

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 18

Lanchester, March 2017

For contact information, see page 2

HERITAGE AUDIT LAUNCH



Some of the substantial crowd who turned up at Lynwood House for the launch.



John Gall gave a very interesting view of Lanchester's historical heritage.

The phrase Lanchester completion could help 40 people attended the Lynwood House on the community with help
Community Heritage to protect the village launch of the Audit, Saturday, March 18th. from the North of England
Audit may not trip easily from unwanted which was commissioned The Audit was carried
off the tongue, but its development. Around by the Parish Council, at out by 20 volunteers from Civic Trust (NECT).

Continued on page 3

WORLD BOOK DAY



Some of the many colourful characters who visited All Saints' School for World Book Day. (See more on page 8)

THE POPPY 'FACTORY'



Di Tute and Lesley Anderson clearly enjoying their poppy painting experience. (See page 13 for the article)

ANYONE FOR THE BLACKPOOL TRAM?



This photo taken on Tuesday 14th March by Mark Corpe shows an abnormal load approaching Lanchester heading down Howden Bank past the entrance to Willow Burn Hospice. It's a tram from Beamish passing through Lanchester as it's being shipped down to Fylde tramway at Blackpool by road. The size of the load meant traffic in both directions had to be stopped to allow the convoy to use the full width of the road.



Dear Village....

The views expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the newspaper, the editor or persons working for the newspaper. The editor retains the right to cut or amend any letter published. Letters must contain your name, address and telephone no, all of which may be withheld at your request.

Dear Village Voice

The family of Edith Pierce would like to thank the people of her home village for the care and support and love that surrounded her during her 44 years among you. She enjoyed the lively community, the many deep friendships she made, the opportunities to explore her varied interests in good company. We are grateful for the warm tributes received from so many of you at her death, and the kind messages in the cards you sent. Special thanks must go to the Lanchester Partnership, who kept the

little bus running in her later years. This was her lifeline, keeping her active, helping her to go out and about, and she was always talking about it. Most of all, the warmest of thanks to Luke, the bus driver, who took such good care of her in life and on the day of her funeral gave up his time to bring people to and from the church.
Helen Cannam

Dear Village Voice

I was interested to read the headline letter in the February Village Voice concerning the proposed 20 mph speed limit on the main Durham/Consett road at St Bede's school.

My first thought was how strange it will be for the speed limit on the bypass to be lower than that on the busy village main street. This then set me thinking about the likely consequences of such a speed limit.

If, as is undeniably desirable, the intention is to make crossing the road safer for the children, is this the best way to achieve the desired result? This safety measure will mostly be required at peak traffic times when the junctions of the busy A691 and A6076 are clogged by the traffic on both these commuter routes as well as all the traffic to three schools. Might this cause

an even worse traffic log-jam than at present resulting in slow moving, nose to tail, traffic and frustrated drivers. Crossing the road could be more dangerous as well as increasing air pollution around the children?

This will also be a frustrating and unnecessary restriction at other times, especially during school holidays, and may well further encourage drivers to use other routes, possibly along minor roads which are much less suitable or safe for others?

What about a footbridge? No unnecessary traffic delays, less pollution, free and safe crossing for pupils at any time and wonderful exercise as a bonus.

Food for thought?
John Macdonald

APOLOGY

Unfortunately the email address for Mrs Jane Davis, Headteacher of the EP School, was printed incorrectly in last month's Village Voice. We apologise to Mrs Davis and anyone who has tried to email Mrs Davis. The correct email is j.davis@lanchesterep.net

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for February is 76. The draw was made by B McDermid of the Gym.

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Dear Village Voice

The recently installed signs on the Lanchester Valley Walk

(see photo below)

How to waste money, and make a pleasant view horribly ugly.

Who sanctioned this

blot on the landscape, and why?

The signs are offensive, whilst the cobble/tarmac insert certainly doesn't slow down cycles at all.

Can we please have them taken away?

Name and address withheld on request



The new 'Cyclists Please Slow Down' signs on the Valley Walk.

VILLAGE RALLIES AROUND ITS VOICE

The Village Voice is delighted to announce that no less than four people have volunteered to be reporters for the paper and hopefully take it on to a new era and we thank them all. Their ages range from teenage to recently retired so the perspectives of all generations will hopefully be covered.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Voice was on a precipice and desperately needed new blood to keep it going, but hopefully we have stepped back from

the brink and the future will be bright. Brian Oram who has been the Voice's principal reporter since its inception is staying on but in a reduced capacity.

We can also announce that Lynda Dougan is now the advertising manager for the paper. She has been performing this vital role for the last two months. Potential advertisers should communicate by email to voiceadverts@gmail.com or by telephone to 07851 775297.

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise, email: voiceadverts@gmail.com or telephone Lynda on 07851 775297.

General and news enquiries, email: lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line).

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HERITAGE AUDIT LAUNCH

Continued from page 1

The aims of the Audit included identifying the key themes of Lanchester's cultural heritage; Producing a final report giving an overview of the heritage of Lanchester parish, with an associated Gazetteer of Heritage Assets.

The database of assets - 170 in total - are intended to "form a sound evidence base to support Neighbourhood Planning and other future activities and decision making."

Speakers at the launch were Parish Council Chairman Ossie Johnson, local historian John Gall, who lives just outside Lanchester, and Richard Cowen from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).

Praising the volunteers Cllr Johnson said: "I cannot emphasise

enough how much hard work was involved. He also praised the contribution of Parish Council colleague Mike Wardle. A 32 page report containing the names of the volunteers is available from the Parish Council.

Mr Gall said the audit showed Lanchester's heritage was not average and it was a "unique community. The Roman Fort, though not excavated is a remarkable fort and is better than Housesteads. We need a protective shield around our village. We have to protect ourselves now from unwanted development through the work of the Parish Council and its partners."

Mr Cowen, whose organisation helped Lanchester fight off Story Homes' proposals to build houses on land off Newbiggen Lane, said the CPRE accepted



Lots of activity and discussion at the Heritage Audit Launch.

that there was a need for new houses to be built but added: "The question is where. Research has shown that green spaces, the sound of a blackbird singing to give one example, increases a feeling of well being, helps productivity and lessens the burden on the NHS."

The Audit echoed Mr Cowen's views, by reporting: "Lanchester Parish is predominantly rural, with a large diverse range of wildlife habitats. Sounds and smells contribute to the pleasure of the locality, with many places across the parish offering peace and tranquility, with birdsong, magnificent

flowers and open skies. Many of these intangible heritage assets, which cannot be mapped easily, are associated with more tangible heritage, such as the railway line walk ... which is recognised as a significant asset by many in the community." Neil McKay

FAREWELL EDITH



Edith Pierce on her 100th birthday.

On Thursday 16th February, a very special service was held in All Saints' Parish Church. It was a Requiem Mass to celebrate the life of Edith Pierce, a very much loved and respected member of our Lanchester community. Last year on 28th March the Community Centre was filled with Edith's family and friends, to celebrate

Edith's 100th birthday. She died on 27th January 2017. The church was absolutely filled to capacity for her consoling and celebratory funeral. Reverend Rupert Kalus gave a very inspiring address, which captured the essence of the person Edith was. He said "Like the compass that always points to North, her heart always pointed unwaveringly and unshakeably to God. Even in her 101st year she was forward looking, enjoyed what each day brought

and was deeply interested in the world around her. She leaves an immense legacy of love and of lives touched for good. We give thanks for all that she gave and shared." Edith had two sons and two daughters and her eldest daughter Helen Cannam gave a very eloquent eulogy. She spoke about a mother who was a tremendous support to her children, grandchildren. and great grandchildren. whom she loved so dearly. She spoke of her mother's

busy life as a Rector's wife, her great love of nature and walking and of how she appreciated being surrounded by the wonderful friendly community, when she came to live in Lanchester in 1973. Edith had a great concern for people in need throughout the world and became a strong

supporter of Durham Lesotho Link, even visiting that country in her late seventies! The village will miss Edith's presence and influence and she will long be remembered as a stalwart of all that is good in our lovely village. We will remember her! Brenda Craddock



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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 14th February 2017

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 14th February, Planning Meeting 14th February - approved.

Flooding in Lanchester

The Chair welcomed Simon Longstaff, Drainage and Coastal Protection Manager at Durham County Council to the meeting. Simon provided

information to members on the drainage works in Front Street, the recent works on Newbiggen Lane and the wider plans for flood alleviation in Lanchester.

Representatives from the Environment Agency and the Wear Rivers Trust also attended the meeting to provide information.

The recent works on Front Street to install beany block kerb drainage is intended to get water off Front Street faster.

The County Council has undertaken considerable works on Newbiggen Lane which has included work on 19 blocked gullies, some of which may have been covered for 50 years. The County Council feels that the work on Newbiggen Lane should prevent minor flooding events.

There is a multi-agency approach to address major flood incidents in Lanchester.

The proposal is to capture water at Front Street at the bottom of Newbiggen Lane and put it in the Alderdene Burn. Recent tests confirm that there is capacity in the Alderdene Burn to accommodate this. This will involve work on the Alderdene culvert.

A number of residents attended the meeting and spoke of concerns of the culvert under Woodham Court. Simon confirmed that the proposals will address any identified issues with the culvert at Woodham Court.

There is a need to secure funding for this project which is hoped to take place in 2017/18.

Police Report - The Police report provided by PCSO Lisa Jackson was read out. Current issues include vehicle thefts, burglary and damage to cars. On Friday 24th

March a PACT meeting will be held on Front Street at 10 am.

Correspondence

1. Campaign to Protect Rural England - Spring Newsletter - received.

2. Clerk & Councils Direct - March Newsletter - received.

3. Lanchester Cricket Club Beer Festival - May 2017 - Members received information from the club on the preparations for the beer festival to be held 26th - 28th May 2017. The Parish Council supported a number of measures to prevent people bringing their own alcohol to the event and underage drinking.

Neighbourhood Plan

A workshop had taken place on March 7th facilitated by Shaun Hanson to work on the edge of settlement and mapping of heritage assets. The session had been well attended and productive. Shaun Hanson has taken all the information away to continue work on the housing policy for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Tree Surveys - Members considered the tree surveys undertaken on the Village Green, at Kitswell Park and at the allotments site behind Durham Road. It was agreed that the identified works are undertaken at a cost of £3,300.00.

Risk Assessment Schedule - approved.

Internal Audit Arrangements - approved.

Schools - Distribution of Newsletters - agreed that a donation of £100.00 is given to the two Primary schools.

Grants/Donations - The following donations were agreed:

- (i) Citizens Advice County Durham - £100.00.
- (ii) The Great North Air Ambulance - £200.00.
- (iii) All Saints' Parish Centre - £200.00.

- (iv) Lanchester & Burnhope Parochial Church Council - Clock Maintenance - £200.00.

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

Chairperson's Announcements

Members were informed of a recent meeting to discuss the parking and traffic congestion at St Bede's School. Representatives from the School, Planners, Highways, Police and Parish Council attended the meeting. It was acknowledged that there was no easy solution to the problem. The Police agreed to provide a presence where possible. The school financially supports the use of the bus rather than the car. Highways will look at the introduction of advisory road markings near the school.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 4th April 2017 at Lynwood House following the Village Conference which will commence at 7.15 pm.



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POLICE REPORT

Loose horses have again been a problem, specifically in the area of Maiden Law. Despite having to endure 24 hours of repeated calls regarding horses escaping, we are happy to report that we have been able to identify the land and horse owners. The horses have been removed from the offending field for the foreseeable future until the landowner can install suitable fencing

to keep the horses secure. The RSPCA has also been in assistance and is potentially looking at taking action against the owners regarding lack of food and fresh water being available to the horses.

Quad bike thefts continue to be a concern and issue in the area, sadly not just for Lanchester. Officers are currently providing additional patrols to hotspot areas. Cross

command work is currently underway to identify the suspects and retrieve the stolen quads. If you have any information in relation to these thefts please ring PCSO Lisa Jackson on 101.

If you have any problems or queries and would like to speak with your local beat officers then please ring 101 or email lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk. PCSO 6780 Lisa Jackson

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March every year and in 2017 you, like me, might wonder why we need to set aside a day every year to celebrate the successes of women so I thought this month I would set out some of the statistics in the UK, in the EU and worldwide on women:

- Just 1% of titled land in the world is owned by women;
- A baby girl born in the UK is likely to live to 81 but if she is born in Swaziland she is likely to die under 40;
- 70% of the 1.2bn people in the world living in poverty are women and children;
- 55% of the world's population are female, 21% of the world's paid managers are women, 62% of unpaid family workers are women;
- In UK 9% judges, 10% of company directors and 10% top police officers are women (so the recent top appointment in the Met is great news);
- 700,000,000 women worldwide are without adequate food, water, sanitation, education or health care compared with 100,000,000 men;

- 1,440 women die across the world every day in childbirth, an average of 1 death every minute;
- In US 35% of lawyers are women but only 5% are partners in law firms;
- In EU only 3% of major corporate chief executives are women;
- 67% of illiterate adults worldwide are women;
- 1 in 7 women die in pregnancy or childbirth in Ethiopia (it is 1 in 19,000 in UK);
- Of the 194 countries in the UN (in 2014) only 12 were led by women (presumably that has gone up to 13 in 2017);
- In UK women in full time employment earn 17% on average less than men in full time employment;
- In UK women in part time employment earn 42% on average less

than men in part time employment. The lives of women, particularly in the developed world have improved in the 20th and 21st century but even here women are paid less and are less likely to make it to the top job. It is to be hoped that having a woman Prime Minister will prove to be an inspiration to women and girls in the UK right across industry and the professions and this will continue to improve. However, it is in the developing world where the lives and deaths of women have seen little improvement. This is why we celebrate International Women's Day every year, to celebrate how far we have come and how far we still have to go and this is a message for all of us - for women, for mothers and grandmothers, for fathers of daughters and brothers of sisters. Pat Glass MP

Dave Donnelly



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A LABYRINTH IN THE CHURCHYARD



The Labyrinth in All Saints' Churchyard.

gate which leads out into Deanery View estate. Slightly lower down than the gate you will see something has happened to the grass. It looks as if it has been 'shaved' into a path which curls round on itself until it comes back to where it began. It has one way in and one way out.

Could it be a maze? No, it is a Labyrinth.

A Labyrinth is in a religious sense a sacred space where you can encounter God. You can walk the path of the Labyrinth and contemplate on your life or to put it another way, have a good think about yourself and the way you are leading your life. As you do this you become more aware of yourself and of your own individual needs. You are spending

time with yourself quietly and peacefully and this meditation invariably leads you to prayer and an encounter with God.

The Labyrinth is there for everyone to use and it can have a very positive effect on your well being if it is used prayerfully and reverently.

It is worth noting that the Labyrinth is placed next to the grassed land where the unmarked graves lie of those who died in the workhouse, which once stood in the centre of the village.

The Labyrinth has been put in place by Reverend Rupert Kalus and Reverend Ali Miller and there is a Labyrinth team who have further plans to make it a very creative prayer space in the future - so watch this space!

Brenda Craddock

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Take a walk in All Saints' (C of E) Churchyard (wearing sensible shoes as it's soggy in parts) and if you go right to the top wall and stand in the middle of it you will have gravestones on one side and a large rectangular patch of grass on the other. You will also see a

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FOLK EVENING AT KING'S HEAD

On Thursday March 2nd a very enjoyable evening took place in the King's Head. It was one event of many held in the Durham Diocese from March 2nd to March 5th, to mark the special visitation of 15 Bishops and a number of Theological Students and Ordinands to the Diocese. The weekend was entitled 'Talking Jesus' and the purpose of it was to bring churches and

communities together. To this end Reverend Rupert Kalus arranged this event with the 'Churches Together' committee and several very skilled folk singers were invited to perform, as well as Craig Davies

and his Music Group from the Parish Church. It was very well attended and great fun. One of the visiting Bishops attended, joined in the fun and gave a short very relevant address.

Brenda Craddock



John Dixon and Alan Beadle, folk singers.



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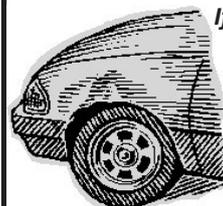
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ANOTHER TROPHY FOR THE BRASS BAND

Members of Lanchester Brass Band, proudly display the Boosey-Hawkes Shield, after coming 3rd out of 8 bands in the North of England Brass Band Championships (4th Section). The Championships were held at the Gala Theatre, Durham, on Saturday March 11th. Their Conductor, as in their previous successful contest reported upon last month, was Mr Gareth Sykes. Well done everyone!



Lanchester Brass Band members celebrating their success.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

At 7.00pm on March 17th, some 55 parishioners and friends of All Saints' Catholic Church gathered in the Parish Centre to celebrate St Patrick's Day, an event generously sponsored by Lanchester Plumbing and Heating. Guests arrived, and enjoyed their Welcome Drink, to a medley of Irish music, played on the keyboard by Bill Grey. The evening opened with Master of Ceremonies

Michael Quigley, on behalf of the parish, wishing Father Joe Park a happy 80th birthday, celebrated the day before. The guests enjoyed a three-course meal, consisting of a starter of Leek and Potato Soup with Soda Bread, a main course of Irish Stew and, for dessert, a choice of either Bailey's Irish Cream Cheesecake or Jameson's Irish Whiskey Bread & Butter Pudding.

Entertainments included a St Patrick's Day Themed Quiz, Irish Bingo (entertainingly called by Mike Stoddart) and a Raffle, and was concluded by the singing of a selection of Traditional Irish Songs, accompanied by Bill Grey on keyboard. This most enjoyable event raised some £1,000 to go towards the on-going refurbishment of the Parish Centre.



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WORLD BOOK DAY AT ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Thursday 2nd March, the pupils and staff of All Saints' celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite characters.

The school was filled with wizards, princesses, monsters, superheroes, witches, animals, plant pots, giants and many more wonderful characters! Everyone made such a fantastic effort! Throughout the day, the children enjoyed lots of fun activities. To parade their

excellent costumes, the whole school gathered for a fashion show at the beginning of the day and then moved to the classrooms to enjoy shared reading in partners and groups. Further to this, some of the children enjoyed sticking the glass eye on Mrs Twit, bookmark making and there was even a real-life 'Where's Wally?' hunt!

Well done to everyone for such a great effort and memorable day!



Lots of imagination went into the design of these fantastic costumes worn by the children for World Book Day.

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The children enjoyed lots of fun activities throughout the day.

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In the morning everyone gathered in the main hall for the grand fashion show.

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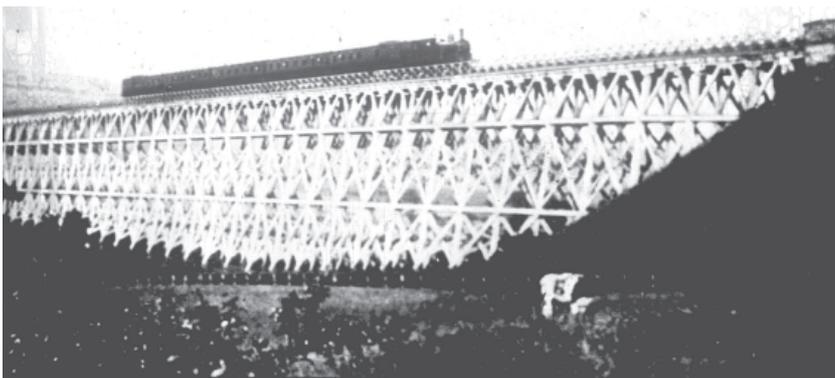
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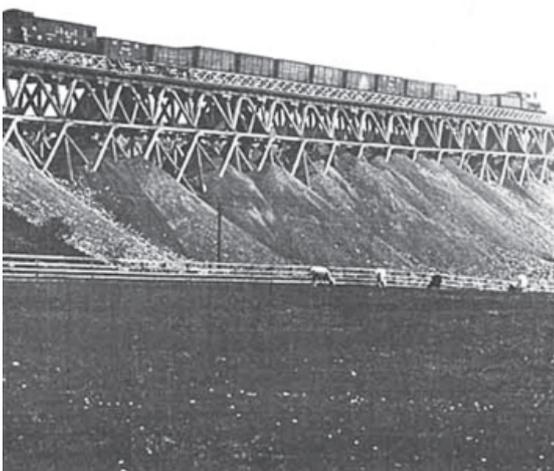
Students at All Saints' Primary School working in mime and dance.

In 2017, we mark the Year of the Blessed Oscar Romero and the centenary of his birth. He served as Archbishop of San Salvador and was the champion of human rights among the most vulnerable people, speaking out against poverty and social injustice, eventually paying with his life while offering Mass. The children of All Saints' Catholic Primary School put some of his ideals into mime and dance, in a moving celebration of his work.

VINTAGE PICTURES OF KNITSLEY VIADUCT



Knitsley Viaduct, just north of Lanchester on the Durham-Consett railway line, was built in 1862, mainly of wood. Due to the need for major repairs, the decision was made to turn the impressive structure into an embankment. So using old ballast and colliery slag, it was covered in 1919 and the embankment can still be seen today on the Lanchester Valley Walk, south of Hurbuck.



This picture shows the embankment being created. Trucks with bottom-opening doors were used to deposit the ballast over the viaduct.

THE MAN ON THE HORSE

An impressive statue in Durham market place shows a man dressed in hussar uniform, mounted on horseback, the 3rd Marquis of Londonderry, Charles William Vane Tempest Stewart. He owned collieries across County Durham and founded the coal port of Seaham Harbour. The statue is the subject of a popular local legend, told to countless children.

When the sculptor completed his work, he felt that this was his masterpiece, it was perfection. He swore he would kill himself if a fault was ever found in the statue. Every day, men and women gathered to examine the figure of the man and horse, all looking to discover some tiny fault which surely should exist.

A servant of the lord examined the statue and confessed that there could not be a better likeness. A horse dealer inspected his mount, concluding there could not be a more perfect animal than the sculptor had produced. The craftsman was hailed as the man who had created perfection ... until one day, a blind beggar visited the town.

He had not heard about the wonderful statue, but the people of Durham proudly told all strangers about the amazing statue. The beggar announced that he wished to examine it and his friends placed him on the plinth of the statue. He felt every square inch of stone, with his sensitive fingers and after several hours, he asked to be taken to the sculptor.

"Sir" said the blind beggar. "Your statue is marvellous, it is almost perfect!"

"ALMOST Sir?" repeated the craftsman. "My masterpiece is perfection itself!"

"Yet there is one mistake" the beggar quietly insisted. "Look again at the horse ... it has no tongue!"

Everyone ran to see if the beggar was right. Sure enough, the blind man had found what all the other sighted people had failed to discover. The horse had no tongue.

The beggar was never seen again and the sculptor was so shamed that he killed himself that night. A lovely old story, told to generations of Durham children ... but just that, a story!

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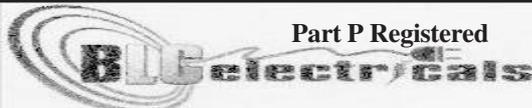
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HENRY DANCER DAYS 6th Annual Ball



Our local children's cancer charity is delighted to announce that the ever-popular Black Tie event is to be held on Saturday 20th May, 7 pm - midnight. Lumley Castle is indeed 'No Ordinary Hotel' and we will be taking over the

stunning Garter Suite for the evening.

Tickets include:

- * Three course meal followed by tea/coffee
- * Live band: 'The Pretty Weeds'
- * Games
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Tickets are priced at £45 per person and seating is limited. Book early from Jane Natrass at henrydancerdays@aol.com

LANCHESTER FASHION DESIGNER AT BERLIN FASHION WEEK

A talented Lanchester designer heads for Germany having been invited to exhibit her wares at the prestigious Berlin Fashion Week and schoolchildren from the village may be recruited to help promote Sally Smallwood's cutting edge designs. Sally has forsaken the bright lights of London to run her fashion label, Wreckreation, from a studio on the Greencroft Business Park, just two miles from her home in Lanchester.

She sells her designs online and has customers from as far afield as Los Angeles and Germany. The invitation to exhibit during the Berlin Fashion Week is likely to boost her growing reputation even further. Sally is promoting her latest range of fashion

wear by a video shot at Druridge Bay, Northumberland and one of the stars of the video is her ten-year-old nephew Logan Smallwood, who attends the EP School. Sally explained: "After the school showed the video, lots of Logan's school friends were impressed and they want to be in the next video. I will be happy to have them exhibit my work."

Sally, who graduated in design at Northumbria University and who trained for a while in New York, believes that by selling online and by promoting her designs on video, she does not need to head to the bright lights of London. "For what I pay to rent a spacious studio with a view in Greencroft, I would be lucky to get a cupboard

in London. Everything is done in the studio, the patterns, construction and printing, there is no outsourcing."

Sally has already designed the stage gear for Lanchester musical duo 'Talk Like Tigers', Charlotte and Stephanie Walker. She said: "I didn't set out to look for a market, but my designs tend to appeal to artistic and creative people, there are one or two rap musicians who have bought from my catalogue. I appeal to the more open minded."

Her ambition is for Wreckreation to be "the Ferrari of the Fashion World." And who would bet against her succeeding, with a little help from the children of Lanchester!

Neil McKay



Sally's latest fashions, shown at Druridge Bay.

OUT AND ABOUT - RABY CASTLE

The name Raby is of Viking origin and means 'Settlement on the Boundary'. The land eventually passed into the hands of the Neville family and in 1569, 700 men gathered there to plot the 'Rising of the North'. Their leaders were Charles Neville, the Earl of Westmorland and Thomas Percy, Earl of Northumberland. In those times of religious dispute, much of the North remained strongly Catholic and the rebels wanted to depose Elizabeth 1st and replace her with her Catholic cousin, Mary Queen of Scots. The rising failed and Raby Castle was seized by the Crown. Sir Henry Vane, Treasurer to Charles 1st eventually bought Raby to be his family seat. Today it stands, serene and beautiful, but reputedly it's haunted by spirits of previous inhabitants. The ghost of Charles Neville is claimed to haunt the Baron's Hall, still plotting the ill fated 'Rising of the North'. The ghost of the son of Sir Henry Vane has also been sighted by terrified visitors. He was a political activist and was

imprisoned in the Tower of London for high treason, placed on trial and beheaded. A large crowd gathered to witness his execution. Henry Vane started to read his final speech. All attempts to silence him failed and the sheriff instructed trumpeters to drown out his voice. He continued in his speech until the fatal blow silenced him. His ghost is seen in the library at Raby Castle, seated with his head before him on a desk. His lips are moving, still trying to make his final speech. A third ghost is that of the first Lady Barnard. She and her husband strongly disapproved of their son's choice of bride and tried to destroy Raby so the couple would find the castle to be of little worth. Only a lawsuit stopped the damage. Lady Barnard prowls the halls after dark, knitting furiously with white hot knitting needles. The fields and wooded areas around the castle are said to be haunted by the ghosts of the murdered children of Mary Ann Cotton, who lived in the area. They play happily, at peace now.

RED CROSS COFFEE MORNING



Locals enjoying the fundraising Coffee Morning for the Red Cross on Friday February 24th at the Methodist Church which raised £106. The back row features Tracey Dobson, Manager, and volunteer, Linda Shovlin.

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Hearing loss changes lives; only those who have endured it can fully understand the traumatic affect that it has. Do you know what help is available in Lanchester? We have 1:1 support, a lip-reading/support group, Tinnitus support and we are a 'try before you buy' for BT, Action on Hearing Loss (AOHL) and Sarabec which is a local manufacturer of equipment for hard of

hearing people. For older or housebound people, we take equipment to their homes and demonstrate equipment that could be of benefit to them (we do not sell anything). We go out to Community Centres and do

information/awareness events, taking along hearing aid compatible phones, personal listeners and room loops as well as an abundance of information on Cochlear Implants, Tinnitus etc. Attendance at the group is by referral

only. If you are interested in attending a group where you will learn the vital hints and techniques to enable you to cope with your hearing loss please contact DDS either via phone 0191 5183358 or e-mail admin@ddsupport.org.uk.

SPOTLIGHT ON ART



The long established Thursday Art Group in full swing

There seem to be more and more budding artists emerging everyday and enjoying a lovely, satisfying hobby, especially in retirement. We in Lanchester are particularly lucky in that we have not one, but two art groups operating weekly in the Community Centre. They both meet for two hours in a morning, one on a Monday, the other on a Thursday. Thursday Art group is a long established club which has been going as long as the Community

Association has been in existence. It is a self help group which meets to paint, to talk about painting, to have occasional tutors and of course, to put on the very successful and popular annual art exhibition which runs over the whole of the third weekend in October. Monday art is a smaller, primarily tutor based group, established about 12 years ago as part of the Education in the Community programme. Starting out as a watercolour class it has

evolved into an independent club which runs its own affairs, but still with the emphasis on art education. As well as watercolour classes, tutors now come along and teach in many differing media. For more information on either group please contact: Monday Art - John Dixon on 521791/john@dixonarchitect.co.uk Thursday Art Club - Margaret Walters on 521214/mwalters468@btinternet.com



Monday Art enjoying a class led by Tony Montague.



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PROJECT POPPIES

'Lest We Forget'



Some of the 50 plus people who turned up to boost the production of these special poppies.

The latest workshop took place at Croft View Halls on Saturday 11th March when over 50 people turned up to either make poppies or paint them or both. Many were attending for the first time and tuition was given by Eric and those now experienced potters. It was a hugely successful day which everyone enjoyed. A total of 237 poppies made on the day and 168 painted.

Eric Hepplewhite updated all present as they worked with the excellent news that a further grant had been received from the County Durham Community Foundation for £3,000. A newsletter was printed and available and this will be updated for every workshop. The list for the special poppies for those who want to remember someone from the wars

with a poppy carrying a dog tag with the person's name on it, is now open. These poppies cost £10 each and will be displayed outside the Methodist church during October/November 2018 with the rest of the poppies and will then be given to the person who has ordered it together with a commemorative certificate for them to keep.

Poppies will be displayed around the war memorials on the green and the Catholic church, each carrying a dog tag with the name of one of the soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice. It is hoped that these poppies will be the ones that have been made by children. The children will be told which soldier's name has been attached to their particular poppy. The Boys' Brigade, Guides,

and Sunday School have already made some which have been stored separately. All the children attending a workshop can make a poppy and put their name inside, we will keep it separate and use it as above until we have enough, one poppy per child. The current overall total is 767 made of which 440 are painted, finished and in storage.

Eric is willing to attend any organisation that would like to be a part of the project. For further information please contact Eric Hepplewhite on 07969 808958 or 01207 521323 or email erichepplewhite@btinternet.com



More happy volunteers hard at work painting the poppies.



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FROM LANCHESTER TO TANZANIA

Ever since my days in Lanchester EP Primary School, I've had an interest in helping others. This is an interest that followed me through secondary school in Framwellgate, to Sixth form and even university right now in Manchester. That's why the opportunity given to me by Raleigh International this summer is completely life-changing. Raleigh International is a sustainable development charity which has connections with around 30 countries globally. Raleigh's chief aim is to send young people (aged 18-30) to many of their partner countries (around 2,500 people were sent in 2015) where work is carried out to help

people living in impoverished communities formulate and develop infrastructure, thus enabling people in poverty to live healthier, safer and more secure lives. Some of Raleigh International's locations include Tanzania, Nicaragua and Nepal.

This summer I've been selected to take part in one of their WASH placements in Tanzania, which stands for and focuses on developing water, sanitation and hygiene facilities within these communities. Raleigh International get the funding to send young people on these fantastic programmes from the government under the International Citizens Service

programme which is funded by UKAid. As a part of my journey, I am required to raise £800 for Raleigh International to enable them to continue sending youth on developmental projects to help the global community develop together.

As part of my fundraising I have decided to take part in the Manchester 10k run on 28th May, I've organised a charity bake sale and a charity pub quiz. I intend to do much more too. If you're interested in supporting my journey, please text CMRI50 and an amount of £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10 to 70070, and you too can help enable this life-changing experience.

Thank you, Cameron Moore

CUPPA & CO

The meeting on 14th March was another great success with a St Patrick's Day theme; we had some faces from last month and some new faces. Once again the noise level of the chatter was fantastic with Irish music in the background. There was support from people who baked cakes, drivers giving lifts there and back, people making tea and giving company, Hanley

and Swinbank provided lovely cakes and Greggs the baker provided bread, doughnuts and sausage rolls. Thank you again to everyone for their continued support. It will not be held in April due to the school holidays but will be back on 9th May. Anyone wishing to attend or have a lift please phone so that we know the numbers attending, 07969 454815Jo.

THURSDAY CLUB

Our February meeting welcomed Glynis Grainger to give us a talk on the life of Irene Sandler, called 'Life in a Jar'. Irene Sandler was a Polish nurse, humanitarian and social worker who served in the Polish Underground in German-occupied Warsaw during the second World War. She was head of the children's section of the Polish Council to aid Jews. Assisted by other members she smuggled approximately 2500 Jewish

children out of the Warsaw Ghetto and provided them with false identity documents and shelter from the Holocaust. It was an amazing story which members found very emotional and created much discussion.

Our meeting on 18th May will take us on an outing to the James Herriot museum in Thirsk. Places are available and if any members wish to visit the museum, would you please let us know at the next meeting on 16th March.

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Mushroom Stuffed Sirloin Steaks

Learning some of the traditional origins of our favourite dishes can be fascinating. The story goes that Sir Richard Hoghton invited King James I to join him in a 'light' lunch at Hoghton Tower, near Preston. A huge and magnificent loin of beef was served at the table and the King was so delighted that he immediately knighted it, allegedly saying "Arise Sir Loin of Beef."

You need...

Butter 15 g
Mushrooms 175 g, wiped and finely chopped
Garlic 1 clove, peeled and crushed
Onion 1, peeled and finely chopped
Chopped parsley 1 tbsp
Breadcrumbs 1 tbsp

Double cream 1 tbsp
4 sirloin steaks

Method

1) Preheat your grill to moderate. Melt the butter in a saucepan and sauté the mushrooms, garlic and onion for about 5 minutes, until soft.
2) Remove the pan from the heat and add the parsley, breadcrumbs and cream. Mix well.
3) Make a horizontal cut through each steak, without slicing all the way through and stuff a quarter of the mixture into each steak pocket.
4) Grill the steaks for 5-10 minutes, turning halfway through, until the steaks are cooked to your liking. Serve with salad, or thick cut oven chips and garden peas.

LANCHESTER WI

Our members met on Monday 6th March, with President Marie Murphy opening the meeting by thanking members for their patience while the signing in process is being streamlined. She mentioned the several visits and activities planned at Branch and County level and urged everyone to keep up to date with events. The first meeting of the new darts group has been organised and we look forward to the start of our new lunch group this month. Our next Coffee Morning is on Tuesday 25th April and members are invited to contribute items for tombola and raffle prizes. Coffee Morning tickets are now on sale, or

payment can be made on arrival. Our Summer outing will now take place on Wednesday 5th July, and our DCFWI Centenary Afternoon Tea will be on 26th April. Other future events include an evening of entertainment at the Goose Barn at Hollinside Hall, thanks are due to John and Rosy Gall for their kind invitation and we look forward to a visit to Kynren. Thanks were given to Maureen Barker and Barbara Sproat who were tea hostesses for the evening, and Jane Friesner read out an amusing poem about 'Pants'. The evening's competition was for a Geordie Ditty or poem and winners were Maureen

Barker and Ann Grosvenor. Raffle prize winners were Helen Robinson and Lestrine Kelly and then we settled down to listen to Steve and Carol Robson, who together perform as 'Fools Gold.' We really enjoyed their music, songs and stories from the North East, all reflecting different aspects of the local past and people. We learned about the origins of some traditional songs and also enjoyed participating in them! Their accounts were sad, others funny, but we enjoyed an evening rich in social history. Ann Carr warmly thanked Steve and Carol for a fascinating trip into the past.

SATLEY WI

President Linda Horn welcomed our members and then business was discussed. The arrangements for our involvement in the National Sheep event are taking shape for June 7th 2017. Stewards will be needed for the day. Our Summer outing to Kirkharle and Wallington Hall will take place on 23rd May, leaving Lanchester at 10 am. The group meeting will take place on September 28th at Lanchester Social Club. Tickets will be allocated later. The Satley darts team took part in the heats for the County WI cup at Witton Gilbert. We proudly have got through to the final at Evenwood on 7th April.

Linda then introduced our speaker, Mr Ian McArdle from Ouseburn Trust, to talk on the tunnel running under Newcastle. This proved to be very interesting. The tunnel began in 1836 to take coal from the mine at Spittal Tongues to the river to be shipped away. The two mile long tunnel was actually finished in 1842 but went bankrupt in 1860. Parties can be arranged to be taken through the tunnel with an entry fee. The raffle was won by Brenda Patchcock. The competition for 'historical item' was won by Brenda Patchcock, 2nd Christine Wilson and 3rd Carol Dobinson. The meeting then finished with tea and biscuits and social time to chat. Christine Wilson



Carol and Steve Robson, who perform together as 'Fools Gold' took us back to some of the social history of our area.

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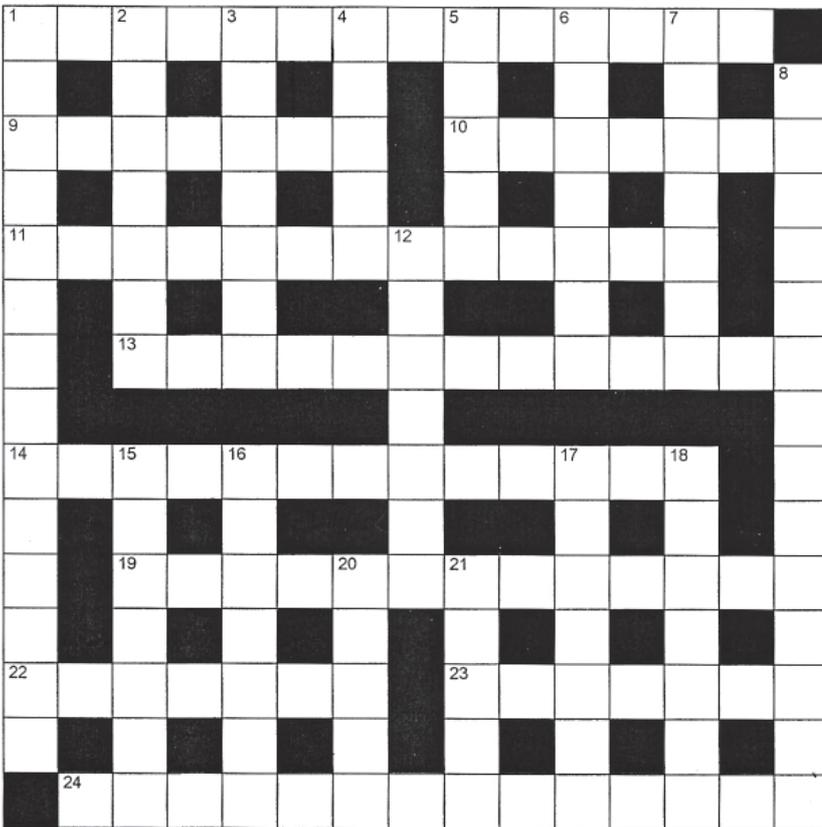
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CROSSWORD 131



ACROSS

1. Distant past (4,10)
9. Closure (2,2,3)
10. Influential French artist d. 1954 (7)
11. Dazzling (13)
13. Ola! moist grain assumes allure (13)
14. French town house (6,2,5)
19. Disregard (3-10)
22. Menacing (7)
23. Puts on a dressing gown! (7)
24. Hostility (14)

DOWN

1. Change (14)
2. Purpose (7)
3. Apathy (7)
4. Gong (5)
5. Tropical African snake (5)
6. Greek wine (7)
7. Aegis as weapon (7)
8. Warp your mind with drugs (4,4,6)
12. Generous gift (7)
15. Black Bull, King's Head and Punch Bowl etc. (3,4)
16. Self-inflicted mistake (3,4)
17. Young hare (7)
18. Dignify (7)
20. Iraqi port (5)
21. Liquid introduced from behind! (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 130

ACROSS

1. yurt
3. monotonous
9. sage
10. liberating
11. Marxism
13. aphonia
14. tide turning
18. extremeness
21. tearful
22. swelter
23. ascribable
24. acme
25. allegretto
26. news

DOWN

1. Yosemite
2. rag-trade
4. odium
5. operative
6. oral hygiene
7. onions
8. signal
12. in the offing
15. retaliate
16. tentacle
17. usurpers
19. Ottawa
20. rascal
22. split

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 130

There were 25 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Stuart Lee of Colepike Road who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

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

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FLOWER CLUB



Michael Robbie who talked with such enthusiasm about gardens and gardening.

The meeting on 22nd February 2017 held in Lanchester Community Centre was our Annual General Meeting; the attendance was 25 members. Our Chairperson Helen Tomlinson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting went smoothly and the existing committee members agreed to stand for a further year.

After the formal business was completed Michael Robbie, a retired Gateshead Parks and Gardens employee related his passion for gardening

and growing things. He showed lovely slides of different gardens and chatted to us with such enthusiasm and passion for beautiful gardens and how wonderful it is to grow your own. He then showed some slides of his own garden which left many of us very envious, it was so beautiful and well laid out. We then completed the afternoon with tea/coffee and a biscuit and the usual raffle. Everyone had a lovely relaxing afternoon and went home with a renewed passion for gardening.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

We had a lovely treat this month - Finbarr's - one of our favourite restaurants, had a special offer on of a 3 course lunch + a glass of wine for £17.50. We were on our way! Finbarr's is really good - I know we've said it before, but it's true and there aren't many places around that you can consistently say that about. Very pleasant surroundings, nice and warm, friendly staff, linen tablecloths and napkins, fresh flowers and a superb menu. It took a while before we could decide what to choose.

Eventually we sampled, for starters, Marinated Asian chicken with crispy wantons, Crayfish with Thousand Island and lemon mayonnaise and French bean, potato and bocconcini salad. Mains were, Pan fried confit of

duck in red wine with mash and green beans, Fishcakes in a creamy parsley sauce with frites and spinach, Pan fried sea bream on a bed of samphire and Pork and fennel ragu on linguine. Puds were iced chocolate parfait with a tangy Seville orange marmalade, Apple strudel with crème fraiche and honey and an excellent cheese board. The restaurant was full to bursting, everyone enjoying scrumptious food. It would be nice to go back and sample the rest of the super food on offer but, we'll leave that to yourselves to give it a go - the offer has been extended into March - so what are you waiting for? We will always return - as soon as possible.

The Gourmet Girls

DURHAM OPEN TREASURES

Marie-Therese Mayne, the Exhibitions Officer at Durham Cathedral presented her talk with much enthusiasm which enthralled the History Society meeting in March.

Marie explained the aims of the Cathedral and their commitment to not charge for entry to the Cathedral itself; to providing opportunities for new and returning visitors to learn and explore this cathedral; to develop the social and economic contribution the Cathedral makes to local communities; and to raise the profile of Durham City and County as a visitor destination.

She described the making of the Open Treasure exhibition from the archaeology finds in the medieval foundations to future exhibitions, which are varied, covering a range of subjects from the Cathedral's 900 year old history.

Of particular interest to our local history within this collection is Canon William Greenwell's collection of Roman stones and other antiquities. Bishops of Durham have received many interesting gifts, eg an elephant's tooth, a 'unicorn's horn' and even a 'griffin's claw'! Marie explained the new exhibition space

including the state of the art display cases which will change exhibits every three months. There is also a community gallery which shows art work from schools and local community groups.

Apart from the beautiful architecture of the Monk's Dormitory Library and the Great Kitchen, the artefacts on display can be explored further by interactive screens, which are a great asset to understanding more about the life of the Cathedral past and present. You may have already seen this, but if not it is well worth a visit.

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WHAT'S ON?

Vintage Tractor Club

Meet on Wednesday 5th April at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Social Club.

Sunday Bridge

Come along to the Community Centre on 9th April at 2.00 pm. The entrance fee is £3.00 and all profits to the Community Centre.

Thursday Club

At our next meeting on 20th April, which is at 7.15 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre, Anne and Ian Wilkinson will take us on a journey to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, South Africa.

Will members please remember that any balance for the May outing is due at this meeting.

Library Book Club

On Monday 24th April at 2.30 to 3.30 pm, the group will be discussing The Confessions of Stella Moon by Shelley Day. Set in Newcastle 'this book is haunting and dark but also very intriguing' (Amazon reviewer). Sounds interesting. If you have read this book why don't you come along or pick up your copy of the novel from the library. We look forward to seeing you then.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday April 20th from 5.30-6.30, the group will be reviewing A Street Cat Named Bob by James Bowen. Now made into a film (2016), 'A heart warming tale with a message of hope' (Daily Mail). If you would like to join this new group, pick up the book at the library and we will see you there.

Open House

Join us in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 6th April 11.30 am until 1.00 pm.

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Community Centre

Coffee Morning

The Community Centre will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 13th April from 9.30-11.00 am

Lacemaking

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

Needlecraft

continues on Wednesdays 1.00-3.00 pm

Baby Group

Meet Wednesdays and Fridays in the dining room between 9.15 and 11.00 am. Birth to 2 years, £1.80.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 11th April, the subject will be 'Heathland Headlands' presented by Laura Tedstone from Durham Wildlife Trust. Meet in the Community Centre Dining Room at 7.30 pm.

Lanchester Local History Society

Subject: Gertrude Bell, The Desert Queen
Speaker: Anthony Atkinson
Date: Friday April 7th
Time: 7pm

Venue: Lanchester Community Centre
An incredible woman of her time (1868-1926), an English writer, traveller, Political Officer, Administrator, Archaeologist and Spy! Still remembered today in Iraq.

For more information about the History Society contact marianmorrison@btinternet.com

Musical Minis

Musical Minis class takes place in the Small Hall at Lanchester Community Centre between 10 and 11 am every Tuesday.

Chatterbooks

Now at Lanchester library are a New Group for children, aged 8-11 years old. This is a national scheme for children who love reading. They will read a selection of books and there will be lots of activities in the library. Sessions on Monday April 3rd, Monday 15th May and Monday June 12th, from 3.45- 4.30 pm. There are limited places so please contact the library on 03000 269514, or speak to Zena and the other librarians.

Flower Club

The next meeting will be on Wednesday April 26th at 2 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. Our guest will be Katie-Jane Pridmore whose subject is 'Time Flies'.

Joint Concert

Lanchester Brass Band and The Argus Singers are again giving a joint concert on Saturday 1st April at 7pm in Lanchester Methodist Church. Tickets £6 available from 07482 749713 or 07900930016.

You are assured of a very enjoyable evening and we look forward to seeing you.

Lanchester Writers

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

Lent Lunch

Churches Together in Lanchester and Burnhope Lent Lunches will be held at the Methodist Church on Tuesday April 4th. Please bring lunch to share between 11.30 am until 12 midday, tea and coffee will be provided.

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

Lanchester WI

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, April 3rd, when Mick Wilkes will speak to us on 'Managing National Trust Properties.' Please bring a National Trust photo taken by yourself, as an entry into our competition. In addition to this usual competition, we mark Easter by inviting members to appear in their 'Easter Bonnet' with a prize for the winner. Sounds great fun! Tickets will be on sale for our Coffee Morning, to be held on Tuesday 25th April in the Community Centre. A reminder to keep up to date with future plans by looking on the Information Table where you'll find all the details.

Lanchester Library

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

Mothers' Union

At the April meeting on Wednesday 12th April at 7.30 pm in the Chapter House (with this being Lent), we have the Reverend Denise Dodd to speak to us.

Willow Burn Spring Fair

Fun for all the family, 8th April, 12 noon-3pm, St Bede's School, Lanchester, 50p per person.

Come down to our Spring Fair and enjoy a day filled with fun and games for all the family. Browse our hand selected stalls, show us your best duck waddle and win some amazing prizes!

Enter your decorated Easter Egg into our competition and win a prize!

Paradiso Social Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday April 9th at 7pm, in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual Raffle, Refreshments and a Film.

The film we are screening is 'THE BIG SHORT', based on the book 'The Big Short - Inside the Doomsday Machine'. This witty, absurd and entertaining film is a dramatic retelling of the 2007-8 financial crisis and reveals life with the Wall Street financial sharks, a riveting world of chaos, corruption and misfits. A story for our time?

All are welcome.

Ticket entry:

£2.50 members;

£3.50 occasional visitors;

£2 young persons.

The Northwest Durham Circuit Choir

is presenting **Graham Kendrick's** Easter Musical 'Make Way for the Cross' on Good Friday 14th April in Annfield Plain Methodist Church at 7.00 pm. A lively and modern telling of the **Easter Story**. No tickets needed.

Castleside Art Club

45th 'Sapphire' Art Exhibition

Easter Sunday and Monday 16th and 17th April in Castleside Village Hall 10am - 5pm. Refreshments are available all day. Free entry with ticket.

Satley WI

Our next meeting is on 10th April with a talk by Stephanie Esteris, from Age UK, titled 'Grow to Eat'. The competition will be a 'decorative plant container'. Meet Satley Parish Hall at 7.15 pm. New members and visitors are welcome at all times.

Easter Monday Egg Bowling

The usual egg dyeing in the traditional way. Come and take part at Pace Egg Bank organised by the Lanchester Wildlife Group. Meet at 10 am behind the Green School and bring a raw egg.

Bowls Spring Meeting

Lanchester Bowling Club will be holding its pre-season Spring Meeting on Thursday 20th April at 7.00 pm in the Pavilion. All members and prospective new members are welcome.

BEER FESTIVAL 2017

The big news in the past few weeks was that we have secured the event sponsor. We are pleased to announce that Aquaid water coolers, based in Washington are doing us the honour. They are a family run company who are the country's leading water cooler supplier and raise money for Christian Aid to help supply water in Africa. Sustain Landscapes from Consett are sponsoring the glasses for a second successive year, so a massive thanks to them. They are a booming business and their handiwork can be seen across the North East. It is absolutely vital to the event that we have secured cover for two important parts of the event. New beer sponsors are Green Thumb from Esh village who have signed up to sponsor a beer and a cider and we thank them for their generosity. Our

kitchen fitters Morgan Grey have also signed up, alongside returning sponsors Alexander Lettings, New Image and Alby Driving. The entertainment line up is close to being finalised. Friday's sponsors night will see local vocalist Pete McDonald keeping the sponsors happy. Saturday night's band, following the conclusion of the cricket match, is Zen, who play a wide range of 70s-90s music. On the Sunday we can field three different bands, local lad Joe Tracey will be on around 3, with the tea time slot covered by County Durham based The Dee Tees and the closing slot will feature The Pretty Weeds for the fourth year. It's a sure fact that the crowd will be entertained. Don't forget to keep up to date by checking out the Lanchester Beer Festival website.

CRICKET NEWS

Momentum continues as the season starts to draw closer, with numbers at indoor nets on the rise. Two new signings in Callum Barnes and Harry Lavelle should strengthen the first team and we can confirm that Sam Crooks will be our overseas player. He is 23 year old batsman from New Zealand and continues our excellent relationship with Cornwall CC. We previously have had Teja Nidamanuru from there and Kieron Taylor, Jonathan Hames, Daniel Storey and Gareth Wade have made the reverse trip.

The season will start on 22nd April with the firsts entertaining Consett before travelling to Newcastle City and then facing champions Ashington. Seconds have the reverse of those games. The third team start the following weekend with a home game to Washington, followed by a trip to Marsden and home to Lintz. The first two weeks for the Juniors are cup weeks, the 18s home to newly formed Burnopfield and if they win that they entertain Lintz or Ryton. The 15s are away at Shotley

Bridge and would face a long trip to South Northumberland if they got through. The 13s are home to Whickham and will then be home to Shotley or Annfield Plain. Finally the 11s have a bye before facing the winners of Ryton and Lintz. A big congratulations to the Football team who have won a league and cup double, securing the divisional title with five weeks to go and then picking up the divisional cup by beating Craghead Legion 4-3. It was fitting that skipper Dave Hogg scored the winner. Well done fellas!!

TENNIS CLUB NEWS

Continued from back page
As further encouragement to try this sport, the club is providing a free tennis course for the over 35s. This will start on Friday 19th May from 1.30 to 2.30 pm. If you are interested, please contact

using the details below. Other events throughout the year will include the Strawberry Tea, Barbeque and lots more. All we need is a bit of luck with the all-important weather! So if you are new to the game or, possibly

returning after some time, come and try the game on your local courts at this friendly club. Please don't hesitate to contact Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278 (email den.lizjane@gmail.com) with any query.

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BOWLING SEASON APPROACHES



One of our league matches on a lovely sunny day last year.

As I write the weather is hinting towards spring time and my thoughts are for the new bowling season. Check out the What's On for the date of the spring meeting. Prospective new members are welcome to come to the meeting and we will tell you how to get started to enjoy bowling. Alternatively we will be running sessions for new members and developing players on Thursday afternoons at 1.45 pm throughout the season after the green opens.

Please note there will be no session on 4th May because of the council elections but an extra session will be held on Wednesday 3rd May. The sooner you get involved the better. Our website bowlingclub.wixsite.com/lanchester (or just Google Lanchester Bowling Club) gives information about the club and how to get started as a bowler. If you are not able to attend the beginner sessions please ring our Secretary, Ken Raper on 01207 521673. Hope to see you.

TENNIS CLUB NEWS

The 2017 season for Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club will begin with coaching sessions on the Green School courts located behind the bowling green. The club will hold the following sessions from Monday 3rd April: 5 to 8 years old will be 4.30 to 5.30 pm, 9 to 12 year olds will be 5.30 to 6.30 pm. The cost will be £3.50 per session, all equipment provided.

From Monday 8th May, after a break for the Bank Holiday, the coaching will move to the grass courts on Ford Road, adding a third session for 13 years to adult players from 6.30 pm. On Sunday 14th May, the club will hold a Great British Tennis open day. A full free programme of activities will be available, including refreshments. Watch out for posters and banners around the village.

Continued on page 19



A coaching session on the grass courts.

SPRING MAKES AN APPEARANCE



Despite the varied weather conditions recently, Spring is definitely on the way with these lovely flowers beginning to grow on the side of the bypass, near the Bowling Green.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 18th April. The deadline for **adverts** is Friday 14th April.

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