN NEED

Children love Pudsey and face painted like Bear! He was very Blush and she looked evident in the EP School on Friday, November 18th, as the children celebrated Children in Need Day. Excellent coloured-in pictures of Pudsey and children dressed up as Pudsey could be seen and in one classroom, two teachers were at work, doing some excellent face painting. No prizes for guessing who was the most popular character face paint of the day. You have guessed it but did you know that Pudsey has a girlfriend now called Blush. Matilda from Year 2 was dressed

and face painted like Blush and she looked very pretty indeed. A perfect partner for Pudsey, who will never feel alone (if he ever did!) again. The teacher of Year 1, Mr Osmond, was doing some very clever things on his iPad and showing the children how to do the same. The image of Pudsey could be made to dance, run and skip and the children were fascinated. The pupils have also brought into school boxes filled with items for children, to be sent to 'Operation Christmas Child', who will then

arrange for them to be sent to needy children all over the world. There was a huge pile of boxes in the school hall, waiting to be sent to 'Children in Need'. There was an air of secrecy that morning in the school because the pupils were unaware of the very exciting afternoon they were going to have. You can read about this elsewhere in the Village Voice. Lucky children to benefit so much from the imagination, vision and enterprise of the head teacher and staff. Brenda Craddock



Pudsey and friend.



Matilda as Pudsey's girlfriend Blush.

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A NEW HEAD TEACHER FOR ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY

The students of All Saints' Primary School have a new Head Teacher. Although Mrs Frances Stephenson has been in post for quite a short time, she has quickly familiarised herself with the youngsters, the staff and the ethos of the school. From a very early age, she wanted to work with young people and says that she feels the best thing about teaching is to see a child developing into a fully rounded person, educationally, emotionally and socially, within a caring, Christian environment.

As well as striving to be the best they can academically, she thinks young people should be encouraged to develop any talents they have, in music, drama or sports, while actively enjoying their time in school and learning to be responsible members of their community. Mrs Stephenson admits that she is looking forward to seeing all the events and occasions of the school year from the perspective of the children as they experience them in their school life. She and her staff hope that the youngsters will develop a hardworking, positive approach to life as they mature and become happy, caring and confident young people. Mrs Stephenson is enjoying settling into school life and is appreciative of her hardworking colleagues and the support she has received from parents and school governors. She enjoys travel and spending time with friends and relatives. Her first weeks as Head Teacher have flown by, she looks forward to a new term and a new year, with its challenges and achievements.



Mrs Stephenson looks forward to a new year at All Saints' Primary School.

DANCING WITH PUDSEY

Friday 18th November School Council requested stop dancing session. Reception children, joined by Years 1 and 2 started the action, dancing non-stop, until the rest of the pupils took over. A fun day, and helping others at the same time!

Children in Need Day it to be a 'Spotty Day' and as always, spots there were in abundance on clothes and even on faces! A major fund raising event was the 'Danceathon' when all students joined in a non-



All Saints' students at their 'Danceathon', raising money for Children in Need.

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LOCAL PEOPLE - LOCAL SERVICES

**A word from the local
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Can we ask if you support the local shops and businesses in your village?

When was the last time you used a tradesman? Did you pick up the Village Voice and use the local guy or at least give him a chance to quote for your business?

In these tight times we need local money. If you use a local tradesman or use a local shop, the money generated has a very good chance of being spent locally, which has to be good business sense, strengthening the local economy.

Nothing looks worse than an empty shop premises but 'hand on heart', ask yourself did you use it when it was open! There are 3 estate agents in the village offering jobs to local people but we constantly see for sale boards for agents from outside the area. Of course we all have choices but as Ged (hardware store) says "Use Us or Lose Us". Our village is a beautiful British

village with one-off shops and businesses. Look around the Co Durham area and you will struggle to find what we all have here; please don't let the heart of the village disappear. Look what happened to Castleside - not a single shop left. A lady came into our office and said "Everything has gone in Castleside. I can't retire there as I would have to use my car or public transport daily."

Shopping out of the area means missing out on the local community, missing chats with friends, neighbours, discussions about what's happening in the village.

Thank you all for using the village shops and offices in 2016 and if you need an electrician, handyman, gardener, plasterer, a house sold, fruit and veg, butcher, hardware, etc, we are all here to help in 2017. Thank you.

Paul Morgan,
Alexander Sales & Lettings

NEW VILLAGE VENTURE



The Auinger family prepare for the official opening of their shop. Bill and Susan with their sons Keiron and William.

Bill and Susan Auinger are already part of the Lanchester community, after living here for several years. They always wanted to strengthen their ties to the village by opening a shop which would serve local people and provide a quiet place to enjoy a coffee and a rest during their retail therapy. When no 5 became available on the main street, they acted and with the help of family and friends they moved quickly. Within days, the shop was painted a restful jade colour and was filled with seasonal cards and ornaments, candles, food items and much more. Susan's great interest is in flower arranging, she plans to offer a service to anyone wanting bouquets and

arrangements of fresh blooms and also later, hopes to sell displays of artificial flowers. Greeting cards and stock will change with the seasons and The Village Green is a

welcome addition to our local traders! Bill and Susan thank family and friends for their very valuable help in preparing The Village Green to open on time.

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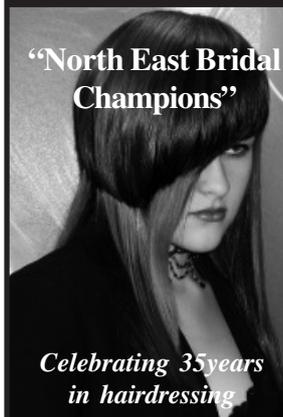
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A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

2016 has certainly been an eventful year. Brexit was not even a word a year ago; the murder of my colleague, Jo Cox, as she carried out her job as a MP was both a national and a personal loss and, in 2015 all that most of us knew about Donald Trump was his appearances on 'The Apprentice USA' and as the developer of the Trump Tower in New York. The establishment certainly has been rocked in 2016 and the future looks less certain than it did. Brexit is now the reality and we have to work to make sure we can achieve the best possible outcome for our country. President Trump is the choice of the American people and they are going to have to work through his election to see how much of his pre-election rhetoric actually makes it to policy in the White House. I personally suspect that Donald Trump is more of a New York liberal than his pre-election rhetoric would

suggest but I think where we will see major changes is in his approach to protectionism and international trade which given that the US is one of our biggest export markets really concerns me. On a personal level I am getting to grips with my new job as Shadow Rail Minister as well as taking a Private Members Bill on Constituency Boundaries through the House, something I was not expecting to have to do right now. However everything in Parliament is a lottery. This year I was drawn No 4 in the overall Private Members Bill (PMB) draw and No 1 for the Opposition. This means that my PMB is probably the only one that even has a chance of making it to a full debate. If you want to see the details, a link to my speech on my Parliamentary Constituencies (Amendment) Bill is on my website. Opposition bills are usually not supported by the Government so they

will either 'filibuster' to talk a Bill out of time or use their parliamentary majority to vote it down. PMBs are heard on Fridays when most MPs are back in their constituencies holding surgeries so the preferred tactic is to 'talk it out'. To avoid this the PMB needs the support of 100 MPs who are willing to stay in London on a Friday and vote for it. I was delighted that 253 of my MP colleagues, from all Parties and all parts of the UK stayed in London on 18th November to vote my Bill through to the next stage. Great news, but my Bill still has a long way to go before becoming law. In these unpredictable times there are some things that we can still hopefully rely on and for many of us that is focused around our family and friends particularly during the festive season. I therefore wish you, your family and friends a very happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. Pat Glass MP

POLICE REPORT

This month our priority for Lanchester is Rural Crime. This is due to an increase in reports across our rural areas that poaching is escalating since the darker nights have begun. Hotspot areas include East and West Buttsfield, Cornsay, Satley and Hedley Hill. On Wednesday 30th November, officers from the Environment Agency were out patrolling our rural areas at 21.20 hours when they came across two local Consett males illegally fishing in the River Browney near West Buttsfield. As a result the males were arrested for the offence

and items seized. To help tackle these issues rural crime has been raised as a problem profile which will help ensure all officers are patrolling key areas at the right time. If you have any information in relation to this issue please don't hesitate to get in touch. So far information from our rural communities has helped identify people and vehicles operating in our area which has enabled officers to actively target these individuals. On Friday 25th November officers were called to a Road Traffic Collision on Station Road near the junction

to Ford Road. Following this collision a male was arrested and is currently on Police bail for Driving Whilst Unfit Through Drink. Please see a picture (right) taken by local officers at the scene of the accident. On Friday 16th December between 10 and 11 am PCSO Lisa Jackson will be in the area of Front Street, so if you have any problems, concerns or issues please don't hesitate to come along. In the meantime if you have any problems or concerns please give us a ring on 101 or email lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk.

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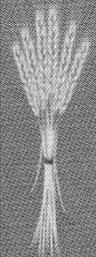


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A police photo of the accident which occurred on Station Road on 25th November.

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BIG LEARNER RELAY

I would just like to say a big thank you to all of my learners and friends and family, and people from the village who supported the Big Learner Relay for Children in Need.

As I write this, we have raised almost £2000 in the Durham area and the national total is up to £70,000 with money still to come.

We had a great afternoon and David Selby did my driving school proud by doing his leg of the relay

without any problems at all.

Thanks again, Andy Allen
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David Selby getting into the spirit.

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MARY'S MEALS BACKPACKS

All Saints' RC Church has an outreach group called Cuppa, Chat and Children. The group decided to get involved in the backpack project linked to Mary's Meals charity. Mary's Meals provides one good meal to some of the world's poorest children every school day at a cost of £12.20 per year and works in 12 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the

Caribbean. Many children receiving Mary's Meals don't have basic learning tools such as pencils and notepads. For many, a Mary's Meals backpack will be the only gift they'll have ever had.

The Cuppa, Chat and Children group has managed to fill 56 backpacks which are being delivered to a centre in Glasgow, from where they will be distributed to

areas of need. We would like to thank the many people who have donated not only their contributions but also their time. The group meets in All Saints' RC Parish Centre, every Tuesday during term time, 1.30-3.10 pm and all ages are welcome to join us, with no charge, for a cuppa, cakes and chat. Toys and crafts are available for children.



Some of those who attend 'Cuppa Chat' at the Parish Centre with some of the backpacks.

EP SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

The school hall was buzzing with activity and chatter on Friday afternoon, December 2nd. Teachers and pupils had contributed in equal measure to create stalls that were interesting, colourful and tempting. The friendliness and enthusiasm of the pupils is always a joy and a very happy atmosphere prevailed. Especially attractive were the stalls where the wares for sale had been made by the pupils. Some pupils were

in charge of stalls such as 'Guess the number of sweets', or 'Find the Treasure' or 'Guess the name' or 'Hook a bag' and their persuasive powers to part with your money were excellent. In fact it was obvious that lots of spending was happening, which is just what is wanted at a fair, Other delights such as face painting and tombola stalls were doing great business. Certainly all the fun of a fair was there! If you tired a little or just

wanted to rest your feet and your purse, refreshments were available. Nothing like a 'good catch up' over a cup of tea or coffee and a yummy biscuit or cake! The total amount of money raised was £1792 which will be used for the benefit of the pupils. Well done to all staff and pupils for all your hard work to make such a lovely afternoon and very successful Christmas Fair. Happy Christmas to you all.

Brenda Craddock



How many sweets?



Daniel and Ava enjoying the fair.

ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL FAIR

Friday December 2nd was the date of All Saints' Catholic School's Christmas Fair. Besides all the various stalls - sweets, toys, tombolas, raffles and lucky bags,

each class of children had produced something to sell, lovely home made gifts ranging from beautifully painted baubles to gingerbread men. Santa and Mrs Claus

made their appearance, tasty hot dogs were available and everyone enjoyed the festive atmosphere. Christmas is actually here!

(See photo on back page.)

BINKY BUNS CRAFT FAIR

A Craft Fair was held at the Community Centre on Saturday 3rd December, organised by Binky Buns rabbit and guinea pig rescue. This Sunderland based organisation is so enthusiastic, coming in large numbers quite a long way to spend a Saturday morning raising money to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home these delightful little animals.

but did include some excellent paintings by local artist, Sarah Milburn. Many stall holders and some who attended made

donations to the cause. The fair had a quiet start but hopefully produced enough takings to make it all worthwhile.



Left to right: Fran, Annette, Eva and Angela.

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LIGHT UP A LIFE

Willow Burn Hospice hold this 'Light up a Life' service every year, in St Bede's School, just before Christmas.

This year, once again, the school hall was full to capacity. It is a chance for all those who have lost loved ones, whether from Willow Burn or elsewhere, to remember the people they have lost, in a reverent atmosphere and reflect upon all the cherished memories they have left behind. There is a moment when the hall is

void of light but then it is lit up by the candles which each member of the congregation is given on entry. It is a very special moment and hopefully will give comfort to all the bereaved, that their loved one is like a light shining in the darkness.

Annfield Plain Gleeman Male Voice Choir sang songs which were very appropriate for the service and the congregation sang a number of familiar carols, accompanied by Lanchester Brass Band.

Words of comfort in poetic form were read by Janet Russell who is the Counsellor/Family Support Co-ordinator at Willow Burn, Pauline Walls, Hazelbrook Care Agency Manager, Una Mack, and Karen Wall, the Family Support Worker. Reverend Rupert Kalus read the Bible reading and Canon Robert Spence gave a Christmas Blessing. The Gleemen concluded the service on a poignant note, with the song 'God's Choir'.



Lanchester Brass Band conducted by Gareth Sykes.

Everyone was invited to festive refreshments in the dining hall, giving people time to share memories of their loved

ones. This is always a sad, dignified service, which is precious to all those who attend.

Brenda Craddock

VILLAGE VOICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

The AGM of the Village Voice was held on November 13th.

Chairman, Brian Oram, welcomed everyone and began by paying tribute to John Hurran, our Advertising Manager, who emigrated to Australia this year. His dedication and skills will be missed and we wish him and his wife all the best for the future. Frank Redfearn and Christine Monaghan are currently overseeing our advertising

and Brian thanked them for their efforts.

The Village Voice is produced and distributed to all residents of Lanchester. Deliveries are also made to the surrounding villages and also to some outlying farms, with drops made to certain shops. Deliveries are made by a team of volunteers, led by Mike Stoddart, and all those involved in distributing the paper are gratefully acknowledged.

Some news items are sent by individuals or organisations for direct inclusion, while others have to be edited. All contributors are thanked for their interest and their contributions.

Our newspaper with past issues may also be viewed on the internet, the site being: www.lanchestervillagevoice.co.uk.

Our many advertisers are thanked for their support, and feedback

shows that consumers are very responsive to our advertisements.

It is anticipated that the newspaper will continue at 20-24 pages each month.

While it is difficult to forecast too far into

the future, with the support of contributors, advertisers, distributors and readers, we look forward to continue informing the local community and enjoying another busy year.

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WILLOW BURN FAIR

This fair seems to get bigger and busier every year. Once inside the refreshment area was packed with people having lunch, with long queues for baguettes and beef burgers plus drinks etc. Santa was greeting children in the entrance and there was also a very inviting raffle with the prize, a BMW mini! The main hall had a wonderful Christmas atmosphere with so many stalls with Christmas items on them. There were several tombolas and raffle tables which are always busy and successful. There were some excellent

high quality craft stalls, plus cakes, jewellery, plaques, cushions, books and many others, probably in the region of thirty five.

As usual Terry Lewins on the microphone introduced and thanked the entertainers. Consett Brass Band gave an excellent rendition of carols and other Christmas songs. Pauline Cook brought along many of her pupils from her School of Dancing with varying age groups performing some lovely routines. Proud parents were lined up with cameras clicking



These young dancers are definitely enthusiastic. They performed so well!

away at the wonderful routines that the young girls were so very capable of achieving. Pauline, of course, has been running dance groups for so many years that she is an expert

in getting the best out of her pupils. To sum up, Willow Burn Hospice organised a very good interesting fair with fund raising activities and good entertainment. St

Bede's School is an excellent venue due to the size of the hall and adequate parking and the result was an excellent profit of just over £5000.

WILLOW BURN PARTNERSHIP LAUNCH



Laura Douthwaite and Sara Johnson, Marketing Willow Burn, with Nigel Cook holding his award.

The event took place at the Sir Tom Cowie Day Centre on 23rd November. Approximately forty delegates attended.

An introduction was made by Senior Fundraiser, Laura Douthwaite, who gave a comprehensive talk as

she launched Willow Burn's new website, going live soon. She explained how this would benefit both the hospice and the delegates who were already business partners or prospective ones.

Next was a film of Josie's story. Josie is a day patient at Willow Burn and enjoys every minute that she spends there, joining in activities, meeting people and accepting the quality care which she needs at this time in her life.

This was followed by a presentation by Nigel

Cook, MD of Eddis Transport. He gave the other delegates many ideas to support Willow Burn, which would also benefit their own businesses. Eddis is a remarkable company providing a truck covered with Willow Burn livery and special registration since 2007. This has recently been renewed with another vehicle which will concentrate on North East deliveries. Nigel has instigated so many ideas within the company to encourage their own staff to 'think Willow Burn' that

£161,000 have now been raised.

The next person to speak was Judith from the 'In Patients Unit'. She spoke off the cuff very easily explaining that the hospice is not all about dying. It provides symptom control among other benefits and there are many happy times spent in the unit.

The morning ended with Nigel Cook receiving a new Willow Burn 'Executive Award' presented by Laura Douthwaite. Breakfast followed for all the delegates.

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LANCHESTER WI CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS 2016



Lanchester WI and the Male Voice Choir join in a spirited rendition of 'Jerusalem'.

December 5th was our Christmas Party Night, a popular date in our diary. President Marie Murphy opened the meeting with several items of news. Annual subscriptions will be due next month and we were urged to read the current edition of WI Life magazine, which outlines the six resolutions submitted by members for the consideration of WI branches nationally. Throughout our history, the movement has

annually voiced a concern for some important issue which has formed the basis for national campaigns and educational activity. There is a voting slip in the magazine and we are invited to select a final resolution in January, which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Also in January final numbers and payment are both needed for the Centennial Lunch at Ramside Hall next May. Hostesses are needed

for tea and coffee service and volunteers for readings and donating prizes. All members who have volunteered over the course of the year are warmly thanked.

There followed a rather hilarious game of Bingo, crackers and chocolates and a Super Raffle in which a great many people won a prize. Everyone found a craft bag on their table, with everything needed for making Christmas cards and

the results were imaginative and lovely. We enjoyed a Faith supper, with a range of foods from quiches and pies to cream cakes and profiteroles.

As always, the members of Lanchester Male Voice Choir had been invited to join us later for supper, and we settled down to listen to their great voices. An innovation this year was

everyone joining together in singing 'Jerusalem,' quite a moving experience when sung by so many voices. As always, the choir treated us to so many beautiful songs, Christmas favourites, well known ballads and the emotional 'Anthem' from Chess.

A really enjoyable evening to mark the festive season!

LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB 'Winter Ice'



Demonstrator Christine Ogle standing among her beautiful 'Winter Ice' arrangements.

Lanchester Flower Club hosted the second of its Open Evening Meetings on Friday 25th November in Lanchester Community Centre; over 60 of us enjoyed a lovely relaxing evening. Thanks to all who attended and worked on the night. The Demonstrator was Christine Ogle and her theme 'Winter Ice'. Christine cleverly created some beautiful arrangements with some unique shapes and ideas. The arrangements were then raffled to the delight of the winners. We then enjoyed light refreshments, mini

sausage rolls, sweet mince pies, tea and coffee. We would like to give a big thank you to Gillian Harrison and Jane Pegram who continue to support us on these evenings, bringing along all their home produce Country Market stall. Many thanks, once again.

The club would like to wish all its members and readers of the Village Voice a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 2017.

On Wednesday 25th January 2017 club members will enjoy an afternoon lunch at Chapters Restaurant in Derwentside College.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Broccoli and Blue Cheese Soup

Soup was first made ten thousand years ago, boiling ingredients in a large clay pot over an open fire. Most soups are nutritious, inexpensive and very filling, reasons why they have been served in soup kitchens for many years. Al Capone founded one of the first soup kitchens in Chicago in the 1930s, paying from his own finances to feed as many as 3,000 unemployed people. Maybe it was more than a kind act - it has been suggested that he wanted to prevent people revealing the secrets of his criminal activities. Soup is always welcome at this time of the year, served as a first course of a meal, or as a warming,

comforting treat, with some crusty bread. This, I think, is one of the nicest.

INGREDIENTS

1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 onion, peeled and chopped
1 pint (600ml) vegetable stock
9 oz (250g) broccoli, trimmed and cut into small florets
4 oz (110g) blue cheese
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
A few sprigs of parsley, finely chopped
2 tbsp double cream

METHOD

1) Heat the oil in a medium saucepan and gently fry the onion for 5 minutes, stirring until it has softened but not browned. Pour the vegetable stock over the

onion, bring it to the boil and add the broccoli.

2) Reduce the heat, cover the pan and simmer the soup for 6-7 minutes, until tender. Remove from the heat.

3) Blend the soup with a food processor or blender until the broccoli is finely chopped. Return to the pan, crumble the cheese into the soup, reserving some to garnish and stir in. Return to the heat and cook very gently, stirring for 2-3 minutes until the cheese has melted and the soup is piping hot. Season to taste. Ladle into warm soup bowls, crumbling over the remaining cheese. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and add a swirl of cream.

KEYS FOUND

Early last month a set of keys were found in the Malton area. They have a distinctive

animal fob attached. If you think you may be the owner, please ring 01207 520430.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIP TO YORK



Group of happy shoppers enjoying a meal at the end of the day.

What a splendid day we had in York on Saturday November 19th. York was alive with Christmas sparkle! The Christmas Market in the main street was a great addition to what is always a very atmospheric city. A number of churches in York are always open for shoppers, and at

Christmas this is more so and many shoppers take advantage of this. It is definitely not a 'No room at the Inn' experience. It is a chance to be in the presence of God, who gave us His Son, and whose birth is at the heart of Christmas. He is the reason for this season!

Lots of smiles and lots of parcels on the homeward journey indicated that lots of very enjoyable Christmas shopping had been done and that it had been a good day. Indeed names are down for next year and more can be added at any time.

Brenda Craddock

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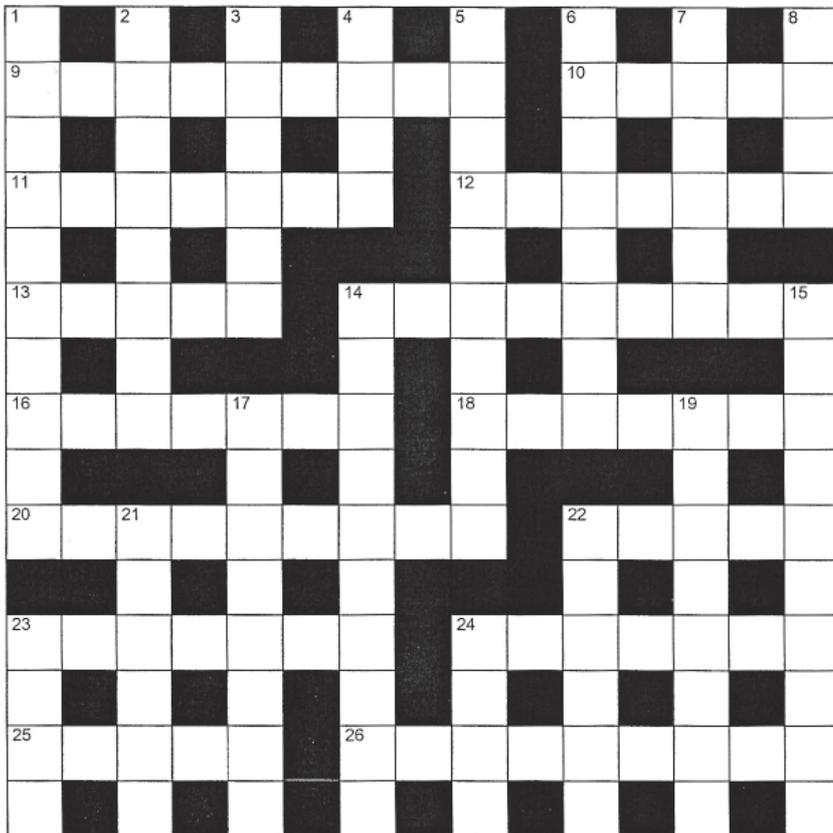
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CROSSWORD 128



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

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

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CROSSWORD 127

There were 17 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to G Davison of Burnhope who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

ACROSS

9. Twist vole count (9)
10. Blow (5)
11. Protest (7)
12. Shackled (7)
13. Annoy (5)
14. Deny (9)
16. Tendency (7)
18. Thoroughly (2,5)
20. Revised (9)
22. Deadly (5)
23. Contempt (7)
24. Protester (7)
25. Eve is a riddle (5)
26. Hurry up (4,5)

DOWN

1. With eight angles (10)
2. Uprising if in data (8)
3. Fodder (6)
4. Goes with bath sugar and root (4)
5. Understanding (10)
6. Left high and dry (8)
7. Capital joins Honolulu and Athens! (6)
8. Mimicked (4)
14. Ninety degrees (5-5)
15. Thrill (10)
17. Mimicked (8)
19. Fatherly (8)
21. Ne'er-do-well (6)
22. Weak (6)
23. Rush (4)
24. Fruit of the blackthorn (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 127

ACROSS

1. pomaceous
6. paced
9. enlarge
10. Rupiahs
11. Dermot
12. occupied
14. slay
15. slinkiness
18. belladonna
20. post
23. See 3
24. Gardai
26. tillage
27. arsenic
28. final
29. digitalis

DOWN

1. pseudo sob
2. malaria
- 3,23. carbon monoxide
- 4,8. overdosed
5. strychnine
6. pop music
7. cyanide
8. See 4
13. blood dread
16. set pieces
17. Vauxhall
19. lanolin
21. ordinal
22. basset
23. motif
25. hang

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

PARISH CHURCH AUTUMN FAIR

It is that time of year again when Christmas is approaching and everyone is looking for Christmas present ideas. Well there were plenty of those at the Parish Church Autumn Fair in the Community Centre on Saturday November 26th. Almost all the stalls had a touch of Christmas and business was brisk, especially at the tombola and bottle stalls. There were lots of smiling faces, as lots of prizes were won. Rainbow Bear, in the care of Katie Peacock, who

belongs to the Rainbow section of the Brownies in Consett, won a number of prizes and were both dressed up for the occasion, adding yet more sparkle.

Reverend Ali Miller, curate of the Parish Church, opened the fair with a flourish, speaking of the community of Lanchester who are so warm and generous and really needed no encouragement to be generous in their giving. Rupert added his special touch to the drawing of

raffle prizes, which were absolutely splendid, especially the groaning hampers and the good old British turkey!

Coffee, tea, cake and biscuits were served in the small hall and were a good opportunity to talk to friends and acquaintances.

Altogether it was a very enjoyable morning and raised £1774 for church funds, making all the hard work that goes into such an event very worthwhile.

Brenda Craddock



Cake Stall with helpers Dorothy Beadling, Margaret Burt and Jill Finlayson (left). Hazel Gaskill with granddaughter Katie Peacock, clutching 'Rainbow Bear'.

THURSDAY CLUB UPDATE

At our last meeting Wendy Smith came along and gave a talk and slide show entitled 'Jewels of the North'. It was all about the flower festival held in Durham Cathedral at the time of the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition which was held a few years ago. Both the festival and exhibition had been quite exceptional and Wendy's talk totally highlighted that fact. Slides of all the wonderful arrangements brought back some wonderful memories and then we got the inside



Pam Fry thanking Wendy for her talk.

story of how it had all come to pass and the painstaking work involved in getting it all together inside a working cathedral - an extraordinary

achievement. All in all an enlightening afternoon which closed on some animated conversations amid the tea/coffee and biscuits.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

As you pass through Fir Tree, 'The Duke of York' always looks most inviting. That, along with some encouraging recommendations, decided us to go out there and try it for ourselves. It's actually not very big once inside. There are 8 of us and the friendly waitress decided it would be a good idea to put us in the restaurant. That was fine, the fire was turned on and we were left with the menus. However, only us in the room, very cold day, heating not on for long, we were freezing, no

coats had come off. I went off to investigate the surroundings, the bar was lovely and warm - it had a fire and people but not a lot of space and tables were reserved. Our lovely waitress could see the problem, tables were rearranged and we moved into the warmth - what a difference a fire makes. They have a main menu, light bites, a set menu of 2 courses for £10.50 and 3 courses for £13.50 plus a specials board. We sampled Pheasant and bacon casserole with mash and a lovely selection of veg, Golden

Whitby wholemeal scampi, hand cut chips, mixed salad and homemade tartar sauce, Duke's chicken served in a creamy bacon and leek sauce with crushed potatoes and vegs. For puds it was Belgium waffles with ice cream, Lime and mascarpone cheesecake, Ice cream and Pear and blackcurrant crumble with cream. The food was delicious, very tasty. We enjoyed a lovely lunch and would most definitely return - but we would make for the bar.

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WHAT'S ON?

Vintage Tractor Club

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

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be a visit to Saltholme on Sunday 22nd January Meet 9.30 am in the Community Centre car park.

Project Poppies

'LEST WE FORGET' The next workshop and update for the Project Poppies will be held at Croft View Halls on Saturday 14th January 2017 from 2-4pm. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come along and make poppies or paint some that have already been made. Tuition will be given for anyone who would like it and tea and coffee will be available free during the afternoon. Please bring an old rolling pin or a 1" paint brush or both. There will be enough clay and paint for everyone to be involved. If those who have made poppies at home would like to bring them along, we will then be able to keep a record of how many we have.

Lanchester Social Club

Every Friday - **FRIDAY NIGHT 50/50 DANCING**
Every Sunday - **SUNDAY NIGHT BUSKERS**
Saturday 7th January **TONY WASHINGTON**, Top Class Vocalist and Comedy Entertainer.
Saturday 14th January **DANIAL LINTERN**, Star Vocalist.
Saturday 21st January **JEFF WRIGHT**, First Class Vocal Entertainer.
Saturday 28th January **SUE CASSIDY**, First Class Vocalist.

Community Centre Activities

Coffee Morning
The Community Centre will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 12th January from 9.30-11.00 am.

Lacemaking

In the upstairs room of the Community Centre, on Mondays and Fridays 7.00 - 9.00pm.

Needlecraft

continues on Wednesdays 1.00-3.00 pm.

Come and Sing

Come and sing a capella, for the pure joy of singing in harmony. The Chapter House, All Saints' Parish Church, Lanchester, Mondays from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon. Enjoy singing Gospel, Folk, Jazz and more. Start the week with a smile! EVERYONE WELCOME. Look out for our posters around the village.

Sunday Bridge

Are you a Bridge player? Why not come along to the Community Centre on 8th January at 2.00 pm for an enjoyable afternoon of Bridge. The entrance fee is £3.00 and all profits to the Community Centre.

Cuppa, chat and children

Cuppa, chat and children group meets every Tuesday during term time, 1.30-3.10 in All Saints' RC Parish Centre. All ages welcome to join us for a cuppa, cakes and scones. Toys and crafts available for children.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 10th January, the subject will be 'Madagascar' with Noel Jackson and will be in the Community Centre Dining Room at 7.30 pm.

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be our New Year Party which will be held in the Main Hall of the Community Centre on January 19th at 1.30 pm. Names and payment need to be given to our treasurer Liz Smith asap.

A Celebration of Christmas

Lanchester Male Voice Choir assisted by Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society presents a Celebration of Christmas in Lanchester All Saints' Parish Church on Monday December 19th starting at 7.30 pm.

Library Book Club

Monday Afternoons
The first book to be reviewed in 2017 on Monday 30th January from 2.30-3.30 is 'Us' by David Nicholls. A Times review suggested that this book was 'even better than One Day'. Join us for another year of good reading. Happy New Year.

NEW! Thursday Twilight Library Book Club starts on January 19th 2017 from 5.30-6.30 to help those who cannot make a Monday afternoon. Pick up the first book, 'The Dandelion Years' by Erica James, an author who scored highly with the Monday Club. Pick up your book from the library and ENJOY.

Mothers' Union

At the meeting on Wednesday 11th January, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House we will hold the Wave of Prayer which had to be postponed in November, and an enrolment.

Local History Society

After the great success of the last Show and Tell evening, this is our theme for the first meeting in 2017. Please bring along interesting items to discuss from your collections, finds and unusual objects.

Date: Friday January 6th 2017

Time: 7 pm

Venue: Lanchester Community Centre.

Refreshments will be served.

Visitors are always very welcome. Happy New Year.

Paradiso Social Club

The first Social in the New Year will be on Sunday January 8th in the Main Hall of the Community Centre at 7 pm. There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and a film screening.

The film we are showing is 'SUFFRAGETTE' starring Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, Brendan Gleeson, Anne-Marie Duff and Meryl Streep.

Described as an inspiring, gripping and incredible film, it tells the story of Maud, a young working mother, drawn into the fight for women's rights. Maud's demands for equality result in her being fired from her job, thrown out on the streets by her husband and banned from seeing her son. But the Suffragette sisterhood rallies round to support her and together they continue their heart-breaking and inspirational fight to be heard.

All are welcome.

Ticket entry which includes raffle, refreshments and film show:

£2.50 members

£3.50 non-members.

Lanchester WI

Our first meeting of the New Year is on Monday January 9th, in the Large Hall of the Community Centre when John Gall will talk about 'Lanchester and its Trades in the 19th Century'. We will share some home made soup and a bun and hope to see in another lively and successful year for our branch. A reminder that subscriptions are due and can be made during the meeting and payment is also needed for the Centennial lunch planned for next May. Please select a resolution you think should go forward for further discussion and final voting and hand in voting forms. Several new interest groups will be launched in the New Year and we look forward to seeing many members becoming involved in them. We wish all members, their families and our friends a happy and healthy 2017. Thanks to so many people for their continued support!

Lanchester Line Dancing

A new line dance class is planned to start in Lanchester in January 2017 in Croft View.

The two hour class is scheduled to begin on Thursday 12th January at 1.30-3.30pm. The cost will be £3 per session.

The class is aimed at beginners and those who wish to return to line dancing and need a refresher to bring them 'back in line' but anyone from beginner to experienced dancer is very welcome to come along.

For more information contact Agnes Roberts (07801987821).

Cuppa, Lunch and Company for the over 70s

Free Cuppa, Lunch and Company age 70+. Do you have neighbours or family who would like a cup of tea, lunch and company out of the house for 2 hours a month? Every 2nd Tuesday of the month in conjunction with Age Concern. Starting 14th February 2017, 12 noon to 2 pm

in Lynwood House there will be a cup of tea, sandwich and cake. You will have a driver to collect you and bring you home (all drivers are DBS checked). We do need an idea on numbers attending. Please phone to say if you would like to come and if you need a lift there and back. Call Jo on: 07969454815.

Lanchester Library

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

Lanchester Writers

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

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

It was a full house in the Chapter House of the Parish Church for Christmas Open House. Delicious sandwich lunch with Christmas cake, mince pies, crackers, cards, presents, carols and fun with Mrs Claus, all made for a very happy morning. Open House opens again in February. It is always the first Thursday in the month, 11.30 onwards. Why not join us. Everyone is a friend. Brenda Craddock
Photo on back page

KASHER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

This touching annual event held at the Social Club was in memory of Kelly Kasher, who sadly died from cancer some four years ago. The party was held on Sunday 4th December, for approximately 140 family and friends. On entering the club the noise was unbelievable and that continued for most of the time. Despite the sadness certainly all the little ones were happy. They were dancing to Margaret's very loud disco, playing party games, enjoying a visit from Santa Claus and four elves, who attend St Bede's, also friends of the family. Close friend, Maureen, organised a super buffet and sat at the door taking raffle ticket money. All the helpers there put in a really hard but rewarding shift, such as the lovely atmosphere created by the family. Money raised from the party, just over £300, will be donated to University Hospital Durham, Chemotherapy Unit which Kelly had attended.
Picture on back page

POLICE AWARENESS AFTERNOON AT EP SCHOOL



Police Helicopter on final approach to the school field.



Children pretending to be locked up in the back of a Police Van.

This was probably one of the most exciting afternoons of the school year so far. The secret was kept! None of the pupils knew that there would be a Police Helicopter landing on the school field. The event was organised through the Mini Police Programme, to educate

Stage 1 pupils about the Police. However, on the remainder of those still inside the premises marched out with their class teachers and stood obediently in the yard, not knowing what was about to happen. There were already two police vehicles in situ, Dog Support and a Police Van.

Within a few minutes there was a roar from above and the helicopter was spotted coming from the direction of Newcastle Airport. There was much cheering and waving as it did a couple of circles before landing on the school field. A group of children had already been selected to talk to the crew on a

walkie-talkie which they were delighted to do. Groups of pupils took it in turns to visit the helicopter where Pilot, Captain Dieter Booth, crew PC Andrea Batey and PC Jayne Kidd, mother of one of the pupils, answered an amazing amount of questions. All children showed a positive interest and asked many questions. The women PCs took it in turns to either use the camera or control the satellite navigation instruments to guide the pilot. The children really enjoyed climbing into the Police Van pretending to be locked up. The dogs were brilliant to watch, and PC Ian Squire had a great rapport with the pupils about their own dogs

before introducing his dog, Lottie. She was a very lively 18 months old Pointer/Springer cross. She was used to find currency, drugs and weapons. The second dog, a fierce looking German Shepherd called Kaizer, was usually used in raids. It was Kaizer's birthday on that very day so everyone sang Happy Birthday. It was a lovely touch! The helicopter eventually took off, circled the school with siren full on, with all below waving goodbye. It was an ideal day for the event with sun shining brightly on what turned out to be an interesting, informative, fulfilling afternoon for the children, and no doubt for the staff too.

KASHER CHRISTMAS PARTY



Group picture of those at the Kasher Christmas Party, with most of the children included. See story on page 19

POLICE HELICOPTER AT EP SCHOOL



Excited pupils near the helicopter asking questions with many explanations given by the crew members. See page 19

ALL SAINTS' FAIR



The VIP guests await the children - Santa and Mrs Claus. Article on page 11

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



Mrs Claus, Brenda Craddock, with her trusty band of Christmas Elves. See article page 19

LANCHESTER LIGHTS UP THE VILLAGE GREEN



Merry  *to all our*
Readers
Christmas 



NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 17th January.
The deadline for **adverts** is Friday 13th January.

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