

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 2 Volume 19

Lanchester, February 2018

For contact information, see page 2

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

The lively and exciting Lion Dance, which Chinese tradition claims brings good luck and scares away evil spirits for the year ahead, was performed in Lanchester to mark the beginning of the Year of the Dog - the Chinese New Year.

The dance was arranged by the proprietors of Golden Valley takeaway in the village, and is now a regular feature.

And it proved a popular attraction to shoppers and pedestrians in the village on a Saturday afternoon - this year on February 17th.

The noisy procession passed through the village, attracting interested spectators as the Lion made its way along Front Street.

Winnie Wu, proprietor of the Golden Valley, said a professional team from Newcastle came to Lanchester to perform the dance - having already done so on Tyneside and in Durham.



The spectacular Lion Dance performed in Lanchester to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

"I think it is something which local people have learned to appreciate. It is a spectacle which is part of our tradition, and which was popular in previous

years," said Mrs Wu. The Chinese lion dance is sometimes mistakenly referred to as dragon dance by most first timers. According to the experts,

an easy way to tell the difference is that a lion is normally operated by just two dancers and has a tail, while a dragon is longer and needs many

people holding a stick. Chinese lion dance fundamental movements can be found in Chinese martial arts.

Neil McKay



A young man trying the Lion.



The performers with the family from the Golden Valley who organised the show.



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

With reference to the letter by Greg Blakeman in the last issue regarding refusal of planning and lack of foresight for the future of the village, I would say that the refusal of planning is the complete opposite of what Mr Blakeman suggests. It actually shows great foresight by residents and planners to protect the village. The only benefits from the larger development applications over the last few years are financial benefits to the landowners and developers. They provide no sustainable long term benefits to the environment or employment in the village. There is a wide range of housing constantly on the market in Lanchester, including starter homes, so

the actual need of new builds on green sites is highly questionable other than for some people to make a quick buck. Mr Blakeman's assertion that "saying that the path is not wide enough is a pathetic excuse" is fundamentally wrong and shows a complete lack of understanding about the reasoning behind that decision. Obviously Mr Blakeman does not use this dangerously narrow path or have any knowledge about it. The carriageway itself is already narrow and will not allow the path to be widened. It was designed to cope with post war traffic and vehicles, not for today's high volume of heavier and wider vehicles. The only way to widen this path would be by the

substantial compulsory purchase of land from many private residences bordering the road.

Refusal of planning of these large schemes is protecting the village nature of Lanchester, which is the reason why so many residents enjoy living here.

If Mr Blakeman needs more car parks and a greater range of housing, larger schools and range of amenities then maybe he would be more suited to living somewhere that has all of the facilities he requires, such as Consett, rather than turning a characterful rural village into a town.

Please be aware that the developers have already started to prepare their appeal. If you want to protect our village please ensure that you lodge your objections to their appeal. Name and address withheld on request



A tractor travelling along Ford Road emphasising the dangers of using the footpath (taken before the tractor even reached the narrowest part!).

Dear Village Voice

The family of the late Florence Hall (Tolla) would like to thank everyone for their lovely cards, flowers and messages of condolence and sympathy. These were much appreciated and a comfort to us all at this sad time. The funeral collection in lieu of flowers

raised £468 which has been donated to the British Heart Foundation. Thank you for your generosity.

A big thank you to Crinnions for providing a superb buffet at Lanchester Club and the club steward and staff for all their help.

Katherine Ward

Dear Village Voice
Salt Bins in Lanchester Village

Hopefully, you're being well looked after by this service where you live this winter. I know we rely on it where we live. In fact, we'd struggle to get up/down our hill without it!

Whilst walking to/from the village, I've noticed there are some areas where things might be improved. Do we need some older smaller, broken bins replaced with larger yellow plastic bins which have greater capacity? If so, where?

Are there currently any locations without bins that might be considered as new locations?

If you think there's an issue where you live, just drop me a line with your personal details and exact location etc.

We can then see exactly what the situation is. Of course, any changes would need to be considered accordingly by Durham Council.

No promises, but if you think I might help, then drop me an email.

David Friesner, djf55@yahoo.com

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise, email: voiceadverts@gmail.com or telephone Lynda on 07851775297.

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

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View the Village Voice online (including past issues) at www.lanchester.villagevoice.co.uk

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for January is 16. The draw was made by L Baron (Gym).



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JOHN WILLS RETIRES

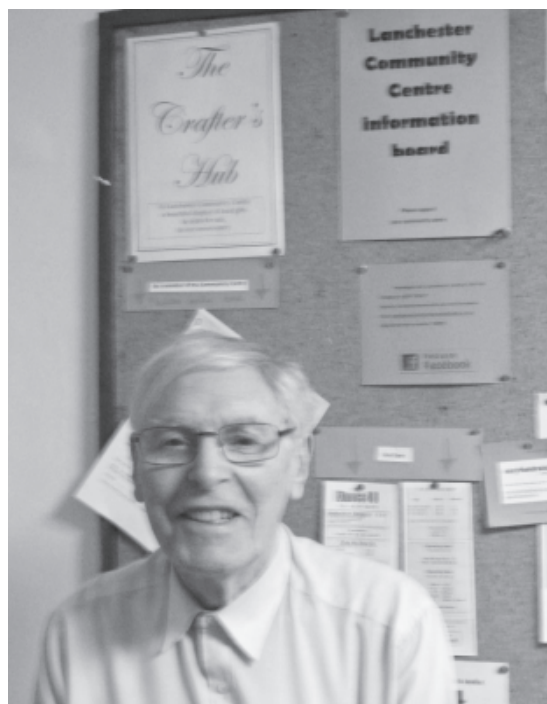
On January 17th John Wills retired from his post of Vice Chairman of Lanchester Community Centre. He had held this post for the last 13 years. He was elected to the Executive Committee in 1994 and became Vice Chairman in 2005, making a total of 24 years service to the Centre. His wife, Pat, has also been involved as a member of the Management Committee for most of this time and she also retired on January 17th.

During his time as a member of the Committee he was involved in many aspects of the Community Centre, doing a lot of practical work, particularly relating to the electrical systems, due to his background as an electrician. He repaired faults and advised on changes and improvements to the electrics. John was also involved with the heating systems in the Centre, cleaning and maintaining them for a number of years.

For some time he was also a member of the 'Computers for All' group, volunteering to assist people new to computing who could use the Centre's computers free of charge as well as gain instruction on how to use them. John was also responsible for marking out the car parking spaces in the Centre's car park and

always thought the Community Centre to be a great asset to the village and will continue to support and use its facilities. John has been a great servant of the Centre and his expertise and willingness to tackle many and varied jobs has saved the Centre thousands of pounds in maintenance costs; he will be sorely missed.

The Centre is always looking out for volunteers to do jobs like John has done, so if anyone is interested in helping out Lanchester Community Centre please contact Alison or Margaret at the Centre, telephone number 01207 521275.



John Wills in the Community Centre.

ROYAL VISIT



On Wednesday, 31st January, Prince Charles hosted an evening at Buckingham Palace to recognise volunteers and fundraisers for Macmillan Cancer Support. Phyllis Reed and Joan Osborne, who are volunteers in home support, were lucky to be nominated to represent our area and you can see by their faces how happy they were to attend and said that Prince Charles was a most charming gentleman.

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To the wonderful community in Lanchester for creating the Lanchester Village Calendar.

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Save the Children

MEL'S 'MARVELLOUS' MEAL



Guests enjoying their meal (see also photo on back page)

On Saturday February 3rd the Methodist Church was the venue for both adults and children to sample the delights of Mel Somersall's cuisine. A lovely two course meal prepared by Mel was served by members of the congregation, but this time there was an added extra in the form of a film. A children's film was shown in one of the meeting rooms and the adults simply had to turn around to look at the screens. The word 'Marvellous' and the picture of a man had been on the screen while the meal was eaten, making us curious for what was to follow.

It was a moving film depicting the life of a man who from childhood had

learning difficulties. Despite being ridiculed, scorned and bullied, his positivity reigned supreme. The word marvellous was uppermost in his vocabulary. He found his life marvellous in so many ways and refused to be daunted by life's difficulties. He had the happiest disposition, which made him a joy to many people, especially the football team he adored, namely Stoke City. He became their Kit man and mascot and they loved him dearly for his constant encouragement and his ability to make them smile when things were not going so well.

He influenced the lives of so many people not least the students of Keele

University who found him inspiring and appreciated his caring ways. He was actually awarded an Honorary degree in 2014 from Keele University. This of course he deemed as marvellous!

He was interested in religion and became a lay preacher in later years, which gave him even more opportunity to engage with people and brighten the lives of others.

This thought-provoking film is the true story of Neil Baldwin, born just after the end of World War 2.

This fundraising event raised £460.50, shared between the Methodist Church's two charities, 'Christians against Poverty' and 'Hope'.

Brenda Craddock



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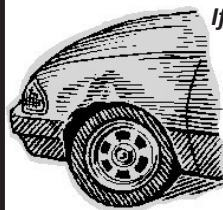
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PROJECT POPPIES 'Lest We Forget'

The first workshop of 2018 took place on Saturday 13th January when we were pleasantly surprised to see over 60 people taking part. 263 poppies were made and 278 painted which now brings the grand total of poppies made to 2753 and poppies completed 1792. The difference of 973 are in various forms of the painting process.

With the original target of 2,515 now surpassed we have set a new target of 4,000 and are extremely grateful to our two local County Councillors and the Mid Durham AAP who have donated money towards the project, as more poppies means increased costs.

We visited All Saints' Primary School in November where all the children made poppies achieving a magnificent total of 492.

We have orders for over 65 special poppies with Dog Tags and the money received for these is going to buy more clay and the rods. These poppies will carry the name of a loved one and will become a lasting memory of both the loved one and the Poppy project. These poppies cost £10 and we are happy to talk with anyone who would like one.

The next workshops are planned for Saturday 10th March and Saturday 19th May. Both will be held at Croft View Halls from 2-4 pm. There is still time to be involved, just pop along to one of these workshops. You will be made very welcome.

If anyone would like further information please contact Eric Hepplewhite on 07969808958 or 01207 521323 or erichepplewhite@btinternet.com.

ST BEDE'S MISSION TO LOVE

Pontop Partnership found themselves on a 'Mission to Love' during Advent. Parishioners, clergy, primary school staff and pupils along with the whole community of St Bede's Lanchester, enjoyed an enriching and enlightening Mission based around the theme of 'Unbroken' - an exploration into God's unconditional love for all of us.

Throughout Advent, St Bede's students were set a 'Mission Challenge', such as collecting over 500 kilos of food items for the foodbanks in the local community, preparing 117 shoeboxes for the shoebox appeal, (see photo back page) writing bidding prayers for Mass (which we celebrated at All Saints' RC Church) and thinking about positive changes students can make in their own lives.

The celebrations continued with the arrival

of the Youth Ministry Team in December, who helped us explore how God's unconditional love can heal and inspire. Sixth Form students were also blessed by a visit by Fr Eamon who talked to them about prayer, discipleship and the opportunity to always begin again in God's unconditional love.

All lessons were Mission-themed, from upcycling unwanted 'broken' pieces of furniture in Technology, to debating the significance of the environment linked to Laudato Si in Geography, to discovering how Gospel values and themes were addressed in works of Literature such as 'A Christmas Carol'.

Mission Week was also a wonderful opportunity to build stronger links with our parishes. Parishioners were invited

to Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each day in the school Chapel. At the close of Mission Week, parishioners, children from the feeder primary schools, parents and guests joined St Bede's students and staff to celebrate together at the Family Night, where we were delighted to welcome back to St Bede's, Fr Dermott Donnelly who shared with us some inspirational words and reflections. Mission Week reached an explosive finale with a visit from Christian Rapper J Vessel and DJ Kelechi, who performed to every year group throughout the day. During the performance, students were treated to some of J Vessel's most uplifting songs as well as participating in some ice-breaker activities and new dance moves!

*Alex Lawrance
Deputy Headteacher*



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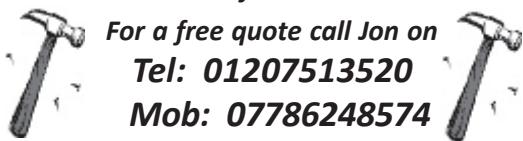
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PARKING AT THE EP SCHOOL

Double yellow lines may soon help to alleviate traffic delays in a familiar Lanchester congestion blackspot. The problems of parking outside Lanchester EP School and the resultant traffic congestion could hopefully be resolved soon following discussions between the County Council and police.

Durham County Council had received requests from the local councillors to look at parking restrictions close to the school to address the problems caused during school drop-off and pick up times. The road between Front Street

and the A691 is generally double parked for its full length, from junction to junction, essentially reducing the road to a one-way flow of traffic.

There are two access gates on the school side of the road which were initially proposed to be covered with a parking restriction but the police objected, saying that if the top and bottom junction as well as these two accesses were covered with waiting restrictions, it would create a 'slalom effect' on that stretch of road, which would not improve the safety on this road.

It was then proposed to cover the existing white

keep clears with double yellow lines to prevent parking on the verges as well as the bend of the road, and from the A691 for approximately 30 metres to prevent vehicles turning into Lanchester from being blocked by parked cars.

It is anticipated that the double yellow lines and parking enforcement should prevent parking on the junctions and bends. Local residents have received letters from the County Council informing them of the proposals.

Parents are being encouraged to only transport their children to school by car when "absolutely necessary".

Neil McKay

EP SCHOOL OPEN EVENING

We would like to welcome all members of the local community to come to our school on Thursday 1st March between 5 pm and 7 pm to have a look round, meet staff and children, enjoy some refreshments and to see the new extension, built last year. We were so aware of the disruption that affected many of you in the village during the building of the extension and also so grateful for your patience

during that time, especially those of you living in close proximity to the school.

We would now like to say a very big thank you to you all and invite you into school and see the new extension as well as have a look round the whole school as you might also enjoy a trip down memory lane!

The two new classrooms, the extension to the Nursery as well as two

new offices and a new main entrance have made a huge difference to our school and we are all very proud of it!

Come and have a wander, see the old and the new, enjoy a tea or coffee and chat to staff, parents and children.

We look forward to welcoming you all on Thursday 1st March between 5 and 7 pm.

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Our first outing of the year was to the Pavilion at Iveston, not too far away for a January journey but exotic enough to herald in the New Year.

There were surprisingly few people there - evidently a quiet time before the Chinese New Year.

As always, it's a delight to be there - warm and welcoming with attentive staff and such a lovely setting - the glass panels are just gorgeous.

The whole menu is extensive and makes for some very mouth-

watering reading but - the set lunch menu priced at £16.95 is pretty impressive and that's what we chose to eat.

From the soup choice we had chicken and sweet corn. We shared a wonderful selection of all the appetisers - salt and pepper chicken wings, salt and pepper spare ribs, Peking style spare ribs, crispy wantons (I do SO love those) and curry triangles. For the main course we had chicken with pineapple and ginger, sizzling chicken in Cantonese sauce, sizzling

beef, fried pork in oyster sauce, fried chicken in lemon sauce, and sweet and sour chicken.

One of the great joys of a Chinese meal is the sharing of all the dishes, being able to taste them all.

Some of us had a pud of fruits of the forest with mascarpone and we all had some of their lovely coffee.

All in all, a most enjoyable meal and lunchtime with which to start the New Year.

We look forward to many more to come during 2018.

The Gourmet Girls

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Meeting held on 13th February 2018

Park House Play Area

Barrie Alderson from Durham County Council attended the meeting to provide information on the proposed improvement work to Park House Play Area. This will include: replacing the safety surfacing within the fenced play area, replacing the two old springers with three new springers and including a hopscotch game within the safety surface. The remaining play equipment is sound. Barrie informed Members that the scheme provided good value for money and would be completed before the summer.

It was agreed that the project be approved and that additional money be allocated to repaint the existing play equipment.

Correspondence

Lanchester Cricket Club Beer Festival - Members received information from the club on the preparations for the Beer Festival to be held 25th - 27th May 2018. The Parish Council supports a number of measures proposed to address people bringing their own alcohol to the event and underage drinking.

Northumbrian Water Limited - letter - It was agreed that a representative from Northumbria Water Limited is asked to attend a future meeting to discuss concerns of sewer capacity.

Area Action Partnership and Parish Councils Committee

The AAP are considering a project to allocate £10,000 to undertake environmental projects across the mid Durham area. The fund will be administered by the County Council, however the projects will be considered and agreed at Parish Council Committee meetings. Members were asked to report fly-tipping hotspots.

Neighbourhood Plan

The draft policies have been drawn up along with a draft outline of the Neighbourhood Plan document. A Planning Meeting with members of the Working Group will be held soon to discuss fully the policy documents. Our planning consultant and Durham County Council are also reviewing the policies.

Lanchester War Memorial Working Group

The proposed design for the memorial has

progressed. A contractor to undertake the works has been appointed. Work continues to produce a complete and accurate list of names for inclusion on the War Memorial. The work on the war memorial has been planned for August and September.

Issues raised by Councillors and members of the public

1. Condition of the footpath on Ford Road - Information has been received from a resident regarding the poor condition of the pavement between Ford Crescent and Smallhope Drive. It was reported that repair work has just been undertaken on the path.

2. Fix My Street website - no longer used by Durham County Council

It was agreed that the County Council are asked why they don't use this reporting option any more.

3. Request for more grit bins - The County Council use a number of criteria to determine where grit bins should be located. It was agreed that a small group of councillors consider the quantity, location and quality of the grit bins and report back.

4. Walk - removal of stile and lack of signage - A ladder stile has been replaced with a gate and footpath signage is missing on a recognised walk. It was agreed that this is reported to the County Council.

5. Steps - Ridgeway to Valley Walk - It was agreed that the condition of the steps is reported to the County Council for attention.

6. Pedestrian crossing - Ford Road/Station Road - This can cause difficulty for pedestrians and cyclists because of the volume and speed of traffic at certain times of the day. The County Council have been contacted previously regarding this. Some works are planned,

including a dropped kerb and improved signage. It was agreed that a letter is sent to the Highways Authority asking them to identify possible pedestrian safety options for this area.

Grass Cutting Contract Press and public were excluded from this item. Members discussed and agreed a 3 year contract for 2018-2020.

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

It was agreed that a licence agreement be entered into with the County Council to cut the grass in this area for 2018.

Next meeting - Tuesday 13th March 2018 in Lynwood House at 7.15pm.

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LANCHESTER WI CELEBRATES

President Marie Murphy welcomed us on a bitterly cold, but extremely busy evening in February. Details of future events were given, including another visit to Kynren, an outing to Sunderland Glass Centre, Council meetings and events marking the 50th Anniversary of the Community Association. Jean described her attendance at a Council meeting and Dorothy read out a very funny narrative about the gifts of the Twelve Days of Christmas. We celebrated with members who had each served 50 years in our WI branch, Maureen Clarkson, Eileen Curnow and Jessie Goodall. They each received cards, certificates and flowers, and shared a magnificent

cake marking their proud achievement (see photo on back page). Raffle prizes were won by Betty Taylor and Breda Branscome. Following the 'Indian' theme of the evening, the competition was for a doll in Indian dress and winners were Marie Murphy, Jill Gladstone and Ann Grosvenor. We settled down to listen to Hilary Taylor describing her journeys in India. She has seen so many changes within society there, many of them brought about by women and it was very interesting to hear how various needy members of society were receiving support. Over time, Hilary's friends in India have been responsible in helping people living in slum areas. A hospital and a crèche for the use of

working mothers have been created. Doctors, dentists and eye specialists give treatment free of charge. The 'city of the child' is located in the countryside and cares for those children whose parents cannot look after them. Abused women can find refuge in a convent and outreach programmes have also been set up, which also care for men. In India, the family was looked upon as the prime caring unit, but in modern times, many children have moved abroad, leaving parents with no support and it's realised that care is needed here also. Hilary painted a picture of a country changing and developing rapidly, with women taking an increasingly important role in many areas.



Jean Dougherty, Jill Gladstone, Hilary Taylor and Marie Murphy with dolls dressed in Indian costume.

THURSDAY CLUB UPDATE

Our first meeting of the year was planned to be a joyous celebration but - snow stopped play and

everything had to be cancelled. We look forward to the rest of our year and the

rescheduling of our New Year celebrations just a little later than planned.

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NEW BUILDING FOR WILLOW BURN

Willow Burn Hospice, in partnership with Helen McArdle, is delighted to announce plans to shortly commence building works on a new state of the art, six bedded Inpatient Unit on its existing site. Helen McArdle is supporting the construction of this new facility with a generous donation of £1.5 million.

The building work is planned to get underway over the coming weeks with a view to it being completed towards the end of 2018.

Each of the six bedrooms will offer modern, well equipped facilities and include an en suite. Each room will also have access to its own outdoor terrace

area which will provide stunning views over the landscape gardens and Lanchester itself.

The hospice will shortly be launching a capital campaign that will further support this new facility. The campaign will focus on raising funds for additional specialist equipment.



The proposed new building at Willow Burn Hospice.

Paul Jackson, Chair of Willow Burn Trustees said:

“This is the most exciting news we have had over my 12 years as a Trustee of Willow Burn Hospice. Helen and Michael McArdle’s generosity is quite breath-taking. Helen is a local Stanley girl and their children went to St Bede’s School, Lanchester. They have strong ties to the Derwentside area.

I do consider the Willow Burn Hospice as part of the Lanchester Community and as such it is very dear to us. The service it provides for our community is so important; without this

people in our local community would have to travel out of the area. The hospice also provides a very vibrant day care centre, helping people with a wide range of medical problems. We still need help from the local community, especially the Lanchester Village.

One of the very special features of the 6-bedroomed unit is we have the facility to name each room individually. If any person or business would like to sponsor a room and leave a lifetime legacy with a name of their choice please contact Paul Jackson via the hospice.

It is my hope and wish that we use the Lanchester Community and we all support a fundraising campaign to create a unique bedroom named the Lanchester Suite.

We intend to hold a community meeting at Lanchester Community Centre on Saturday 24th March at 4pm. Please join us to get involved in some fundraising events.”



Paul Jackson

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LONELINESS UPDATE

Loneliness isn't like a physical condition that can be seen and recognised. And we don't go around with labels on our foreheads advertising the fact, which makes it especially challenging for others, whether family, friends and colleagues. Now is an ideal time for us all to make more time for others and try to do something which makes a difference. Here are some ways of engaging with others:

Complete the short circular walk around the village, on regular occasions and stopping as needs be. See how many other residents are out getting similar exercise. You'll discover lots going on and to talk about as you complete your route. Similarly, if you're able, why not walk a short stretch of the Lanchester Railway Valley Path, and rest a while on one of the

many benches located along its length - stopping to take in and enjoy the views, wildlife and birdsong. There's always keen walkers and residents walking their dogs to pass the time of day with. (I have a favourite tree, viewed from the path and not far from the village centre, which I like to walk to, see and compare it in all its glory as it changes through the seasons). Finally, check out our Village Voice for group activities and select one

which interests you enough to want to find out more about it. Then, commit yourself to making contact, going along and finding out more.

Finally, having met in December with the Mid Durham AAP and updated them on our project progress, we have reviewed other recently produced local guides and are now moving to the next stage of compiling our 'Welcoming Lanchester Guide'.

SATLEY WI REPORT

Our President Linda Horn welcomed 14 members to our February meeting. The monthly newsletter was discussed and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Members were informed that we have been invited to a coffee morning, to be held in Lanchester Community Centre, on 15th March commencing at 10 am.

We enjoyed our post Christmas meal at The Punchbowl in Satley and yet again the Sticky Toffee Pudding was the star of the show. Names were taken for our visit to The Gala Theatre to see 'Kiss Me Kate' in June. Members were asked to choose from two suggestions for our May outing and the winner was a day trip visiting Gilsland, Houghton Garden Centre and Carlisle. Our guest speaker was Rob Mackay from Durham County Council who gave an informative

and thought provoking talk on how we should correctly dispose of our rubbish. He dispelled many myths about what should, and should not, be placed into our recycling bin and answered our numerous queries. He also explained what happens to the rubbish when the lorries are emptied and confirmed that he was wearing a top that had been made from recycled material - it just looked like a normal fleece to us. He was thanked by Aldwyn Anderson.

We then enjoyed refreshments which were supplied by Joan Smith and Kathleen Snowdon. The raffle was won by Linda Butterfield.

Our monthly competition for an item made from recycled material was won by Christine Wilson, 2nd place Joan Smith and 3rd place Avril Carpenter.
Linda Horn



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FASCINATING LOCAL HISTORY

Lanchester Local History Society says a big thank you to Shirley Lamb for relating her experiences as a Matron at the Lanchester Home for 24 years between 1973-1997. The home was set up to meet the new legislation of the Mental Health Act 1959 to de-institutionalise mental health patients. Shirley and Dennis Lamb were appointed by Durham County Council in 1967 with contracts stating, 'working hours could not be envisaged', but staff had a half a day off a week, often working in split shifts. They had previously worked in Derbyshire, Cheshire and Manchester and brought their expertise to Lanchester. The Home used the three buildings previously used as Lee Hill Cottages, now Woodham Court. There was a Training Centre for 60 adults behind the Home and the

'stick' house was made into a laundry. Adult men with learning disabilities aged 16-65 years were housed here from Prudhoe Hospital, Earls House and family homes. Care was taken to treat residents without 'labelling' and make a home for the 30-34 residents who were welcomed as part of the community. Staff did not wear uniforms to continue this homely atmosphere, and although care staff were given uniforms, they quickly got 'lost' and forgotten in a cupboard! Changes gave residents a family home and their own clothes; their own name was embroidered by staff ensuring individuality. Staff worked hard to maintain a homely atmosphere, decorating the spaces themselves. With benefit money covering accommodation, spare money was saved and spent by residents on extras, eg TVs, soft toys

etc, and their annual holidays at Scarborough. It was important that there were few strict rules and if individuals wanted to take the bus, they could or they could be chaperoned. Residents worked in the training and education centre from 9am-3.30pm. Literacy and numeracy were covered and wooden crafts were made to sell at coffee mornings. Other residents worked locally at farms or the gardening centre. Life of these residents dramatically changed when they moved to the Lanchester Home and each individual was able to develop and flourish. **Moulded Glass Objects seen in January's edition.** Thank you to Ian Appleby who believes they are bird cage feeders/ drinkers, the round end would push through the corresponding hole in the wire cage allowing birds treats or a drink.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Lamb and Vegetable Moussaka

Today, so many foods which once seemed 'foreign' and alien are well known and widely enjoyed. This delicious dish has a fabulous aroma which is a clue that something good is cooking. Serves 4, suitable for freezing and if you're not keen on aubergine, substitute another layer of sliced par-boiled potatoes instead. You need ...
Olive oil, 2 teaspoons
Lean minced lamb, 500g (1 lb 2 oz)
Onion, 1, finely chopped
Garlic cloves, 2, crushed
Lamb or vegetable stock cube, 1, dissolved in 150 ml, (1/4 pint) hot water
Tomato purée, 2 tablespoons
Mixed dried herbs, 1

teaspoon
Cornflour, 2 tablespoons, blended with a little cold water
Courgette, 1, chopped
Aubergine, 1, small, thinly sliced
Potato, 1 large, par-boiled and sliced
Greek-style natural yogurt, 200g (7 oz)
Egg, 1
Mature Cheddar cheese, 50g (2 oz), grated
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
METHOD
1) Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.
2) Heat the olive oil in a large saucepan. Add the minced lamb, a handful at a time, cooking over a high heat to seal and brown it. Add the onion and garlic and cook, stirring often, for about 5 minutes.

3) Stir in the stock, tomato purée, herbs and courgette. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 10 minutes without a lid. Stir in the blended cornflour and cook gently for 2 minutes, until thickened.
4) Spoon half the mince mixture into a large ovenproof baking dish. Cover with the aubergine slices. Spread the remaining mixture over them, then arrange the sliced potato on top in an overlapping layer.
5) Beat together the yogurt and egg, then stir in most of the grated cheese. Season, then spread over the potatoes. Sprinkle with the remaining cheese, then bake for about 45 minutes, until the topping is set and golden brown.

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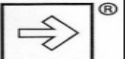
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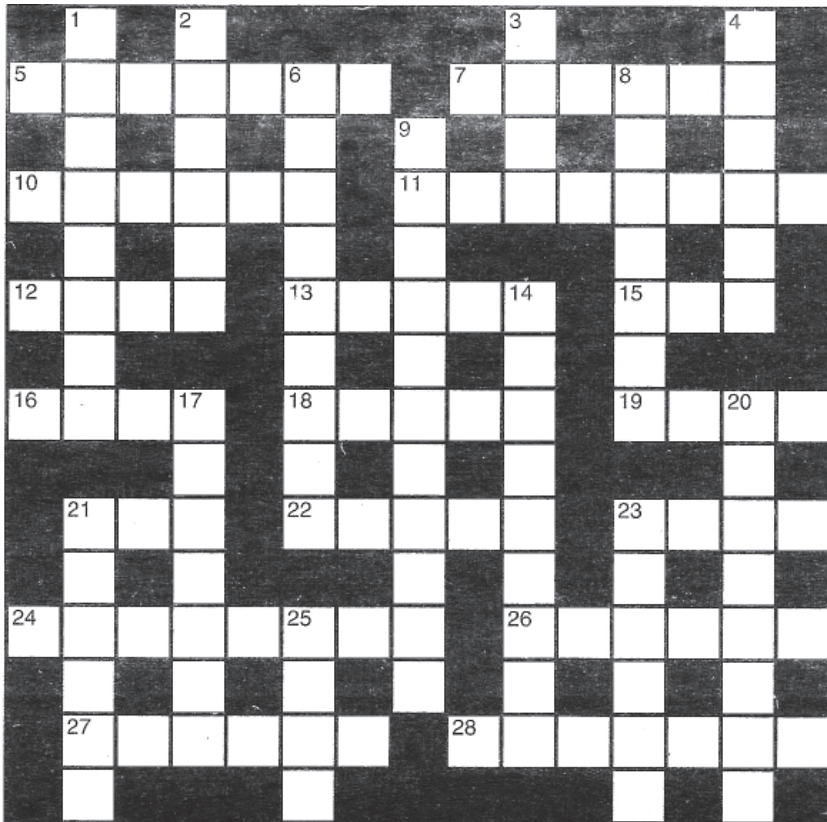
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CROSSWORD 142



ACROSS

5. Satanic (7)
7. Second childhood (6)
10. Universal (6)
11. Eating disorder (8)
12. Red iron oxide (4)
13. Selfishness (5)
15. Wrath (3)
16. Coveted (4)
18. BR air pipe (5)
19. Viral disease (1,1,1,1)
21. Grave stone inscription (1,1,1)
22. Girl's name (5)
23. Passing away (4)
24. Desperate (8)
26. National Park in SW England (6)
27. Artificial (6)
28. Substitute (5,2)

DOWN

1. Envy (8)
2. Fight (6)
3. Prohibited (2-2)
4. Desecrate (6)
6. Indecipherable (9)
8. A Crimea country? (7)
9. Consequence of the consumer society (11)
14. Vet ranked as occult experience (4,5)
17. Sadden (7)
20. Change days I opt for total misery (8)
21. Mayhem maker (6)
23. Regret (6)
25. Devours (4)

Name _____

Address _____

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

CROSSWORD 141

There were 22 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to Di Tute of Greenwell Park who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 141

ACROSS

1. Doge
3. improper
9. tonic
11. numerator
12. put one's foot in it
13. line-out
15. sickie
17. rictus
19. bonanza
20. by hook or by crook
22. showiness
23. loath
24. retreats
25. left

DOWN

1. date palm
2. genet
4. mind-set
5. ramsons
6. pyrotechnical
7. retention
8. grit
10. contortionist
14. neighbour
16. backchat
18. Slovene
19. baby-sit
20. base
21. ovate

LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

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.

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



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LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB

The first meeting of the year for Lanchester Flower Club was held on 24th January. Instead of our usual meeting in the Community Centre we all went to Chapters Restaurant at Derwentside College. Twenty seven members

enjoyed a lunchtime meal. Everyone enjoyed the food and of course the chatter. We would like to thank all the staff at Chapters who looked after us so well. All the members would most certainly recommend this venue and we will no

doubt be visiting again very soon. If anyone would like any details or information about the Lanchester Flower Club then just call Helen Tomlinson 01207 503667 Chairperson or Lestrine Kelly 01207 521494 Secretary.



Flower Club members enjoying their meal at Chapters Restaurant.

BEAT THE SCAMMERS

Older people are being bullied and misled over the telephone into sharing personal information, credit card and bank details, or buying goods they don't want. 'Beat the Scammers' is a community based project to give older people the confidence and skills they need to hang up on nuisance telephone calls. It is led by Age UK County Durham with funding by Mid Durham Area Action Partnership. The Beat the Scammers Development Worker, supported by fully trained and DBS checked volunteers, is keen to

come out to give a talk to older people's groups in the Mid Durham area. The talk which lasts about 45 minutes raises awareness about telephone scams and fraud and explains how new call blocker technology can help. Everyone receives a free Beat the Scammers Information Pack. Some people will also be eligible for a free call blocker, which prevents unwanted telephone calls. These have been funded by Mid Durham AAP and are fitted free of charge by Age UK County Durham. If your group would like a

talk, please contact George Barber at Age UK County Durham on 0191 374 6568 or email bts@ageukcountydurham.org.uk.

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WHAT'S ON?

Sunday Bridge

Come along to the Community Centre on 4th March at 2.00 pm. The entrance fee is £3.00 and all profits to the Community Centre.

Thursday Club

Our next meeting, at 1.30 pm on 15th March, will see us celebrating our 38th Birthday.

Will members who participated please remember to bring along their Birthday Cards.

Thursday Club Coffee Morning

In aid of the Great North Air Ambulance, a coffee morning will be held on Thursday 22nd March from 10.00 to 11.30 am, in the Community Centre Small Hall.

Tickets £1.00 (or pay at the door) include coffee/tea with a piece of cake or scone. Raffle, Tombola and Jewellery tables.

Our 2 coffee mornings last year raised an amazing £929.30. A big thank you to all who helped us.

We hope many of you can join us again this year and bring a new friend along with you.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 13th March, the subject will be 'Small Mammals North East England and Beyond' with Veronica Carnell, Northumberland Mammal Society.

Meet at 7.30 pm in the dining room of the Community Centre.

Satley WI

Our next meeting will be on March 12th at 7.15 pm in Satley Parish Hall when our guest speaker will be John Gall. Please feel free to join us.

Community Centre

Coffee Morning

The monthly coffee morning will be on Thursday 8th March.

Lacemaking

In the upstairs room of the Community Centre, on Mondays from 10.00 am - 12.00 noon and Fridays 7.00 - 9.00 pm.

Needlecraft

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.

Flower Club

The next meeting will be in Lanchester Community Centre on Wednesday 28th March. The demonstrator will be Karl Brunton and her theme will be 'Anything Goes'. Everyone is welcome - come and join us and enjoy watching an extremely good flower arranger and listen to her stories. If you would like a really relaxing and enjoyable afternoon, then this is where you need to be.

Lenten Lunches

Churches Together in Lanchester and Burnhope will be holding **Lent Lunches** at the Methodist Church on Tuesdays March 6th, 13th and 20th. Please bring lunch to share between 11.30 am - 12.00 midday. Tea and coffee will be provided. Between 12.00 and 1.00 pm we will be following the York Course. Everyone is warmly welcome.

Open House

Join us in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 1st March 11.30 am until 1.00 pm.

Community Association 50th Anniversary

Join us on Saturday 17th March from 11.00 am - 3.30 pm for a fun day with demonstrations, information and games, and refreshments including cake and squash, all free of charge. The celebrations will resume at 7.00 pm with an Evening Concert by Lanchester Male Voice Choir, with guest musicians Roseanna Whitton (recorder) and Jim and Marilyn Gibson (various instruments). The evening will end with a pie and pea supper. **Please bring your own 'bottles' and glasses.**

Tickets for the Concert, £10 pp, are on sale at the Centre (01207 521275). 'Wine and Dine' raffle tickets are also available at £1 each. Come and enjoy this important day of celebration of the life and history of our village. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

Social Club

Quality Entertainment every Saturday evening from 9pm. Come and dance the night away!!!

Saturday 3rd March - Lee Paul - Top Class Singer
Saturday 10th March - Tia Louise - Popular and Talented Young Singer
Saturday 17th March - Kris Clarke - Guitar Vocalist

Saturday 24th March - Ashleigh - Top female Singer

Saturday 31st March - Peter Kelly - Male Vocalist of the Year 2013

New for the Bank Holiday From 8 pm Sunday 1st April - Disco and Karaoke.

Vintage Tractor Club

Meet on Wednesday 7th March at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Social Club.

KoGs presents Let the Good Times Rock'Roll!

Join us on Saturday 24th March from 6.00 pm at Lanchester Methodist Church for great music, dance, re-created classic game show fun, food and prizes.

Tickets £8 per person adults, £5 children under 10. Contact Laura Cole, 01207 654291, 07428500059 or Mervyn Burdon, 01207 237161, 07776307729.

Earth Hour

7-9 pm, Saturday 24th March. Switch off your lights at home and join us for a star gazing session at the community orchard, Newbiggen Lane. You'll be amazed at the stars that can be seen on a clear night when you're away from local light pollution. Warm clothes, binoculars and a flask essential!!

All welcome. For more details contact Steve Bailey 521884.

Las Vegas Night

Raising money for Willow Burn, Emirates Riverside Stadium in Chester le Street will be host to all the glitz and glamour of a high end casino on Saturday 10th March.

With classic gaming tables such as roulette and blackjack and more, Las Vegas Night is perfect for any old hats to the casino world, but also a great place to give it a try. Live entertainment throughout the night is from Adam Carter as he brings the hits of Elvis Presley to life. Tickets, £35 per person, also include a delicious two course meal and a sparkling reception and \$10 free chips to every guest.

Booking is available at www.willow-burn.co.uk or call 01207 523900 for more information.

Ceilidh

Lanchester All Saints and Burnhope are holding a ceilidh in the Social Club on Saturday 21st April with traditional North Country dance music by Angels of the North.

We shall have a Faith Supper, please bring food to share, also Raffle, Bar and Tombola. Families welcome.

Tickets £7.50 from Social Committee Members or Rob Matthews 01207 771044 or Margaret Walters 01207 521214. Children under 12 free.

Come along and dance your socks off.

Paradiso Social Club

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 11th March at 7 pm, in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and a film.

The film we will be screening is 'HIDDEN FIGURES' - the incredible true, untold story of 3 brilliant Afro-American women working at NASA, who served as the brains behind the launch into orbit of astronaut John Glenn. This visionary trio crossed all gender and racial lines to inspire generations - a funny and heart warming story.

All are welcome. Ticket entry (which covers raffle, refreshments and the film show)

£2.50 members

£3.50 occasional visitors

£2 young persons

Cuppa, Lunch and Company

Free Cuppa, Lunch and Company, age 70+.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th March, 12 noon to 2 pm in Lynwood House. Please phone to say if you would like to come and if you need a lift. Call Jo: 07969 454815.

A Seasonal Treat!

Winter over? Well Lanchester Choral Society's Spring Concert reflects all the seasons as it is called 'SEASONAL SELECTIONS'. Come and enjoy a wide variety of music from Christmas carols to a Johann Strauss waltz, from Walking in the Air to Hiawatha, from Messiah choruses to the famous Easter Hymn and even to Carmina Burana (that's the music Newcastle United come on to the pitch with - no kidding!). Performance date is Friday 2nd March at 7.15pm in the Methodist Church. Tickets from 01207 520427, 01207 521458 or any member.

Local History Society

Subject: Longovicium, a Roman Town at Lanchester

Speaker: Rodney Hawkins

Date: Friday March 2nd
Time: 7pm

Venue: Lanchester Community Centre.

We are delighted to welcome Rodney, a Friend of Longovicium, to talk about the Vicus and recent research and findings.

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

Lanchester Methodist Wives and Friends

The Spring programme continues with:

March 7th at 7.30 pm, Devotional with the Reverend Ann Jefferies.
March 21st at 7.30 pm, An Irish Night. 'A Touch of the Emerald Isle' with Bernard and Lynne from Kaffeehaus Amadeus.

Tickets £3 to include light refreshments from Mary Slane 07779648059 or any member.

Spring Clean Lanchester

The annual village litter pick (organised by the Lanchester Partnership) will be on April 21st from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Please help.

Bags, litter-pickers, etc will be available on the Green.

Library Book Club

On Monday March 26th at 2.30-3.30pm, the group will be discussing 'The Rosie Project' by Graeme Simison. A great read. If you have not come across Don and Rosie before, pick it up and join us for this discussion.

'Funny, endearing, and pure wonderful escapism' (Independent).

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday March 15th from 5.30-6.30pm, the discussion will be 'Starter for Ten' by David Nicholls, from the same author as 'One Day' and 'Us'. 'Brilliant ... we would recommend it to anyone' (Richard Madeley and Judy Finnegan).

If you would like to join this new group, pop into the library and pick up this book and join the discussion.

Chatterbooks

Will be held on Monday March 12th from 3.45-4.30pm. Children aged 8-11 years old have the opportunity to read and take part in activities relating to the book of the month. Places are limited so please contact Zena or another librarian at the library or contact 03000269514.

Future date is April 16th.

Mothers' Union

The speakers at the meeting on Wednesday 14th March, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House are Shirley and Alan Anderson who will speak about the Lazarus Home for Girls. This talk was on last year's programme but had to be postponed.

Lanchester Fun Run and Summer Fayre

Lanchester Partnership, Village Vita group are organising a Fun Run in the grounds of Burnhopeside Hall on Sunday 22nd July.

The 2.5k run is planned to be the first in recreating the popular village Fun Run. Together with Willow Burn Hospice, a traditional Summer Fayre will be held at Burnhopeside Hall.

If you are interested in taking part in the event please join the Facebook page Lanchester Partnership, Village Vita.

We are looking for volunteers to help to marshal the event on the day. Please contact the group via the Facebook page if you are able to help with this event and/or are interested in helping us to recreate some of the past great events such as the Lanchester Parade.

Lanchester WI

Our next coffee morning will be held on March 15th, from 10am in the small hall of the Community Centre. You can pay at the door if you haven't a ticket. We will be following an Easter theme and will enjoy all the usual pleasant events, including a cake stall and a scarf and jewellery stall. Everyone is most welcome and contributions for the stalls, tombola etc will also be gratefully received.

We plan another visit to Kynren in September - please check the date and cost, along with all the other planned events.

A reminder that we are celebrating our own village Community Association on March 17th, so come along and see the various activities provided at the Community Centre.

Our speaker next month will be Charlie Gibbs of Steampunk Gin Ltd and our competition is a Recipe using Gin ... sounds great fun!

Women's World Day of Prayer

This service is held annually in Lanchester, and indeed in churches throughout the country. Each year the service is held in one of our three churches, on a rotation basis. This year it has been decided that it will again be held in the Methodist Church, because we need to use the projector. The service is written by women from various countries in the world and this year comes from the small country of Suriname in South America.

The service begins at 2.00 pm on Friday 2nd March. It lasts one hour and various members of our churches take an active part in it, as do their choirs. Everyone is welcome to attend. The service is interesting as it is informative, prayerful, thoughtful and creative and there are refreshments afterwards. We hope to see many people there. You will receive a warm welcome. Please come!
Brenda Craddock

BEER FESTIVAL (AND GIN?) 2018

Organising for our fifth beer festival is well underway and some things are in place. We are extremely grateful for Aquaid who will be the event sponsor for the second year. In entertainment, we have The Buskers booked for Friday night, Radiostar for Saturday and the extremely popular Zen are booked to close the Sunday. These are three top bands and should provide great entertainment. Two more acts are to be booked to fill the Sunday. We have confirmed that Downs Syndrome North East and Willow Burn Hospice will be the charities we support on the Saturday and Sunday respectively and just waiting for

confirmation for the Friday night.

Last year was a fantastic event and we will struggle to improve on the two main days, but we are going to try something new on the Friday. That is our sponsors' night and is 7-10.30 pm, but after the success of our gin festivals we intend to introduce a selection of gins just for that one night and open up a limited number of tickets to the public. Once this is all confirmed, the tickets will be available on the website - lanchesterbeerfestival.co.uk. If we go ahead, then entry on the Friday night will be strictly by ticket only. We do need to emphasise that the gins will not be available on the other two days.

The event site will be fenced again this year to ensure that the door staff can control access and enforce the challenge 25 scheme. Anyone who is interested in sponsoring a drink or something more can contact Andy McConnell on 07952 546694 for information. Every sponsor gets a number of tickets to each day of the event in return for their sponsorship as well as advertising through the website and in the programme.

St Patrick's Day Party
Saturday 17th March, the Cricket Club will hold a St Patrick's Day party, with a piper, traditional Irish food and music. Entry will be £5. Everyone welcome.
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ALL SAINTS FAMILY FUN DAY



The kids were having lots of fun at All Saints' Family Fun Day on 27th January which raised around £700.

Mickey and Minnie Mouse entertained the children.

LANCHESTER WI CELEBRATES



We celebrated with friends, each of whom had been valued WI members for 50 years. Left to right, Jessie Goodall, President Marie Murphy, Eileen Curnow and Maureen Clarkson. See report on page 8.

ST BEDE'S MISSION TO LOVE



Some of the 117 shoeboxes which were prepared by St Bedes's students together with over 500 kilos of food items for local community foodbanks.

See story on page 5.

MEL'S 'MARVELLOUS' MEAL



Members of the Methodist congregation who served the meal and helped in the kitchen were also 'marvellous'. See page 4.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 20th March.

The deadline for **adverts** is Friday 16th March.

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