

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 1 Volume 19

Lanchester, January 2018

For contact information, see page 2

CAROLS ON THE GREEN



Lots of happy people as well as dogs enjoying the Carols on the Green Service on Christmas Eve.



Band members smiling even in the cold.

BOXING DAY HUNT



Readying the hounds before the hunt sets off.



Riders and spectators gather in front of Crinnions.

As usual every year, the Boxing Day hunt took place, setting off from Crinnions in the village centre. With the weather clear and sunny, a large crowd turned out at 11 o'clock in the morning to watch the hunt. With Crinnions supplying the many hounds who milled among the crowds. Despite the winter cold, crowds continued to grow until the blow of the horn and a speech from the Hunt Master. Then riders, horses and hounds set off up Newbiggen Lane to commence the hunt, maintaining the long-held tradition and providing a great morning out for many.

Tom Bartles-Smith

SNOWY SCENES AROUND THE VILLAGE



A beautiful view looking down Newbiggen Lane towards Front Street.



Keeping up the exercise on the Valley Walk.



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
Cattle attack on 'Cold Pig Hill Walk'

On 27th December we were walking between Newbiggen Lane and the Lanchester Valley railway path on the public footpath that links the two and is part of one of the Lanchester Parish recommended walks. Cattle were in both the footpath field and that adjacent. One cow attacked us, it was black and had 4-5" long horns. I was unable to release our dog in time, which is recommended by the National Farmers' Union, and was knocked to the ground during a second attempt to free our dog. The purpose of this note is to warn those that might use the path to be careful and to urge you to report

incidents. Please report any incident where injury or a serious threat to your or your dog's life occurs on a public right of way to the County Council footpath officer or via the website.

This is not aimed at causing grievance to farmers and their livelihoods, but to prevent injury and ensure that a farmer is made aware of any individual/ herd that might be a threat. If our dog hadn't slipped her collar I believe the cow would have continued to pin her down and crush/horn her till death.

Name withheld on request

Dear Village Voice
Yet again planning has been refused for new houses and there is no foresight for the long term of the village.

And I object to hearing the village does not want or need new houses, this is totally incorrect. I know quite a few that would welcome it.

We should be saying to these new developers,

yes but we want some affordable houses for the youngest who work or live in the village.

There is a plot of land for sale near the village, they should be asked to purchase this and turn it into a car park. We could also ask for crossings to be put in.

Then there could be improvements to the road junctions; create an overflow part on the river as a part flood reduction scheme - these are just some of the things that can be part of the negotiation.

And saying the path is not wide enough is a pathetic excuse. It can be widened. As for the school, the extra rates that would come in from new houses would more than cover the cost of a classroom extension and staff needs.

We need to try and take a more positive approach to the development otherwise we will create a bigger problem like the houses that will be built nearby and they will use the village as there are no shops up there to support the houses.

Greg Blakeman

JOHN GRAY



With great sadness we announce that John Gray passed away on 23rd December after a long battle with Alzheimer's and a devastating stroke. In his career he was Chief Design Engineer for Royal Ordnance Factory, Birtley but retired when he turned 50. This gave him lots of opportunity to indulge in his love of the village. He was in a folk group called the Ackward Cuddy in the 80s with Martin Matthews, Dick Jewell and David Fullen playing in the King's Head on Sunday nights for a year or more. He was also a member of the photography club in the village. He was a founder member of the Village Voice newspaper, being Treasurer for many years

and also involved with photography and advertisements and he did this with great enthusiasm.

He was also a member of Lanchester Partnership and Lanchester Male Voice Choir, as a top tenor. He sang with the choir for 43 years and loved it; he was also their Treasurer for 20 years.

He enjoyed being involved with anything to do with the village of Lanchester. He remained involved until his illness prevented him from doing so. He spent his last three months in St Margaret's Nursing Home being lovingly cared for by all around him. He was well loved and respected by anyone who met him and will be sadly missed.

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).

By post:
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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 December is 22. The draw was made by Angie of the Playgroup.

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MBE FOR LANCHESTER LADY



Ethel Armstrong

Ethel Armstrong's NHS career is as old as the health service itself. Having been there at its birth on July 1948, the widow who lives in Broadoak Drive, Lanchester, worked for more than four decades at various hospitals around the country, mainly in radiography and nursing, and since then for two charities that support current and retired NHS staff. Her services to the health service and to

charity led to Ethel being awarded the MBE in the most recent New Year's Honours List. But it is not only her MBE which has meant she now finds herself thrust into the spotlight. She is currently at the forefront of celebrations to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the NHS. She explained: "I'm the only person in the country who has done continuous service for the NHS since 1948", she said. "I did 42 years at the sharp end and I'm still working hard for the two charities that actually support the NHS and retired NHS staff."

Which was why a local TV news programme filmed the 87-year-old walking through the doors of Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary, 70 years after a timid teenager from South Moor, Stanley, walked through the same doors to begin her first day's work as a cadet nurse. "I was entering a completely different world. I had never set foot inside a hospital before. People didn't before the NHS was founded, not unless they could afford to." Since that fateful day Ethel worked in various parts of the country mainly in radiography and radiotherapy and retired as Tutor/Advisor to the Breast Screening Service in Liverpool in 1989, after which she and her late husband Harry moved back to their native

County Durham. She joined the Durham branch of the NHS Retirement Fellowship almost immediately after her retirement. The Fellowship, where Ethel is co-patron, is a welfare organisation for retired caring professionals and their partners to meet and socialise with others who are new to having time on their hands. Ethel explained: "It doesn't matter a jot whether the retired worker was a laundry worker or a consultant, they are treated exactly the same within the Retirement Fellowship." She served as welfare officer in 1992 and she became Chairman of the Durham branch in 1994 (a position she still holds). In 2005, she was elected as the Regional representative for the North East and became part of the National Council. She was elected vice-Chairman in 2009,

Chairman in 2011 and President in 2013. Uniquely, having been actively involved for so long and such a driving force within the Fellowship, the Trustees asked her to become the first Retirement Fellowship member to become a Life Patron of the organisation from 2015. John Rostill, Chief Executive of the NHS Retirement Fellowship said: "This remarkable lady has worked tirelessly for the benefit of our 10,000 members and has travelled thousands of miles by train each year to enthuse members with her passion, enthusiasm and commitment. This 87 year old is unique, sets an example that will be difficult to replicate and I can't think of anyone more suitable to be honoured, at the beginning of the NHS Retirement Fellowship's 40th year." *Neil McKay*

GIRLS REPRESENTING THE WORLD OF PHYSICS!

Two keen scientists gave up a day of their October holidays to bring the world of Physics to citizens of the North-East. Eva and Marnie Caden-Lambert worked with the Institute of Physics at Durham University's Celebrate Science event to demonstrate and explain key Physics phenomena to those both young and old. Eva and Marnie, both students at St Bede's Catholic School, were commented upon by fellow Physicists for their great explanations and enthusiasm for the subject. They spent the morning inspiring many young children with their demonstrations of the Physics of Food. They made a jellybaby wave machine and even showed how to make marshmallows expand!

They were rewarded for their participation by the renowned organisation with their certificates recently.

We are so proud of their dedication and hope they continue to work with the organisation in future.



Eva and Marnie Caden-Lambert with their certificates from the Institute of Physics.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 12th December 2017

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 29th November - approved.

Correspondence

1. Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party - Agreed that Councillor Paul Jackson be included in the county draw.

2. Local Government Finance Act - Members were informed of certain restrictions in setting the precept.

3. Christmas and New Year Waste Collections - details received.

4. Bird Flu poster - to be displayed on the notice board.

Area Action Partnership Members considered the evaluation received on the children's summer activities and were pleased with the attendances at the Lanchester sessions. The Parish Council agreed to further financial support

of the summer activities subject to receiving further detail.

Councillor Friesner provided feedback on a workshop attended on Friday 1st December at Hamsteels Community Centre regarding Dementia Friendly Communities. Further information is awaited on the project.

Neighbourhood Plan

Mike Wardle provided members with an update. Draft policies have been received from the groups which will be considered at a meeting on Thursday 14th December. It is hoped that a draft document will be available in February.

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Councillors discussed the recent event and agreed that the event had been a great success with large numbers attending. A

number of volunteers had worked on the event. The Police had been in attendance and correspondence received after the event confirmed that they were happy with arrangements. The extended fencing and relocation of the gazebo to the middle of the Village Green had worked well. This year had seen the introduction of a sound system for the speech. A photographer had attended the event and provided a number of professional photos.

Parking Signs

Members considered correspondence received from the County Council regarding a recently installed parking sign. It was agreed that this matter is referred to the next meeting to allow Councillors to view the sign.

Fencing at Hurbeck Cottages - Members agreed a price of £612.00 to install fencing.

Street Furniture - Front Street - It was agreed that advice should be sought from the County Council regarding street furniture on Front Street.

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

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at Lynwood House at 7.15 pm.

POLICE REPORT

This month our priorities have been concentrated around rural crime especially regarding poaching as well as patrols around our antisocial behaviour hotspots during the school holidays. We have seen some positive results around crime reported which include a quad bike stolen from a farm near Iveston which thanks to a tracker being installed led officers to the suspects and resulted in the owner having his quad returned to him. On 19th December two males were arrested in Consett

town centre suspected of being responsible for the theft of an elderly lady's bank card and money from Front Street, Lanchester. These males are currently released under investigation pending an ID parade. On 21st December a male was arrested and charged for criminal damage to the door at the Spar.

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PCSO 6780 Lisa Cullen-Jackson

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th January 2018

Lanchester Partnership - Community Events Group

A member of the group attended the meeting to inform Councillors about the community events being progressed.

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 12th December, Planning Meeting 12th December - approved.

Police report - received.

Correspondence

Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society - Letter of thanks received.

Area Action Partnership and Parish Councils Committee

The minutes of the Parish Council's Committee meeting were received. Councillor M Gray provided an update on the previous meeting which included information on: Dementia Friendly Communities, Fly Tipping Cameras and Youth Fund Allocation. Councillors were reminded that the Area Action Partnership offers a small grants scheme to community groups.

Neighbourhood Plan

The minutes of the meetings held on 23rd November 2017 and 14th December 2017 were approved. Mike Wardle provided members with an update.

A meeting with Durham County Council to discuss the status of Back Lane is to be arranged.

Street Furniture - Front Street

Members discussed the variety of street furniture on Front Street and concern of the different styles of bollards. It was agreed that a letter is sent outlining the concerns of the Parish Council.

Parking Issues

(i) Parking Sign

Members considered that a recently installed sign

for the car park behind Park House was not obtrusive and would wish to see it retained. It was agreed that the County Council are informed of the view of the Parish Council.

(ii) Waiting Restrictions

The Parish Council considered proposals to introduce waiting restrictions at St Bede's Court and Front Street to address ongoing road safety issues generated by school time traffic. The Parish Council fully support both schemes and asked that following implementation, the enforcement of the schemes takes place.

(iii) Parking - Peth Bank

Members considered the ongoing problems of parking at the junction of Peth Bank and Durham Road. It was agreed to ask the County Council to look at this matter.

(iv) Traffic Management - St Bede's School

Members were informed of a proposed scheme to introduce a second car lane at the front of St Bede's School to assist with school drop off and pick up times. The school is committing a substantial amount of money to address the congestion and parking problems currently being experienced.

A planning application has been submitted to the County Council to seek approval for the scheme. Members considered the plans and welcomed the application. It was agreed that a letter of support is sent to the County Council.

Annual Play Inspections

Members were informed that the annual play inspections have been

completed for Hollinside, Hurbuck Cottages, Manor Grange and Park House. The inspections identified some routine maintenance which would be addressed.

Wooden Animal Carvings

The wooden carvings on the village green path are showing signs of wear, particularly the fox. It was agreed that prices are sought for a replacement wooden fox.

Maintenance Report - received.

Grass Cutting 2018 - it was agreed that quotes are sought for the work.

Precept 2018/19

It was agreed that the precept be set at £60,401 for 2018/19.

This would result in an increase in band D council tax of £1.10 a year or 2.78%.

Financial report - discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment - approved.

Questions from Members -

Members were informed that a walker and her dog had been injured by a cow whilst walking on a recognised walk in Lanchester. It was agreed that this matter is reported to the public access forum at Durham County Council.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 13th February 2018 at Lynwood House at 7.15 pm.

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A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Throughout every year the Lanchester Male Voice Choir and the Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society, conducted by Harry Carr and David Hughes respectively, give the village so much pleasure that we instinctively know that we will enjoy their performances. This is especially the case with the annual Christmas Concert - 'A Celebration of Christmas' - when both come together for an evening of carol singing in one of the village's three churches.

On 18th December 2017 the choirs met in the All Saints' Roman Catholic Church to give a rousing performance. A grand concert ensued.

Father Cornelius O'Connor warmly welcomed the sizeable congregation, drawing them in and setting the atmosphere for the

wonderful concert which was to follow. Rev Stuart Earl and Rev Rupert Kalus each read an appropriate biblical text (as did Fr O'Connor) relating the Christmas story. Naturally the choirs sang most of the carols, some fifteen being sung in all, with the congregation invited to partake in five of them. They duly did so and the roof was raised.

'O Come All Ye Faithful', sung by everybody, was the opener and then the two choirs sang together 'Love Came Down at Christmas' immediately setting the theme for the evening. Before the final hymn, 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' the two choirs sang together 'O Holy Night' and they certainly did full justice to those two beautiful carols. The choice of music was superb and each choir sang their selected carols.



A packed church for the 'Celebration of Christmas'

The evening proved a real Christmas feast of music for everyone. Our Christmas had really begun!

A collection at the end of the service raised some £361 which will be donated to local charities.

Brenda Craddock

CHRISTMAS FAIR AT ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL

All Saints' Catholic School held their Christmas Fair on December 8th. Staff and students worked hard to prepare the school: the hall held a host of different tombolas, raffles and stalls decked in festive food and gifts, a lot of which had been produced by the pupils. There was

also a beauty spot, offering pretty designs for hair and a mysterious grotto where Santa and his Christmas Elf waited to hear about presents the young people would like to receive on Christmas morning. A Christmas Fair tells us that Christmas is just around the corner!



Preparing for the Christmas crowds, the lull before the rush!



The Christmas grotto with Santa and his Elf, waiting for a busy time as the pupils arrive.

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TV APPEARANCE FOR ALICE

Loyal advertiser in The Village Voice for many years, Alice Guthrie, owner of Sew What, has become a TV star!

Seeing the Channel 4 advert looking for crafters to take part in a new series of 'Kirstie's Handmade Christmas', she was immediately attracted to it. Alice decided to apply for the Advent Calendar Category. After filling in forms, submitting photographs of previous projects, samples of her work and plans of her intended Advent calendar, she was one of four lucky contestants chosen to be on Kirstie's programme. Very exciting news and an honour to be chosen. Apparently there were thousands of applicants. In September a researcher visited her home to film her working on one of her calendar prototypes and obtain some background information. Then in early October Alice went to a beautiful secret location in Devon to record the programme. "The other

three contestants were lovely" Alice said, "as was Kirstie. She made us all feel special and treated us like friends."

Alice had been sworn to secrecy from the start and no one was to know the winner of the competition. Although Alice did not win, she thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and after all, being chosen for the programme was a great achievement. She was a 'hit' on the

programme, shown on 11th December, her personality and sense of humour shone through. Very well done Alice.

Other notable projects achieved by Alice in recent years have been bringing a top jazz band from the Durham Jazz Festival to the village, maker of costumes for Kynren, and this year she became one of the acting cast. What next?

Brenda Craddock



Kirstie Allsopp with Alice Guthrie

LUNCH FOR THE VILLAGE BUS

A 'Bus'ing Christmas lunch was held in December and was enjoyed by all. There was a great atmosphere and everyone was in good festive spirit. Lovely tombola and raffle prizes were won, good food

enjoyed and Maurice entertained us with seasonal music. A massive thank you to everyone who helped with preparations and on the morning itself, to those who donated prizes, to Lynwood House for the

use of their lovely room and last but not means least to Luke, who as always looked after his passengers so well. A fantastic sum of £381 was raised to help to keep the Village Bus running.

Karin Bravington



The attractive tombola stall at the Village Bus lunch.

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TWENTY4HENRY

To fundraise for the charity Henry Dancer Days, which supports young people suffering from cancer across the North-East, the event Twenty4Henry was held in Lanchester Methodist Church.

17-year old Sam Grimes, along with many fellow performers including brothers Matthew and George, entertained with live music continuously for 24 hours between 7pm on Friday and Saturday, 8-9th December. Playing through the early hours of Friday night and Saturday morning with a variety of instruments ranging from the guitar, piano and even the banjo, Sam and fellow musicians continued to play on even past sunrise. Beginning with Christmas music at 10 am on Saturday, they

continued with songs from the musicals at 2 pm followed by the Grand Finale of the music marathon at 6 pm, ending on 'Rockin' all over the World' by Status Quo. This was a great end to the huge undertaking of 24 hours of non-stop live music, an impressive feat, all performed to raise money for Henry Dancer Days.

Founded by Jane Natrass after the passing of her son, Henry, to Osteosarcoma, the charity provides grants for families with children undergoing treatment for bone cancer to provide practical support when it is most needed. The charity also runs the Storytelling Project at Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary, which allows children to escape

the troubles of cancer through imagination.

Twenty4Henry was a huge success with many turning out to watch the fantastic music being performed. So far the event has raised well over £1000 in donations, but more donations to support Henry Dancer Days are welcome on Sam's fundraising page at <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraiser/samgrimes1>, open for another 3 months. Massive congratulations to both Sam and all musicians for taking on the monumental challenge, and also to Jane Natrass and the hope that Henry Dancer Days, through events like this, can continue to give the amazing support it provides.

Tom Bartles-Smith



Left to right: Sam Grimes and George Grimes.

AN AMAZING END OF YEAR FOR HENRY DANCER DAYS

The charity has enjoyed support throughout 2017 but the year ended with 2 fantastic donations.

Consett Lions Club were proud to support the charity with their annual concert, which was a very successful evening, raising £400. President, Neil Waby said, "We're delighted to support Henry Dancer Days and thank Joyce Shaw for

putting it together and to the various artistes who gave their time and support."

"Twenty4Henry" was the brainchild of young Sam Grimes of Lanchester. Sam is the brother of one of Henry's closest friends, George. He performed for 24 hours non-stop (even whistling between numbers!) and raised over £1200.

Jane, Henry's Mum and Charity Founder was overwhelmed, "For a young man to come up with the idea, organise it all, then carry it out is incredible."

"I'd like to thank both the Grimes family and the Lions whose fundraising efforts mean so much to a small charity such as ours."

Jane Natrass

CRAIG'S CONCERT

We all love carol concerts at Christmas and a lovely concert was held at All Saints' Parish Church on December 7th. It was the Church Music Group, under its conductor Mr Craig Davies, who gave the concert and it was very much enjoyed by all who attended. The choice of Christmas songs and carols was varied and the blend of voices beautiful. The singing was accompanied by Mr Craig Davies on organ or piano, Mr Rob Matthews on guitar, Mr Paul Stannard on bass guitar. Craig Davies is our church organist and conducts the Music Group. Mr Andrew Fiddes, himself a church organist, assisted on the piano and organ and throughout the programme the Christmas story was closely followed. The audience were invited to join in the singing of a number of the more familiar Christmas carols. It was a concert of which the Music Group could be proud. The refreshments after the concert brought to a close

a very happy and enjoyable evening. The serious purpose behind this concert, held annually, is to raise money for Christian Aid and the Terence Higgins Trust. Craig spoke to us about this year's special Christian Aid Christmas Appeal based on children across South Sudan and Burkina Faso without enough to eat. Every day children are dying from hunger and are suffering so much because of the ongoing, three year devastating conflict in South Sudan. Craig reminded the audience that it is at this time of year that people tend to overindulge in food, making us more mindful of those desperately hungry. Craig went on to say something about the Terence Higgins Trust, which is at the forefront of the fight against HIV. People gave generously, raising over £300 which was divided equally between these two very worthwhile charities.

Brenda Craddock



All Saints' Parish Church Music Group performing a concert of Christmas music in aid of the Terence Higgins Trust and Christian Aid.

HOW WE HELPED THE HOMELESS IN 2017

It's said that many of us are a couple of bad decisions away from being homeless. Whatever the statistics there are far too many living on our streets all year round. I guess when it's Christmas it drives people to help and donate in any way possible.

This fundraising started out by me and some colleagues employed by Mental Health Concern, soon grew and with friends, family and people local to Lanchester area, the items we collected went way beyond what we ever expected. Our aim was to collect for Crisis in Newcastle, which opens its doors over the festive period to hundreds of homeless and vulnerable people, serving food,

giving out essentials as well as presents to those most in need and providing what people need the most - company and time. We collected well in excess of 1,500 individual items ranging from toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower and sanitary products to hand warmers, coffee, biscuits, sweets and flasks and everything in between! Due to the kindness of people we had a number of hand knitted items coming in; there was even a 'name the doll' that was handmade and along with a raffle kindly organised by the Cuppa and Chat group, we were able to purchase 5 high quality sleeping bags, suitable for minus 7 degrees. We also donated

approximately 140 backpacks. Some people offered to take a basket into their workplace to collect hats, gloves and scarves from colleagues. The drop offs took two runs in a large estate car and nearly filled the office space of the Linskill Centre, Shields.

I am planning on doing this every year until we rid our country of people finding themselves homeless. Look out for a coffee morning coming soon and please support this worthy cause.

A final HUGE THANK YOU to everyone involved. You all know who you are, and if you wanted to get involved but didn't get chance there's always 2018.

Justine Harrison

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EP KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITY PLAY

Attending Nativity plays is always a delight and it is amazing how each play can be so different, and yet tell the same story. There was quite a different flavour to the Nativity presented by Key Stage 1 children in

the EP School on December 18th. The title 'Prickly Hay, a Nativity Haydown' gave the reason, and a great bale of hay on the stage gave evidence to the title. A further clue could be found in the costumes.

There were the traditional nativity figures who played their characters very well and joining the cast were some very attractively dressed cowboys and cowgirls. My goodness they knew how to dance and all the

pupils knew how to sing of course, so the nativity opened with a very bright scene and attractive singing. The play unfolded from there and obviously care had been taken to make sure words were clearly said and

audible. The singing and dancing which interspersed the action were delightful and this unusual Nativity Play yielded much praise and appreciation from the very full school hall. *Brenda Craddock*



The cowboys and cowgirls.



The Nativity scene.

EP NATIVITY AND CHRISTINGLE

On Thursday December 21st a very special Nativity service was held in the Parish Church by the EP School. It is a fitting way to end a very busy term with the quietness and peace of a service held in church and a service which reflects the true meaning of Christmas. The service

ends with selected pupils, each carrying a Christingle Orange walking around the church. The orange contains a lighted candle representing Jesus as the Light of the World. This is shown most effectively when the electric lights are dimmed and only the candlelight flickers,

showing how light can transform darkness. Thus is the transforming light Jesus could be in the darkness of a world where man's inhumanity to man defies belief. What a wonderful concept these children are conveying to us! The Nativity Play was performed by year 6, who

brought their message to us in drama and song very well indeed. It was a sensitive, sincere and mature performance by these young people. Key stage 2 pupils had the role of helping with the singing of appropriate songs and of course the rest of the school and the audience

were invited to help with all the lovely carols interspersed throughout the play. It was a most enjoyable afternoon and one of a very high standard. The school choir ended the afternoon by singing one of their Christmas songs. Well done everybody. *Brenda Craddock*

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Year 6 perform their nativity.

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LANCHESTER CALENDAR 2018

Thanks to generous support in the village, the Lanchester Calendar for 2018 'sold out' and raised £1,652, to be shared equally between our own Willow Burn Hospice and Save the Children. Cheques were presented on Monday 15th January, by Jan Taylor

(Project Co-ordinator), Margaret McCabe (Treasurer) and Mike Stoddart (Sales & Sponsorship) to Irene Wilkinson, NE Regional Co-ordinator for Save the Children, and to Paul Jackson, Chair of Willow Burn Trustees.

The organisers expressed their gratitude to the artists who allowed their work to be included in the calendar and to the Lanchester Newsagents and Lanchester Hardware for their help in selling the calendar.



Back row, left to right: Mike Stoddart, Tim Taylor; Front row, left to right: Paul Jackson, Jan Taylor, Irene Wilkinson, Margaret McCabe.

CUPPA & COMPANY

The Cuppa & Company Christmas lunch was wonderful; we had 27 children from the EP school choir singing beautiful songs and everyone who came received a Christmas hamper. These were gratefully received. We had several raffle prizes, a

beautiful painting was donated by Sarah Milburn and a generous voucher for Talking Heads hair salon.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported throughout the year by baking, providing lifts and support on the

day and generous donations for the raffle and hampers. It wouldn't be possible without your continued support and it means so much to everyone who attends.

The next lunch will be 20th February, not 13th as previously planned.



Ladies enjoying their Cuppa & Company Christmas lunch.

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NEW DEPUTY HEAD FOR EP SCHOOL

Mr Andrew Knighton has recently taken up the post of Deputy Head at the EP School. He is a native of Lanchester and actually attended the school as a pupil from 5 years of age until secondary school age. He now lives in Consett but has very happy memories of his school days here. He has taught for more than 20 years in schools at Consett and Stanley, holding the posts of Deputy Head and Headteacher during that time and latterly has worked for the local authority as a Numeracy Consultant.

He has returned to teaching because he thinks "working with children is brilliant". He enjoyed the learning experience at school and he wants the children in his care to have a

wide experience of learning, within a caring environment.

Mr Knighton observed that the main changes in the way children learn lie in technology. The old chalk boards have been replaced by interactive whiteboards and textbooks by iPads. "Technology can put children on the moon, under the sea, or on the top of Mount Everest, with the click of a button." Mr Knighton is very interested in football and will no doubt bring the skills he has in football to

the children he now teaches. He has two sons who are also football enthusiasts. It is their main Saturday pursuit. He is settling down very happily in the EP School where Mrs Davis, all the staff and parents have made him feel so welcome. "I thoroughly enjoy coming to work" he commented. How very fortunate the school is to have such an enthusiastic, pupil centred and caring new Deputy Head and one of Lanchester's own!

Brenda Craddock



Andrew Knighton and his sons.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

A Special Cottage Pie

Here's a really delicious and warming evening meal for a day when Spring seems ages away. It's 'special' because it has a topping of potatoes and leeks and it's even nicer with some grated Cheddar cheese added to the top before putting it in the oven. Serves 4 people.

1 lb cooked minced beef (450g)
2 medium sized onions, chopped
1 large carrot, chopped very small
1 level tablespoon flour
Half teaspoon mixed herbs
Half teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley

Half pint hot beef stock (275ml)
1 tablespoon tomato purée
Oil to fry
Salt and freshly milled black pepper

FOR THE TOPPING
2 lb potatoes (900 g)
2 medium leeks, chopped
2 oz butter (50 g)
Salt and freshly milled black pepper

METHOD

1) Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 6/400 F(200 C) and fry the onions until they are soft.
2) Add the carrot and minced meat, cooking for about 10 minutes, when the meat and carrot has browned a little.

3) Season with salt and pepper and add the cinnamon, mixed herbs and parsley.
4) Stir in the flour, mix the tomato purée with the hot stock, add to the meat mixture, bringing to simmering point.
5) Boil the potatoes for the topping and cook the leeks gently in the butter. When the potatoes are done, cream them and stir in the cooked leeks, together with the butter and season to taste.
6) Put the meat mixture into a well-greased baking dish, spread the potato mixture over the top, add the grated cheese if you used it and bake for about 30 minutes.

THURSDAY CLUB



Lovely floral Christmas arrangements made by Thursday Club ladies.

At our December meeting we welcomed two Financial Advisors, Gary Smith and his colleague, who gave us a brief introduction on financial issues which included: Power of Attorney, Trust Funds and Deputising. One point in particular concerned Joint Accounts and the problems which may arise if no Power of Attorney was in place should either one begin to suffer with Dementia or Alzheimer's. This information took us all by surprise - very thought provoking.

We continued the afternoon by making Christmas Table Centrepieces, with encouragement from Olive for we novices. Ten arrangements were produced in all with each one very different - from colourful, glitzy and sparkly to traditional and contemporary. Hidden talent, ladies. We ended the afternoon in true Christmas spirit with sherry, mince pies, laughter and friendship. In 2018 all our meetings will be at 1.30 pm with the exception of July which will be at 7.15 pm.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH



A very full church for the Christmas luncheon.

Mel Somersall is well-known and well-respected. His culinary skills are of the highest and he enjoys nothing better than to cook a luncheon for family, friends, or Lanchester community. He has done this with success on many occasions and raised a lot of money for a variety of good causes. That is why, on December 6th, at least 150 people gathered at the Methodist Church for a Christmas Luncheon, organised by Mel. It was a massive undertaking for him, though he was ably assisted in serving the meal by members of the

Methodist congregation. It was a measure of the good fellowship and community spirit that is so much a part of Lanchester that so many people could sit down together and enjoy one another's company. Mel thanked them for their generosity. The money raised amounted to £1,500 which was extremely good and later in the year will be put together with other money raised by different events. The Methodist Wives and Friends Group recently had a 'Swish Party' and they

also made a considerable amount of money. The aim is for at least £3000 to be raised by the congregation in one year, as part of their charity giving. This year the two charities are 'Hope', a charity which helps and supports people who wish to try and help themselves, and 'Christians against Poverty'. Mel's event was certainly a challenge but it fulfilled its purpose by raising so much money. Thank you Mel and friends.
Brenda Craddock

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CRICKET CLUB NEWS

The two Gin Festivals went really well, with all who attended having a convivial evening consuming the juice of the juniper berry. Lots of new faces visited the club for the first time and we hope they come back for future events. David from Pip Stop did a great job in helping pick what gin to have and what mixer to have with it. There were a stunning 23 gins to choose from, so needless to say, no one quite managed to try them all! It was just really nice to see the club full and

people having a great time.

The Christmas draw raised over £600 and thanks go to all who bought tickets and to those who donated the prizes. All prizes have been claimed.

Sadly, we won't be going ahead with the Burns Night idea due to some problems we have encountered.

On the cricket front, the indoor nets have been booked and will start the first Sunday in February.

They will be at Fyndoune as usual, with the juniors

on from 2-4 pm. The first hour will be for under 11s and new starters, with 12-15s in the second hour. Seniors and 16s and over will be on a Monday night from 7-8 at the same venue. Each session will be £2.50 per person. As yet, an overseas player hasn't been secured. Sam Crooks who played last year is keen to come back but the situation is fluid. Negotiations are ongoing to secure a shirt sponsorship deal and players will be updated as soon as anything is confirmed.

'BORN A KING'



The Circuit Choir ready to perform, after a word from Harry.

Just before Christmas, on December 20th, the North West Durham Methodist Circuit Choir gave what has become their Annual Christmas Concert in the Methodist Church. The church was almost full because this group of singers always gives a very nice concert. They are conducted by Harry Carr and their chosen work was a Christmas Cantata written and composed by John W

Peterson, entitled 'Born a King'.

The words of this cantata were beautiful and this choir always pays great attention to the words, as well as producing a very good blend of voices. Bass, tenor, alto and soprano parts were sung with feeling for the music and their sincerity is foremost in their performance, which is no surprise with Harry Carr

as their leader. The people who sang the solo parts did them full justice and the cantata was accompanied by Mrs Mavis Coulson and a small band.

Refreshments were served after the concert bringing to a close a very enjoyable evening. The Christmas Story had once again come alive through the lovely singing of this choir.

Brenda Craddock

LANCHESTER MEDICAL CENTRE Patient Participation Group

Stay Warm, Stay Well This Winter

Christmas is now over and we have welcomed in 2018 with some beautiful red and pink skies and a flourish of cold winds and icy paths. Cold weather can be bad for your health. That is why it is important to follow these basic steps so you can enjoy this season and stay safe and well.

Keep your home warm

* During the day heat your main living room to around 18-21C (64-70F), other rooms to around 16C (61F).

* During the night aim for your bedroom to be around 18C (64F).

* Take care if you use a hot water bottle making sure it is in good condition and never use boiling water. Alternatively use an electric blanket that is in good condition.

* At dusk close your curtains and doors to block draughts and keep the heat in.

* Is your home well insulated? You may qualify for a grant. Are

you on the best energy tariff?

Staying healthy

* Do keep a good supply of your medication; prescribed and over the counter. Your pharmacy can arrange delivery to folk in need.

* Do keep a good supply of food to ensure you can have regular hot meals and drinks.

* Do keep in touch with family, friends and neighbours. Give them a telephone call, it's good to chat.

* Don't sit in a chair all day long if the weather prevents you from getting out; keep active.

* Don't go outside in unsuitable shoes, especially slippers, even just as far as the bin.

The Patient Group welcomes members of all ages.

We meet at Lanchester Medical Centre every 2 months on Wednesdays starting at 6.00 pm. Our next meeting will be on February 7th.

CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME!

Breaking up for Christmas in a Primary School is always a really happy time, full of excitement and fun, and Year 1 and 2 students at All Saints' School threw themselves into the

celebrations during their festive party.

The old traditional games were played with gusto and a lot of noise, and all the youngsters really enjoyed the team games.



All Saints' pupils getting ready for the balloon race.



Pass the Parcel ... Don't drop it!

NATIVITY PLAY STARRING ALL SAINTS' STUDENTS

There is always enthusiasm and something very special about a school nativity play, when the age old story of Mary and Joseph is retold, and we see them seeking shelter in Bethlehem before the Baby Jesus is born. Pupils from All Saints' School presented their Nativity play with enthusiasm and enjoyment during the last week of term. The cast was large, with angels, peasants, shepherds, Roman soldiers and shining stars all dressed in fabulous costumes. The festive tradition was continued in the songs, sung by all the performers: 'Bethlehem', 'Knock on the Door' and the rousing 'Hospitality'. All the cast were word perfect and the performance was thoroughly enjoyed by the performers and the audience. A lovely atmosphere, wonderful costumes and acting, and a great start to Christmas!

EP FOUNDATION NATIVITY 2017



The youngest children, ready to begin their Nativity.

This first Nativity Play at the EP School on Wednesday December 13th was absolutely delightful. These 3-4 year olds were so enthusiastic and entered fully into their performance. Their teacher, Miss Butler, led the children in telling the story of Christmas, and at certain points in the narrative, she asked the children to tell her about the leading characters in

the Christmas Story. The children certainly knew the answers and had no hesitation in shouting them out. The story was interspersed at appropriate points with the singing of several delightful Christmas songs and carols, the words of which each pupil knew perfectly. There was a delightful blend of sound from

these very young voices. No doubt there will be some good school choir members in the future.
Brenda Craddock



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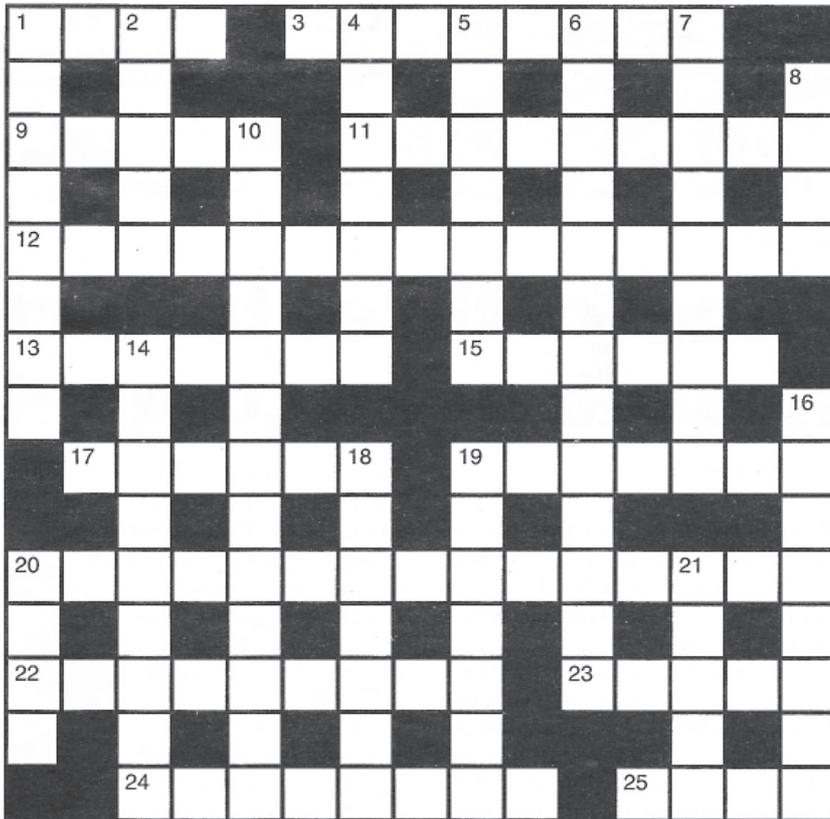
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CROSSWORD 141



Name _____

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

LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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



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ACROSS

1. Chief magistrate of former Venetian republic (4)
3. Inappropriate (8)
9. Stimulant (5)
11. Part of a fraction (9)
12. Cause embarrassment by lack of tact (fig.) (3,4,4,2,2)
13. One way of restarting a rugby match (4-3)
15. False reason for absence from work (6)
17. Death grin from citrus mixture (6)
19. Boom (7)
20. One way or another (fig.) (2,4,2,2,5)
22. Ostentation (9)
23. Detest (5)
24. Ebbs (8)
25. Goes with over, hand and wing (4)

DOWN

1. Tropical fruit tree (4,4)
2. Mammal from the savage nether world (5)
4. Attitude (4-3)
5. Sam & Ron's garlic (7)
6. To do with fireworks (13)
7. Ability to keep nothing with internet reboot (9)
8. Courage (4)
10. Stirringly tonic for twister (13)
14. One who lives close by (9)
16. Cheek (8)
18. Inhabitant of Ljubljana perhaps (7)
19. Is Tabby to accept care of another's child? (4-3)
20. Contemptible (4)
21. Egg shaped (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 140

ACROSS

1. endorsed
5. strain
10. cross the Rubicon
11. pass muster
13. El Al
15. symptom
17. icterus
18. platoon
19. genetic
21. Doha
22. call it a day
25. as sick as a parrot
27. tirade
28. Hartnell

DOWN

1. escapes
2. duo
3. resumption
4. ethos
6. tuba
7. accelerated
8. nonplus
9. breeding
12. sympathiser
14. ate no toast
16. maniacal
18. podcast
20. crystal
23. Lhasa
24. aced
26. rue

CROSSWORD 140

There were only 12 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to G Davison of Front Street who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

SUDOKU

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

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

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

“One of the best evenings”

The Society’s Show and Tell always brings out interesting finds and family heirlooms.

The night began with a hedgerow find of Roman fighting balls; flattened spheres of limestone, which could cause a lot of damage. Another member brought an engineered brass rectangular object that no one could identify. Also two moulded glass pieces were passed around and many suggestions were thrown into the discussion. If anyone has further knowledge let us know.

Ceramics do survive from the nineteenth century intact, a member brought in an ‘Ally Sloper’ tobacco jar, apparently he was an early Victorian/Edwardian character found in cartoon strips, 1867-1900s.

A beautiful brown transferred printed Sunderland jug was admired for its decorative top rim edge and delicate print.

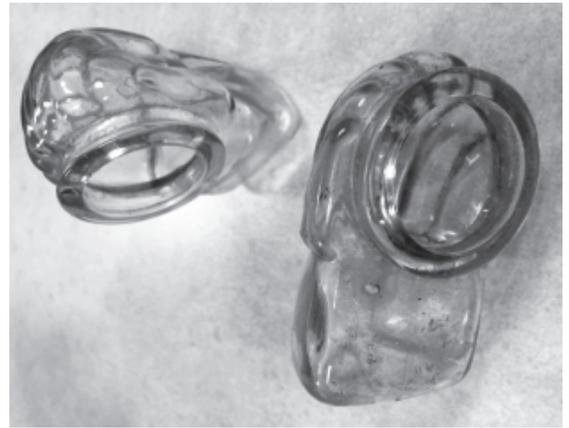
Personal family items included notes about the theory of Nursing from 1936, which made interesting reading. Every incident and procedure had instructions including how to dispose of clothes to the family and included verminous clothes!

Few of us have kept our childhood dolls and books; in the 1940s and the war period, toys were very difficult to get hold of, if you could afford them. Two tiny dolls, dressed in knitted garments that were still valued treasures to their owner were admired. Also a child’s book of the time, ‘The Water Babies’ by

Charles Kingsley with a beautiful printed hardback cover.

Another interesting book was a Manual of Field Engineering 1911; early engineers were military personnel and the use of dynamite, construction of railways and problem solving is covered in this small volume.

Other local booklets included the official programme of the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1935 held at Shotley Bridge Spa Grounds and Benfieldside Pictures, Echoes of the War (Boer Wars). The booklet includes fine photographs of the Editor and Committee, the Pretoria Day procession



Moulded glass objects, but what are they?

and group photographs. Local photographs of great interest included the duck pond at Iveston and an album covering the Lanchester and Iveston Coal Company Limited. Photos of local drift mines, engine rooms and the buildings

associated with mining were beautifully composed and reproduced.

We all left entertained and informed by the interesting finds we observed and admired, and we look forward to next year’s event.

BOYS’ BRIGADE QUEEN’S AWARD WINNERS

Recently two members of the Boys’ Brigade company were presented with their Queen’s Badges. The Queen’s Badge is the highest award that any member of the Boys’ Brigade can receive, and the whole Company are proud of Thomas and Jacob’s achievements.

Jacob Lloyd and Thomas Normanton received their awards from the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Durham and Mr Alan Ferguson (Fergusons Transport) at a presentation in Durham District of the Boys’ Brigade.



Above, Jacob Lloyd and below, Thomas Normanton receiving their Queen’s Badges.



LADIES WHO LUNCH

On a particularly bright sunny day in December we headed off into Northumberland to have our Christmas meal at Walwick Hall, an absolute gem of a small but perfectly formed boutique hotel. There’s a statue of a life size stag in the forecourt and that accurately sets the stage for inside. Warm, cozy fires, welcoming staff, comfy accommodation with much attention to detail ensuring everyone’s comfort and amazing decor, which needs to be seen to be totally appreciated. We were soon settled at our table perusing the menu, some of us with wine, some with elderflower cordial and some with City of London dry gin and tonic - all very civilised!

The menu was lovely and we eventually settled on sampling for starters: Parsnip, sage and white bean soup with candied chestnuts, Beetroot and goats cheese terrine with a Waldorf salad, Gin and tonic cured salmon with

dill, avocado, cucumber and soda bread and Ham hock and halloumi croquettes with piccalilli, crackling, apple and celeriac salad. Mains were Traditional roast bronze turkey, goose fat roasted potatoes, root vegs, sprouts, pigs in blankets, sour cherry stuffing and roast turkey gravy, Slow braised ox cheek, dates, apricots, fondant potatoes, glazed roots and braising liquor (this was pronounced to be ‘ambrosial’ with much licking of lips) and Poached fillet of hake, aubergine, coriander and brown

shrimp crumb, Laredo and sauce vierge. Puds were Homemade traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce and roasted nuts, Vanilla pannacotta with mulled wine baked oranges and pistachio biscotti and Banoffee pie cheesecake with salted caramel ice cream with a side of chocolate flakes (I have to say - a pud ‘to die for’).

It was a superb meal which we all thoroughly enjoyed. We shall most definitely be visiting in the New Year. Walwick Hall is quite simply - Exquisite!

The Gourmet Girls



WHAT'S ON?

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be 'Birds' on Sunday 25th February. Meet in the Community Centre car park at 9.30 am.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 13th February, the subject will be The Natural History of Upper Teesdale Project with Steven Gater, Chairman DWT. Meet at 7.30 pm in the dining room of the Community Centre.

Sunday Bridge

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

Computers 4 All

From January 2018 Computers 4 All will open on Mondays only from 9.30 am until 11.30 am.

Lanchester Social Club

Entertainment planned this month:

Table Top Sale Sunday 11th February. Buyers and Sellers welcome. Tables £5 for Sellers - Free entry for Buyers. Starts at 1 pm. Ring for more details 01207 520475.

Saturday 3rd February - Connor, Knockout Male Vocalist

Saturday 10th February - Jolene, Great Girl Singer

Saturday 17th February - Toni Anderson, First Class Singer

Saturday 24th February - Paolo, First Class Vocalist

Thursday Club

At our next meeting, on 15th February at 1.30 pm, we will be hearing about Kynren with Alice Guthrie.

Please remember your birthday cards so that we have them for our March meeting.

Community Centre

Coffee Morning

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

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

Satley WI

Our next meeting will be held in Satley Parish Hall on 12th February at 7.15 pm. Our speakers are from Durham County Council who will be talking about what happens to our recycled rubbish and how we can reduce our normal rubbish. This is a topical item at present following China's recent change of stance. Please feel free to come and join us.

Lanchester Flower Club

Wednesday 28th February will be our AGM followed by a Social and Afternoon Tea.

Churches Together

In Lanchester and Burnhope the **Lent Lunches** will be held at the Methodist Church on the following Tuesdays, February 20th, February 27th, 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.

Lanchester WI

Our next meeting will be on Monday 5th February when our speaker will be Hilary Taylor who will be talking to us about the changing lives of Indian women. New members and visitors are always welcome, please come along and join us!

Paradiso Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday February 11th, 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 VICEROY'S HOUSE.

"India 1947. The final Viceroy of India, Lord Mountbatten, is tasked with overseeing the transition of British India to independence, but meets with conflict as different sides clash in the face of monumental change." A sumptuous, epic film starring Hugh Bonneville and Gillian Anderson as Lord and Lady Mountbatten, set against an exotic Indian backdrop at the time of the Raj. Viceroy's House attempts to tell the true story of the final months of British rule in India and of the resilience of the human spirit.

All are welcome: Entry £2.50 members £3.50 occasional visitors £2 young persons. Entry ticket covers the raffle, refreshments and the film.

Open House

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

Vintage Tractor Club

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

Library Book Club

On Monday February 26th at 2.30-3.30 the group will be discussing 'The President's Hat' by Antoine Laurain. Set in Paris, Rouen and Venice, this story follows the lives of several people who have temporary ownership of President Mitterand's hat. Please join us for this discussion if you have read this book or would like to join the group.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday February 15th from 5.30-6.30 the discussion will cover 'The Torn Up Marriage' by Caroline Roberts. Caroline has published five novels, she is a local author from Northumberland and she made the New Writing North's Read Regional lineup for 2016. If you would like to join us, pop into the library and pick up this book.

Chatterbooks

Will be held on Monday February 19th from 3.45-4.30 pm. 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 dates are March 12th and April 16th.

Local History Society

Subject: Lanchester Cottage Children's Homes
Speaker: Shirley Lamb

Date: Friday February 2nd
Time: 7 pm

Venue: Lanchester Community Centre.

Lanchester resident Shirley Lamb will talk to us about her time as matron at the Children's Home.

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

Lanchester Community Association

You are all invited to come along and to join the celebrations marking the 50th Anniversary of the Community Association. The Association, via your Community Centre has provided a wide array of recreational and learning facilities across the year and on Saturday 17th March, the Centre will open from 11.00 am - 3.30 pm for the purpose of showcasing those activities including stands, demonstrations and games, with refreshments including cake and squash, all free of charge.

The celebrations will resume at 7.00 pm with an Evening Concert where the Lanchester Male Voice Choir, with guest musicians Roseanna Whitton (recorder) and Jim and Marilyn Gibson (various instruments), will provide a programme of music and song. The evening will end with a pie and pea supper. **Please bring your own 'bottles' and glasses.**

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

Cuppa, Lunch and Company

Free Cuppa, Lunch and Company, age 70+.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday February 20th, 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: 07969454815.

LANCHESTER WI IN DECEMBER

Our meeting was 'Christmas with the Members' when our business is kept to a minimum and we celebrate the season in music, laughter and sharing our Faith Supper.

This was also the opportunity to mark Jessie Goodall's 60th anniversary as a WI member and as President for two terms. Jessie is moving back to her native Scotland and she leaves us with pleasant memories of her friendship and humour. Cards and gifts were presented to her, as well

as a celebratory cake to cut and share among the members. Jessie spoke movingly about her time in the WI and takes our good wishes with her. Members received centenary pens as a Christmas gift as well as a free raffle ticket.

Ann Carr read an amusing item, 'A Right Royal Do' which had been brought by Jessie. We enjoyed attempting a Christmas themed quiz, and we all shared our Faith Supper, with all the lovely savoury and sweet dishes provided by members. We were joined by

Lanchester Male Voice Choir, who sang a wide ranging medley of songs, from seasonal items, songs from the shows and popular ballads that most people recognised. It was a very enjoyable end to the evening and the singers were thanked by Ann Carr and invited to share our supper.



Marie Murphy helps Jessie Goodall cut and share her cake, celebrating 60 years as a WI member.

LANCHESTER WI IN JANUARY

Our first meeting of 2018 was on 8th January, President Marie Murphy began by wishing us all a Happy New Year and reminded us to keep up to date about news, events and outings via the County News and checking the information table. A reminder was also

given that our annual subscription is now due. We enjoyed two readings given by members: Tina Naples read a thought provoking poem, 'Nobody Hugs a Hedgehog' by Les Barker and Ann Carr then read an amusing poem called 'A Poem for

January'. Maureen Barker, celebrated her 50th Anniversary of joining the WI on this very day. Maureen was presented with a certificate, a bouquet of flowers and a cake, which we all enjoyed later in the meeting! Our speaker was Jane Davis, Head

Teacher of Lanchester EP School. Jane was very informative and gave us a good insight into her very busy schedule. She told us of her career path (always in education) and amusing stories of what children have said and written were given throughout

the presentation. Jane's commitment to ensuring that primary school children have a happy and enjoyable time while they are learning was unmistakable.

Our evening concluded with a pie and pea supper, a warming end to a very cold day!

SATLEY WI DECEMBER REPORT

Due to adverse weather conditions, only 8 members attended our December meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted and members were given a rough draft of next year's programme. Members were reminded that our annual subscription is due

next month and that we will be selecting our menu choices for our meal at the Punchbowl.

Our guest speaker, Sharon, had arranged a beautiful display of homemade craft items which were mainly made from recycled materials and a vivid imagination.

She then went on to demonstrate how she had made glittery lollipop Christmas tree decorations, 'Harry Potter' wands, snow globes and nutcracker figures. We would never have guessed what they were made out of had we not seen it with our own

eyes. She was thanked by our President Linda Horn who said that she would definitely be buying a glue gun (Sharon's secret weapon).

The competition for 3 Christmas cookies was won by Linda Horn, second Avril Carpenter

and third Carol Dobinson. Tea hostesses were Linda Butterfield and Avril Carpenter. The raffle was won by Avril Carpenter.

We then enjoyed a shared supper. Linda closed the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SATLEY WI JANUARY REPORT

On January 8th our President Linda Horn began our meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted and any matters arising were discussed.

Later this month we will be holding our post Christmas lunch at The Punchbowl in Satley and members were asked to

choose their courses so that meals could be pre ordered. Linda provided everyone with a copy of the programme for 2018 so that members could plan ahead and start thinking about their competition entries.

We are hoping to send 4 members to the Annual Council Meeting in April as we are going to be presented with a certificate

marking our 70th anniversary.

We then welcomed our speaker Bernadette Hunt who delivered a fascinating talk on how our writing and drawing can illustrate our personality traits. Even though we are a small group it was noticeable that so many different characteristics were identified just from writing a short paragraph

and by drawing a simple picture of stars and waves. Bernadette spent some time with our ladies individually for a more detailed analysis. Pat Gibson delivered our vote of thanks.

We then had tea and biscuits which were provided by Avril Carpenter and Ann Darlington. The raffle was won by Carolyn Marston.

Our monthly competition winners were as follows: A religious Christmas card, 1st Avril Carpenter, 2nd Jean Portwood, 3rd Kathleen Snowden.

A homemade card, 1st Kathleen Snowden, Joint 2nd Christine Wilson and Avril Carpenter, 3rd Linda Horn.

A Santa card, 1st Joan Smith, 2nd Pat Gibson, 3rd Linda Horn.

BOXING DAY TRACTOR RUN



Charlie McDougall on his venerable Silver King tractor who travelled all the way from Crieff in Perthshire to take part in the run.



24 Vintage tractors taking part in the Boxing Day Tractor Run.

Lanchester Vintage Beamish, Stanley and Tractor Club had a Tanfield. We stopped for successful run on Boxing lunch at Causey House Day. A total of 24 tractors Tearooms and I would like left from Peter Suddes' to thank Ann and Bill farm at West Newbiggin, Bonnie for letting us stop Lanchester and the run there. The end of the run covered Sacriston, was in the big layby Edmondsley, Burnhope, between Maiden Law and

Burnhope. Special thanks to the Suddes family who always go out of their way to feed and water the drivers before they set off on the run. The run raised £240 and £45 in donations.

Thanks to everyone who participated. Surprisingly, Charlie McDougall came all the way from Crieff in Perthshire to join in the tractor run, so I would like

to say a special big thank you to Charlie for joining us. It is hoped that this will be a regular event for the Club every Boxing Day. *Henry Wingfield, Chairman*

A JOLLY WASSAIL



Over 30 people turned up for a 'Wake Up' call to the fruit trees in the Lanchester Community Orchard.

Over 30 people, both young and older, turned out on a cold Saturday morning in January to wake the fruit trees in Lanchester Community Orchard. Most came with friends of the orchard group but members of Jesmond Community Orchard, with whom the group are developing ties, were also welcomed. Everyone joined in the singing following Noel Jackson on the accordion and others read poetry, all in the old tradition of wassailing. The cold was kept at bay with warm mulled cider and afterwards everyone was invited for a shared lunch

at Shepherd's Barns. Our next event is Earth Hour 7-9 pm Saturday 24th March. Switch off your lights at home and join us for a star gazing session at the orchard. 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!! For details of orchard membership and a share in the abundant organic produce contact Steve Bailey: 01207 521884 or email lanchesterorchard@outlook.com.

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NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 13th February. The deadline for **adverts** is Friday 9th February. The Village Voice Page 20

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