

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 19

Lanchester, March 2018

For contact information, see page 2

HEAVIEST SNOW IN VILLAGE VOICE HISTORY



Both children and adults making the most of wintry conditions on Paste Egg Bank while the schools were closed.



Whееееееее!!!!



You don't have to be a child to have fun in the snow.



A picture postcard scene of the Village Green and All Saints' Church in the heaviest village snow in this millennium.



A stunning picture 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
Reference the article by Neil McKay 'Parking at the EP School'; I sincerely hope I am wrong but I suspect that any additional yellow lines will prove to be little more than a waste of paint. Notwithstanding recent additional parking signage, the current lack of any meaningful enforcement of parking restrictions throughout the village has for a long time been enough to persuade some that they can park where, when, and for how long they wish with impunity. Until something is done to effectively control parking in the village, motor vehicles and traffic will continue to dominate, and in my opinion, spoil the village.

Bob Russell

Dear Village Voice
Re the article 'Parking at the EP School'
Anyone who has been unlucky enough to attempt to drive up Kitswell Road at drop off/pick up time will know that parking problems are not confined to the EP School. By All Saints' RC School, parents park on both sides of Kitswell, which leaves only one car's width in the middle of the road. As cars emerge from the car park to head down to the junction, they clash with anyone needing to drive up the road. Parents as well as hapless residents or visitors can testify to the resultant dangerous blockages. I plead for official observation to confirm the gross obstruction which occurs every school day, and for action to be taken to resolve it.

Surely the solution is to extend 'No Parking' lines on the school side up to at least the car park exit? Cars would then have room to pass each other on Kitswell Road, allowing traffic to flow in both directions. Name and address withheld on request

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for February is 95. The draw was made by Brenda Hartnell.

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

Dear Village Voice
Luke - Our 'Good Samaritan'

On behalf of the regular passengers who use the Lanchester Village Link bus, I would like to say a huge "THANK YOU" to Luke the driver during the present transport problems which the heavy snow and icy roads have caused in the residential parts of the village. My friend, who like me lives in Broadoak Drive, phoned me to say "There will be a nice young man calling to see you in a few minutes", and sure enough a few minutes later Luke, our regular driver, was standing dressed like a 'Yeti arriving from Siberia'. In his hand was a large supermarket carrier bag containing milk and bread.

Luke had not been able to get any further than the top of the junction but had shopped in the village SPAR shop to deliver bread and milk to the regulars who rely on the village bus most weekdays and he walked the round!!!

We are so fortunate in this village to have the services of Luke and the other relief drivers when he is on leave, but the care, compassion and courtesy we all receive is a fine example of 'Going that Extra Mile' for OUR community, every day and especially during this severe weather.

My friend and I insisted that he took payment for the milk he left, but he just said "It was no trouble - you can leave a donation to the bus if you want to." You may be sure that in recognition of his care and concern,

that will be a pleasure. With grateful thanks to Luke, the relief drivers and the organisers of the much valued service of our Village Link Bus. Yours, Ethel Armstrong, MBE

Dear Village Voice
I am writing on behalf of the residents of Valley Grove to mention the kindness and thoughtfulness of Kenny Graham, a fellow resident who has a heart of gold. He has cleared snow to enable us to carry on day-to-day chores and enable us to get to the doctor's surgery and to shops in the village for necessities.

We really appreciate his consideration and hard work. Thank you, Kenny on behalf of Valley Grove residents.

Dear Village Voice
There was once a time when Lancestrans could walk through the village and hold their heads up high. Now alas, we have to look at the ground to ensure we don't tread in something nasty. Most owners of canine creatures are, of course, responsible and clear up after their pets as the law requires, and I thank them for that.

There are however a small number of people who do not seem to bother, which is a shame, as it spoils the village and represents a danger to children. May I therefore urge those people to please respect our village and its inhabitants, and keep it clean! Thank you. Name and address withheld on request

Dear Village Voice
I live in Manor Grange and it's the part which is on a very steep hill and in a cul de sac. I am disabled so I can't walk far to the likes of salt bins at the corner of Deneside and Manor Grange, so when snow comes I cannot get my car out and I have to rely on other people to get my shopping etc. I was in the house from Monday 26th February until help arrived on Sunday 4th March to dig my street out, so I would like to thank Mr Ray Emmerton of the Fruit Shop very much for doing this with his tractor. Without him I would have probably been stuck in for another few days. Thanks very much, Ray, you were like a knight in shining armour. Mr R Cooke

Dear Village Voice
Thank you so much for the flowers, cards and messages of condolence which Linda and I received on our very sad loss. It is so comforting to know we were in so many people's thoughts and prayers. With love, Marjorie and Linda Gray

APOLOGY

In last month's edition, we showed pictures with the heading 'All Saints' Family Fun Day'. This was actually a charity event held in memory of baby Tia Skye Barron. The money was raised for 4louis, a charity which supports parents who have stillborn babies. The Village Voice is very sorry for any distress caused.

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).

By post:
The Village Voice,
c/o Lanchester Community Centre,
Newbiggen Lane,
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DH7 0PB.

LANCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTRE STILL GOING STRONG!

Lanchester Community Centre is celebrating 50 years of serving local people. The building started its life as a Victorian village school and at a parish meeting in 1895, it was agreed that there should be 'The formation of a School Board for Lanchester'.

By the end of the 19th century, England possessed a national system of elementary education, as it became recognised that a modern, ambitious nation needed a well educated work force if it was to ensure its place among the world's greatest powers. School Managers, under the leadership of the Vicar and his wardens advertised for a school master at a salary of £100 per annum, with 'a good house, garden and coals.' It was decided that Catholic children, as well as those belonging to the Church of England should be accepted and some of the children from the Union Workhouse also attended.

Fascinating details of 19th century life emerge ... holidays were granted for the Queen's Jubilee and to celebrate the Relief of Mafeking. Great excitement came with the installation of running water, but problems of flooding quickly were noted.

For the past 50 years, the Community Centre has been at the heart of village life, and on Saturday 17th March, many of the organisations who are based there, and a number of the individuals who attend classes and groups, could showcase the topics which were important to them. Children gave demonstrations of their dances, while ladies of the Zumba class showed their skills. The Table Tennis Club, the Bridge Club, Sewing Bee, Thursday group, History group, Scottish dancers, Lacemaking, the Wildlife group, the WI - they were all represented and enjoyed contact with others who felt passionate



The Zumba group strut their stuff at the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

about their interests. If you're committed to learning a new skill and making new friends, the Community Association staff will be pleased to meet you and give you whatever information and help you need. This is OUR Centre, and so much is done by volunteers. We really do need to value and treasure this excellent resource.



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GEOFF REDFEARN



Geoff's family would like to express their thanks for all the flowers, cards and letters of sympathy and condolence after his death following a short but devastating illness in hospital in Yeovil, Somerset.

Although Geoff lived and worked in Somerset, he was brought up, went to school in the Lanchester district and maintained many friendships in the area. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him well.

MAURICE WEALTHALL 1927-2018

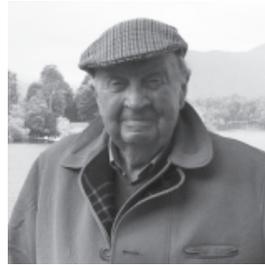
The Wealthall family would like to thank all those who have expressed their condolences during this difficult time, both by coming to his house and when meeting people in the village.

Maurice was a well-known figure around the village, having moved here in 2005 to be near one of his daughters, Lucy.

Maurice was born in the village of Rossington, South Yorkshire, and was the son of the local primary school headmaster. On leaving

school he attended Durham University at the School of Dentistry. He started his working life in Crook before being invited to become a partner in a new Dental Practice in Norwich where he spent all his working life.

On moving to Lanchester he quickly became established in many aspects of village life including Lanchester Bowling Club where he was a member for many years, the local Men's Forum and the Sunday Night Cinema Club in



which he took an active role.

He and his wife Jean, who still lives in the village, had four children and seven grandchildren. He will be sorely missed.

His funeral was held at Durham Crematorium on Friday 23rd February.

SCAPA FLOW CENTENARY REMEMBERED

Some of our readers may remember an article in the Voice a few years ago concerning HMS Narborough and HMS Opal which collided in 1918 with the loss of all but one life. Local seaman Robert B Farbridge Stoker 2nd class lost his life in the incident and his name can be seen on the memorial in Burnhope and in the Community Centre, Lanchester. It is one of the names that will be added to the War Memorial on the Green later this year. It must be reassuring for any surviving relatives to know that his name is still remembered and commemorated in this manner in several places.

On Friday 12th January 2018 a small service was held at Windwick Bay and later at Cromarty Hall, St Margaret's Hope, Orkney.

'On 12th January 1918, the M-class destroyers HMS Narborough and HMS Opal left Scapa Flow to join light cruiser HMS Boadicea at sea on a Dark Night Patrol, to search for German minelayers.

The weather deteriorated. Heavy snow falls cut visibility to a few hundred yards, so at 6.30 pm Boadicea ordered the destroyers to return to base.

HMS Opal sent a radio message requesting harbour lights and

foghorns to be turned on, before sending another at 9.27 pm saying she had run aground.

188 sailors lost their lives with only sailor William Sissons surviving despite suffering from extreme exposure.

Included in those remembered was Mr R B Farbridge, K43950, Stoker 2nd Class.

At Windwick Bay dignitaries and Royal Navy representatives conducted a service with a Naval Minister. Wreaths were laid.

At Cromarty Hall a touching service was held, with prayers and the Naval buglers sounding 'Reveille'.

The Lord Lieutenant, Bill Spence, and all senior Council members were present, together with local Councillors and school children who had completed projects on the HMS Narborough and HMS Opal.

Brian Budge gave a detailed film show and explanation of the tragic circumstances surrounding the grounding of the two ships. This was followed by tea, coffee, local cakes and questions. In typical Orkney fashion the remembrance was simple, genuine and sincere.'

Captain John Taylor, Marine Superintendent, Scapa, Orkney

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50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONCERT



Harry Carr, Conductor, and Lanchester Male Voice Choir.

The Community Centre anniversary celebrations continued on into the evening with a concert and pie and pea supper. The performers all had

connections to the Community Centre and gave their time voluntarily. Rosanna Whitton teaches piano and recorder in the centre. She

explained that while she teaches piano, her first love was the recorder and went on to demonstrate how versatile and beautiful this simple instrument becomes when played by a virtuoso.

Jim and Marilyn Gibson use the centre's gym to keep fit presumably when they are not practising playing their musical instruments which they do so well. It is lovely to hear them play the harp and it was impressive that both of them played this difficult instrument so well. A highlight on St Patrick's Day was the beautiful 'She Moved Through the Fair'.

The other performers were, of course, the Lanchester Male Voice

Choir which goes back to the founding days of the Community Centre and still practices on Monday nights there. The choir trotted out some old favourites and one new number to also mark St Paddy's Day, 'Danny Boy'.



Rosanna Whitton playing a piece by Georg Philip Telemann, a German composer of the late baroque era, on the treble recorder.



Jim Gibson on guitar and his wife Marilyn playing the harp.

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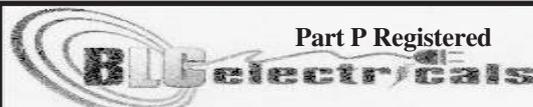


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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on
Tuesday 13th March 2018

Police report - received (see below).

Correspondence
Durham County Council - council tax discount and welfare assistance scheme posters - to be displayed in the notice board.

Neighbourhood Plan
Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had attended the recent Planning Committee Meeting and presented the Neighbourhood Plan draft policies. All feedback and comments from the Parish Council, the planning consultant and Durham County Council will be fed back to the next working group meeting.

A recent archaeology information day at County Hall had included information on the recent important find in Lanchester of a veteran's discharge diploma confirming the bestowal of Roman citizenship on him, his wife and their children. This is one of only 20 examples found in Britain. It was also agreed that this information needs to be included in the Heritage Audit when it is reviewed.

Lanchester Community Emergency Plan

The Lanchester Community Emergency Plan was adopted in early 2016. The aim of

the plan is to provide an early response to an emergency. This may include actions such as informing key organisations in the village of the emergency, providing emergency equipment, opening safe centres etc.

The co-ordinators have reviewed and updated the plan, including all contacts. The revised version of the plan was circulated in February 2018.

Members discussed the recent very heavy rainfall which resulted in flooding on the A691 near Maiden Law Bank. It was noted that Front Street had not flooded which suggested that the works undertaken by the County Council on Newbiggen Lane and Front Street had made an impact.

Responses to Issues Raised

1. FixMyStreet website - no longer used by Durham County Council

The County Council confirmed that they promote their 'Do it online self-serve portal' as the preferred method of reporting issues. It was agreed to provide further feedback to the County Council.

2. Parking - Peth Bank
Members considered information received from the County Council.

It was agreed that a site visit is arranged with Durham County Council to further consider the matter.

3. Street Furniture - Front Street

The advice from the County Council was received.

Risk Assessment Schedule - amended and approved.

Internal Audit Arrangements - approved.

Schools - Distribution of Newsletters - agreed that a donation of £100 is given to the two Primary schools.

Grants/Donations

The following donations were agreed:

1. The Great North Air Ambulance - £200
2. 1st Lanchester Guiding - £200
3. All Saints' Parish Centre - £200
4. Lanchester & Burnhope Parochial Church Council - Clock Maintenance - £200
5. The Lanchester Partnership - Community Events - £200

Financial report - discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment - approved.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at Lynwood House at 7.15 pm.

POLICE REPORT

This month we have been concentrating our attention around the area of Durham Road through high visibility patrols following two reports of vehicles being scratched whilst parked and

unoccupied. If you have any information regarding these issues please telephone 101. On Saturday 14th April, 10-11 am, PCSO 6780 Cullen-Jackson will be hosting a Street PACT on Front Street, Lanchester. If you

would like to speak to your local officer about any problems or concerns please come along alternatively telephone 101 or email lisa.cullen-jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk
PCSO 6780 Lisa Cullen-Jackson

HUGE BOOST FOR HENRY DANCER DAYS

BBC Children in Need award one of their largest ever grants to Henry Dancer Days

Our local children's cancer charity has been awarded nearly £170,000 by Children in Need. Henry Dancer Days set up distraction projects in the Great North Children's Hospital in Newcastle which have been running for over 2 years. They also employ 'The Pottery Lady' who visits children's bedsides to create masterpieces which are then fired and the children can keep. Any child from our region who is diagnosed with cancer is treated in the wards where the projects take place. Having previously received small grants from Pudsey, Jane (Henry

Dancer's Mum) approached Children in Need for a larger grant than is usual, which has just been awarded. Jane explained, "The funds are to help us deliver more activity in the North East and spread our work nationally. Other hospitals heard what was happening in Newcastle and wanted to become involved. This amazing donation will help us to deliver projects in Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham for the next 3 years. I'm delighted that we'll be able to lift the spirits of so many other children and, I must admit, rather overwhelmed!"

The charity has already started work in University College Hospital London with a second Storyteller using other funds which Jane has raised. "Henry would be proud of what has been achieved in his name." *Henry's Mum* Please like us on Facebook and Twitter www.facebook.com/HenryDancerDays twitter.com/henrydancerdays



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Shelley O'Brien (Storyteller) with Isla Williams and her Dad Carl.

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PROJECT POPPIES
'Lest We Forget'

From 5 to 100 years it makes no difference when it comes to making or painting poppies. All age groups are involved in the process and I was privileged to visit Maple Court Special Care Unit at Delves Lane recently to thank them for

painting several hundred of our poppies. The oldest resident involved was 100 years young. Several of them wanted a special poppy to commemorate a loved one and it was really interesting talking to

them about the project. They all had the same enthusiasm and commitment that is seen at our workshops and are looking forward to painting more poppies in the months ahead and viewing the final display.
Eric Hepplewhite



Residents of Maple Court enjoying their time painting poppies.

WORKING TOGETHER

Members of Lanchester WI and volunteers of Lanchester Red Cross are working along with many others in the village on the Project Poppies finding this a very moving and worthwhile village project to be involved in. There will be another 3 perhaps 4 workshops

before the display opens on 1st November until Sunday 18th November with the chapel open during this time from approximately 9.30 am until 8.00 pm for tea and coffee. Helpers will be needed to cover so if anyone from the WI or Red Cross who has helped with

the poppy workshops in any way would be available to help in the kitchen or be on hand to talk to those who come to visit the display, it would be greatly appreciated. More details will follow but please see Sylvia at any of the workshops if you can help. Thank you.



WI and Red Cross ladies at the Poppy workshop.

RED CROSS EVENTS



Volunteers and customers enjoying the Red Cross Coffee Morning on Friday 23rd February. £120 was raised. Thank you to everyone who came and to all volunteers that make this event a continued success.



Ann Carr receiving her 20 year Long Service award for volunteering in the Red Cross shop. I would like to thank her personally for all her help and support. Tracey Dobson

SPRING CLEAN LANCHESTER

Saturday April 21st from 10.00 to 12.30

The village is much cleaner than it used to be, but there is still quite a lot of litter around. So the Lanchester Partnership's Annual Litter Pick has returned! Our tent, with litter picking sticks, bags, hoops, gloves, maps, refreshments and certificates will be on the Village Green as usual. We are very grateful to Dave the Village Handyman and the marvellous residents who regularly pick up litter throughout the year. But on April 21st together we will be able to give the village a good spring clean - so please come down to the Green and join in sometime between 10.00 and 12.30. And if you know of any really mucky place please ring Jill on 01207 528 144.

LONELINESS UPDATE - TIME FOR VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering was highlighted by several members of the community as part of the work we have been doing looking at Loneliness within Lanchester. This month's update offers you some useful tips about volunteering and 5 ways to help you get more actively engaged. Whatever your need - for example, achieving a greater sense of well-being, gaining new experiences and skills, developing more confidence, increasing your social circle or just providing a structure to your day, then there's something for YOU! What causes are you passionate about? What would you like to do? What skills do you have to offer? What skills do you want to gain? Which groups of people would you most like to work with as a volunteer? Where and how would you most like to work? www.durham.gov.uk/volunteering is a good starting point and details opportunities linked to several of Durham Council's activities. Durham Community Action <http://www.durhamcommunityaction.org.uk> is Durham's One Stop Shop for volunteering and provides support and advice to those wishing to volunteer. Registered charity Supportive <http://www.supportive.org.uk> supports people in County Durham to live full and active lives with the freedom of choice in their own future. If you enjoy driving, then Supportive offers a volunteer driver service for people in need of all ages. Training, mileage and support provided. <https://do-it.org/> the UK's national volunteering website makes it easy for anyone to volunteer in their community and to find a volunteering opportunity near you. Finally, when you're next passing the Community Centre (or Croft View Halls when open), do pop in for a chat about all of the clubs and groups that meet there regularly. See which ones inspire you ... and match your skills and interests. Then consider which ones to contact and find out more about working with them as a volunteer. Your time as a volunteer, by making time to give something back or make a difference to the lives of other people in our community, is one of the greatest gifts you can ever offer.

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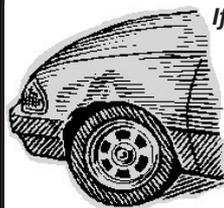
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NEW MOBILE PHONE MAST



The new mast which has been erected in the field adjacent to Lanchester Cemetery, very near the fence. Allegedly there have been protests from nearby neighbours which failed.

CYCLING FOR CHARITY

The McMullen family spent 48 hours in the saddle to raise money for hospice care. They took on the challenge in aid of St Cuthbert's Hospice, Durham.

Led by Kev, 50, from Ushaw Moor, and Carla, 23, from Lanchester, they were joined by other family members who took turns on a pair of spinning cycles in Tesco Extra, Dragonville.

Carla said: "The support was amazing. We raised around £1,000 before we even started and people were so generous. The hardest bit was probably staying awake and we had to buy pillows and cushions for the seats because sitting was so uncomfortable."

She added: "St Cuthbert's Hospice holds a special place in our family's hearts after the wonderful care they provided to both our Nanny Mary and my Stepnum's Mum Linda.

"We would like to give back as much as possible to the hospice so they can continue to provide care and help to families like ours over the years. The skill, passion and professionalism shown

by the nurses and all other staff in the hospice is second to none." They are hoping to have raised more than £2,500. To support the family visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/carla-mcmullen.



The McMullen family cycling to raise funds for St Cuthbert's Hospice.

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WALKS WITH BROCK



For those who don't know me, my name is Brock. My papers declare that I am a liver and white Jack Russell, although I have heard my Human tell people that I am a cross, whatever that means.

I only know that I get cross if I don't get my quota of walks.

To complete the introductions, I am now 13 years old, which means I should be 90 plus in doggy years, but I still feel frisky when I come across a sprightly looking female of the species.

One thing I will say in favour of my Human and his Female Human, is that they enjoy walking in North West Durham.

One of my Human's favourite walks - and one I quite like too - starts at The King's Head car park in Lanchester.

My Human likes it because it also ends there, and he is known to be fond of a tippie or two.

Of course, he can only take me to sit outside. The King's Head is not one of those pubs where I am allowed through the door - the type of unfair discrimination some working men's clubs used to show to Female Humans, in my opinion.

Anyway, to get on with the walk, as I am sure you readers are wanting to do. From the King's Head we proceed a short distance along Station Road, where I am kept on my lead

because I have been known to run across the road to make the acquaintance of a comely female in the past, narrowly avoiding an oncoming truck and causing my Human a certain amount of stress, or so I heard him say.

On leaving Station Road things begin to look up, as we join what is called the Lanchester Valley Line heading towards Langley Park.

There I am let off my lead and find several ditches and long grass verges to sniff. The pathway is also amply provided with doggy bins, in case nature calls.

After a couple of hundred yards we can either veer off into a meadow called Dora's Wood, or else carry on along the path. (I am sometimes distracted by rabbits which are known to lurk in the undergrowth, but no matter how fast I run, the little blighters always seem to evade my paws or my jaws).

If we continue along the path we pass under a bridge past a rather pongy sewerage plant then come to a pleasant verdant meadow with an abundance of trees where I often bump into one or two pals for a sniff and a chin-wag. This meadow runs

MOTHERS' DAY TEA AT THE EP SCHOOL



Mums and children having a lovely time.

The School Hall was filled to capacity on Friday afternoon, 9th March. Mothers had been invited by the school to a special 'Mothers' Day

Tea'. Children joined their mothers in choosing lots of tea-time treats, which had been given by parents and there was a variety of mouth-watering

cakes and buns. There was lots of happy chatter and lots of smiles, making it a very happy family occasion.

Brenda Craddock

alongside The River Browney, which is always good for a cool down on a warmer day. The Human insists on throwing sticks into the river and ordering me to fetch, which I occasionally do to humour him but, between you and me, fail singly to

see the point of the exercise.

After walking along the river bank we turn right over a new bridge and walk a short distance along a

tarmac road - again my lead is produced - before turning right in front of a row of houses which make up the hamlet of Malton.

To be continued

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SEASONAL SELECTIONS



David introducing the evening.



Susan Jordan, the guest soloist.

The Annual Spring Concert of the Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society had to be postponed because of the weather but one week later it proved to be very well worth the wait! David Hughes, the Musical Director, had

named the concert 'Seasonal Selections - A Choral Medley' and as always his choice of music was excellent. The programme was divided into four sections, each providing several songs representing the four seasons, all of which were delightful. David had also arranged for seasonal pictures to be shown on the screens for further enjoyment of the music. Susan Jordan, who has been the Guest Soloist on many occasions, featured in each seasonal section of the concert, singing some beautiful songs, among them 'Walking in the Air' (The Snowman), 'I know that my Redeemer Liveth' (Messiah), 'Vilia' (Merry Widow) and 'Autumn Leaves'. Susan

has a beautiful singing voice and although living in Cumbria now, she was born in Durham and is well known throughout the North East. The Spring section was almost all devoted to Handel's Messiah which is always enjoyed by an audience and the Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Vaughan Williams was beautifully sung by the choir with Ian Gray as the soloist. It may have been cold outside but there was a genuine warmth in the Methodist Church. The warm welcome, the warmth of friendship and camaraderie in the audience, the warm

atmosphere as spirits were lifted by the very fine singing, not to mention the hot coffee or tea at the interval! Thank you David, the Accompanist Paul Conroy, Soloist Susan Jordan and all the members of the Choral Society for all your hard work in making an evening of such a high standard. Appropriately, there was a 'Spring' in the step of everyone as they left the concert and headed home. They will all be back for the summer concert on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th July, which is entitled 'Feel Good - The Magic Of The Musicals'. We will look forward to that.
Brenda Craddock

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SAVE THE DAY! LANCHESTER SHOW, SUNDAY 1st JULY

The Show has been running for the last 65 years in Lanchester. This year we are returning to our roots running an Agricultural Show. In line with our history we will be introducing our Heritage Marquee which will include a range of country and traditional crafts including Spinning, Leather Workers, Greenwood Workers, Beekeepers, Guild of Stick makers, Willow Weavers to name just a few ... more to follow. We are always on the lookout for more traditional crafts so if you

would like to be involved please contact us. Truly a family fun day out, we have the Shetland Grand National which has appeared at the Horse of the Year Show. Come along and cheer your favourite pony or jockey. Dangerous Steve will be performing juggling feats, unicycle riding and ladder balancing. Captain Raggy Beard will be captivating his young audience with tales of the High Seas throughout the day. Other attractions include Heavy Horses, Vintage Tractors, Animals About

Town where you can get up close and interact with goats, sheep and even friendly geese, Castleside Alpacas, Fun Dog Show, Terrier Racing, Fairground Rides and Children's go-carts. This year we are looking to develop our Industrial Marquee which will only be possible with help from local schools and the community. If you have any ideas of what you would like to include, please contact Andrea 07812499790. See our Facebook page and website.

ALL SAINTS' MONDAY CLUB

The Monday Club has now been running for well over 6 years but with the recent focus on loneliness we thought it might be timely to once again extend a warm invitation to anyone in Lanchester who would enjoy an



Monday Club members enjoying company, friendship and hospitality in All Saints' RC Parish Centre.

evening of good company with home baking, hospitality, quizzes, bingo and much more. Every Christmas, we enjoy a trip to the pantomime at Consett. In the summer we are planning a trip to enjoy afternoon tea and visit the beautiful

gardens at Ushaw College. We meet every Monday evening from 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm during term time at the Parish Centre in Kitswell Road. We are happy to provide transport for those who might find it difficult to come along under their

own steam. All our drivers and helpers are DBS cleared. If you think you might like to come along as a guest or a helper please contact Kate Edwards on 01207 521753 or 07507816036 or by email to kate.edwards10@btinternet.com

STARLIGHT THEATRE PRODUCTIONS



Starlight Theatre Productions recently held a Charity Ball at Beamish Hall Hotel with many guests from Lanchester. The photo shows the proceeds being handed over by Lesley Anderson from Lanchester, and Val Shields to Pauline Burglas from Newcastle Hospitals NHS Charity at the Northern Centre For Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital. The proceeds were divided equally between the Charlie Bear Cancer Care and Sir Bobby Robson Foundation Charities. Thank you to all who supported the event.

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SATLEY WI

Thankfully the weather had improved enabling 13 members to attend our March meeting in the Parish Hall.

Our President Linda Horn reminded members that we had been invited to a coffee morning, hosted by Lanchester WI on March 15th. The monthly newsletter, minutes and other correspondence were discussed. Members were advised to note that

our day trip to Gilsland, Houghton Garden Centre and Carlisle has been booked for Tuesday May 22nd and as we have booked a 33 seater bus, friends will be invited to join us. The tickets for our Theatre trip to see 'Kiss Me Kate' have been purchased.

This year's Darts competition is to commence later this month and our team members (Pat Gibson,

Joan Smith, Christine Wilson and Avril Carpenter) are hoping to build on their success of last year when they qualified for the final.

Our Guest Speaker for the evening was Mr John Gall who brought along a variety of objects he has collected over many years. The brass carvings had all been polished but will need polishing again

after we had all handled them. He showed us how to identify an authentic horse brass as there are many fake ones around. The history behind each object certainly added to their appeal. He was thanked by Linda Horn. We then had refreshments which

were served by Christine Wilson and Linda Butterfield. The raffle was won by Christine Wilson.

Our competition for 'A favourite postcard' was won by Avril Carpenter, 2nd Kathleen Snowden and 3rd Christine Wilson.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

We've just been back to Finbarr's and were delighted to find that they had a special February offer on - 3 course lunch for £17.50 and of course, their usual 10%.

It was also lovely to have small pots of olives back on the table alongside their delicious bread and butter - a really good start to a meal.

Finbarr's itself is a super spot to be in, the staff are endlessly welcoming and the menus invariably difficult to choose from as really, you'd like a bit of everything! But we did decide and sampled for

starters Iceberg lettuce salad with blue cheese dressing, pancetta and spring onion, Crostini of prosciutto with tapenade, blood orange and watercress, White onion and thyme soup, Smoked mackerel with salsa verde and Pickled beetroot with fennel and a horseradish dressing. Mains were Sea bream with crushed potatoes, purple sprouting broccoli and caper butter, Braised pork shoulder with cabbage and mashed potatoes and Minute steak with maitre d'hotel butter, fries and rocket salad. Puds were

Lemongrass parfait with citrus and thyme salad, Vanilla yoghurt pannacotta with Champagne poached Yorkshire rhubarb, Creme brûlée and a Passionfruit sorbet that was 'todie for'.

It was, as always, totally delicious - everybody perfectly satisfied and well fed. Not a bad outcome for a group of 8 choosy females.

They have a new small round table for 8 - which we love - lunch in the round - spot on.

We, of course, will be back.

The Gourmet Girls

BEER, CIDER AND GIN FESTIVAL 2018

Following our most recent meeting, we can confirm that the Friday night will have a selection of gins available courtesy of Pip Stop. There will be around 10-12 gins available at a reasonable price. Entry on that night is strictly ticket only, no payment entry on the gate. Sponsors do not need to purchase tickets unless they wish to purchase over and above their 4. Numbers are restricted so get your tickets early.

We have also confirmed that Guide Dogs for the Blind will be the Friday night charity, so please give generously. Several of our local village sponsors

have confirmed that they will be supporting us once again. Alexander Lettings, Talking Heads, Westlands Dentists and Hanleys have confirmed and we expect others to follow. Outside the village, Elldis Transport, Mortgage Bureau North East, Olivers Tree Services, Gary Hall, Rebrand Design, Advanced

Planning, Premier Kitchens and M&M Atkinson have all confirmed their continued support. Something Sweet a local cake maker, First Lite Management and Jan Mitchell estates are all new sponsors.

We still have sponsorship opportunities available and would welcome anyone who is interested.

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.

Just a reminder that the Buskers are playing on Friday, Radio Star on Saturday, with Zen closing the event on Sunday. The Jet Reds have been booked for the Sunday afternoon and we hope to get one more band. Anyone interested? Keep up to date with information or for tickets on our website - lanchesterbeerfestival.co.uk.



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THURSDAY CLUB

Our February meeting welcomed Lanchester's own TV personality Alice Guthrie who gave a very entertaining talk about KYNREN. Thanks to the insight and determination of philanthropist John Ruffer (born near Middlesbrough in the 1950s), when in 2010 he decided to "spend the latter part of my energetic working life doing something for the deprived". Shortly afterwards, the Church of England decided they might sell the Zurburan paintings held in Auckland Castle. John Ruffer was appalled, bought the paintings,

castle and acres of land. He visited Puy du Fou historical theme park and asked if they could do the same here. Kynren took 10 months to build with about £32 million of John Ruffer's money. The rest is history.

Alice's audition was in October 2015. She started doing costume and after months sewing, it was down on site for rehearsals. Alice surprised herself by wanting to be in it (not just 'backroom') and was stand in for people on holiday - first part - a slave with a limp! In 2017 she decided to act only. Rehearsals start in

February with 11 hour days.

Run on volunteers: EXPERIENCE team: meet/greet, technical, pyrotechnical and special effects. Props: bagpipes, swords, helmets, flags. 3,000 costumes, cavalry, saddles etc. GO team: where you can and can't go. DIVE team: ensure safety of all on and below the water, animal team, even clean loos and empty bins. Not forgetting the ACTORS. A typical night: arrive 2-3 hours in advance, sort costumes. An average of 5 costume changes and maybe 9 different roles.

Volunteers age range from youngest 5 to oldest in 80s. In the beginning a group of strangers get together, learn new things, make new friends and no one likes to take a night off! Alice's effervescence

and enthusiasm were infectious and her antics while telling her story had us laughing out loud! A good question and answer session followed and the evening ended with refreshments and chatter boxing.



Lanchester's Alice Guthrie giving her very fascinating and interesting talk on 'Kynren'.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Rich Pork and Vegetable Ragout

The term 'ragout' describes a main-dish stew; it comes from the French 'ragouter' meaning 'to revive the taste' and is a method of slow cooking over a low heat. It first appeared in an 18th century English food book, with a recipe for a 'Ragoo' made from claret, gravy and lamb's testicles, and another made from pig's ears, mustard and lemon slices. This modern version is a very easy and tasty evening meal, rich with vegetables and produced in a slow cooker which can be prepared in the morning and is ready to eat at the end of the

working day. Ideal for the wintry weather we're having at the moment!

To serve 4 people, you need...

800g lean pork steaks or tenderloin, with fat removed. Cut the meat into large chunks.

1 onion, peeled and chopped

1 orange pepper, deseeded and roughly chopped

1 red pepper, deseeded and roughly chopped

1 yellow pepper, deseeded and roughly chopped

2 courgettes, roughly chopped

3 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed

2 tsp dried oregano
400g can chopped tomatoes

150 ml boiling hot chicken stock

1 level tsp corn flour mixed with 2 tbsp cold water

1 tsp chopped rosemary leaves

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

METHOD

1) Place all the ingredients into the slow cooker, stir well to mix and season to taste.

2) Cover and cook on LOW for 7-8 hours or until the pork and vegetables are tender.

3) Serve immediately with rice, or with a jacket potato and a crisp green salad.

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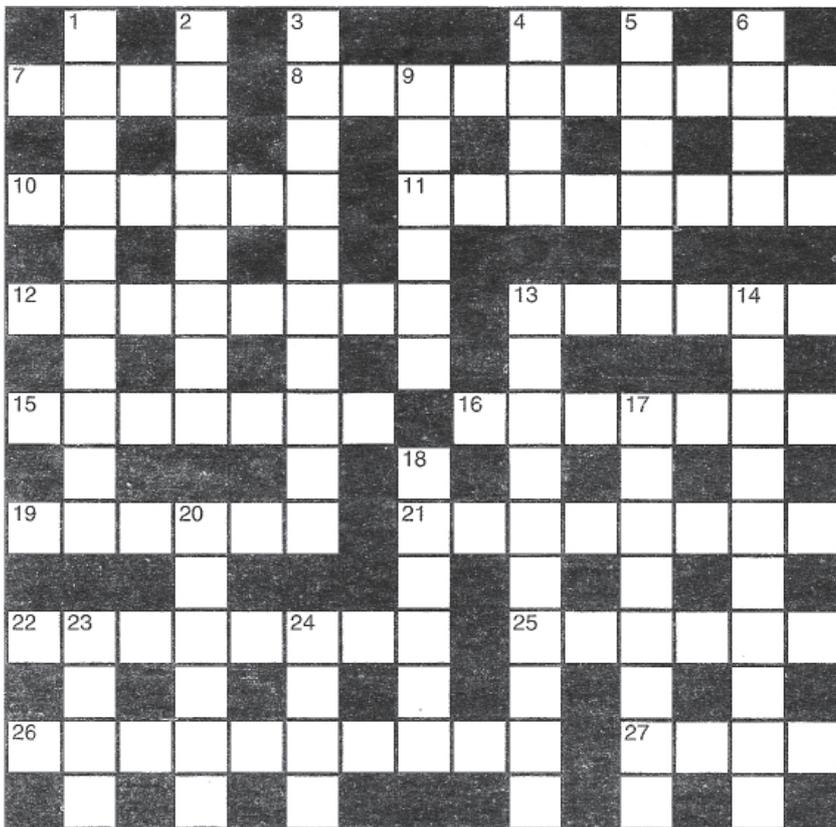
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CROSSWORD 143



Name _____

Address _____

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

LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

CROSSWORD 142

There were 21 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to Martin Mee of Humberhill Lane who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

ACROSS

7. Ooze (4)
8. Made do (10)
10. What a racing pigeon does (6)
11. Foolish talk from a US President? (8)
12. Metal work from GI relief (8)
13. Elegance from Central Europe? (6)
15. Gathering of old friends (7)
16. Late (7)
19. Happen to (6)
21. Together (2,6)
22. Superficial (8)
25. Contain (6)
26. The big W in the sky (10)
27. No (2-2)

DOWN

1. Eve policed bicycle (10)
2. Someone who looks into your eyes (8)
3. Frog blew in small dish (6,4)
4. Food from pointless futon (4)
5. Drive away (6)
6. Change direction (4)
9. Illicit alcohol from Ireland (6)
13. Prepare (fig.) (4,3,3)
14. Wonderful (10)
17. Small car (8)
18. Go round and round (6)
20. Nearly (6)
23. Gulf State (4)
24. Norse god of thunder (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 142

ACROSS

5. demonic
7. dotage
10. global
11. anorexia
12. rust
13. greed
15. ire
16. eyed
18. briar
19. AIDS
21. RIP
22. Ellie
23. loss
24. hopeless
26. Exmoor
27. ersatz
28. stand in

DOWN

1. jealousy
2. combat
3. no-go
4. defile
6. illegible
8. America
9. materialism
14. dark event
17. depress
20. dystopia
21. rioter
23. lament
25. eats

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.

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



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WE LOVE BOOKS DAY

One of the several events cancelled because of the recent bad weather was the International Children's Book Day, held each year around the time of Hans Christian Andersen's birthday. This is a day loved by children, who celebrate reading by dressing up as their favourite literary character and talk about their love of a special book. The students of All Saints' Primary School were therefore delighted when a day had been

designated 'We Love Books Day'. Everyone dressed as their best loved character, with the staff also joining in the fun. Harry Potter chatted with Spiderman, footballers made friends with pirates and Willy Wonka shared a joke with Red Riding Hood. The Grand Parade when all the characters circled the hall was a colourful tribute to the imagination and artistic effort of the young people - and their parents!

See also photo on back page



Regal visitors to All Saints' Catholic School ... the Witch Queen and the Egyptian Pharaoh.

A DIFFERENT DAY OUT



We had a guided tour of the galleries which displayed examples of attractive modern glass.

Members of Lanchester WI sampled something different this month. On February 22nd we visited the National Glass Centre, on the

banks of the River Wear in Sunderland. We were greeted with tea, coffee and freshly baked scones, after which we saw a glass flame working demonstration. There was time spent looking at the many beautiful pieces for sale in the shop and we heard a fascinating talk about the history of glass making in our area, which started in Roman times. The art developed over the centuries and production reached its peak at the many glass

works by the end of the Nineteenth Century. We viewed some of the many examples of glass made in Sunderland over the years and then watched more demonstrations in the Hot Glass Studio. The most enjoyable day ended with lunch served in the comfortable restaurant. This was a really informative and enjoyable day - and a good idea for a different day out for children during the school holidays!

LANCHESTER WI'S MARCH MEETING

President Marie Murphy opened our meeting, with everyone receiving an Easter egg on arrival. Marie announced that we now have a Facebook page, 'Lanchester WI', keeping us up to date with news. Besides our monthly County publication, informing us about their events, courses etc, many events are organised at branch level and we have a busy time ahead, including celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the village Community

Centre, the Annual Council Meeting, St Cuthbert's Hospice lunch at Ramside Hall and a visit to the Mighty Wurlitzer at Howden le Wear. We look forward to theatre visits and a '60s night which sounds great fun. Please get into the habit of spending a few minutes at the Information Table during our meetings, so you keep up to date with events. You can also become more involved with us by volunteering to offer a Vote of Thanks to our speakers, or a

funny or thoughtful reading. Members were thanked for contributions made to our raffles, tombola and stalls at our coffee morning. In our 'gin themed evening', our competition was to discover a recipe using the spirit and winners were Ann Grosvenor and Rhoda Joyce. Ann Carr read the amusing piece, 'The Office Party' and Maureen Barker received flowers celebrating her recent 80th birthday. Raffle

winners were Maureen Clarkson and Muriel Gibbons. Our speaker was Charlie Gibbs, who left a career in business to start up 'Steampunk Gin' and made it an extremely popular artisan liquor. He took us back in time to when Britain and Holland were involved in the Thirty Years War and it was noted that Dutch troops were given a small measure of 'ginevra' before an attack. This led to the saying 'Dutch courage' and the British adopting

the drink when returning home. Gin enjoyed huge popularity among the poor classes as a cheap relief from their miserable living conditions. Eventually, recent changes in legislation allowed the production of the several individual, artisan gins we see today. A really amusing history lesson! Sincere apologies to our much valued member Phyllis Penfold for identifying her with a wrong name in February's report.

WHAT'S ON?

Spring Clean Lanchester

The annual village litter pick (organised by the Lanchester Partnership) will be on April 21st from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. Please help. Bags, litter-pickers, etc will be available on the Green.

Wildlife Group

At the next meeting on Tuesday 10th April, Graham Temby, Education Officer, Durham County Badger Group, will give a talk on 'Badgers - ecology, TB and other threats'. Meet at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre dining room.

Easter Monday Egg Bouling

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

Lanchester Methodist Wives and Friends

The Spring programme continues on April 18th, with a guided tour of Lanchester Anglican Church. Meet in the Chapter House at 7.30 pm.

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

Sunday Bridge

Come along to the Community Centre on 8th April at 2.00 pm. The entrance fee is £3.00 and all profits to the Community Centre.

Vintage Tractor Club

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

Community Centre

Coffee Morning

The monthly coffee morning will be on Thursday 12th April.

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.

Lanchester WI

Because of the Bank Holiday Monday at the start of the month, we will meet on April 9th, our Guest Speaker will be Daniel Madden whose subject will be the History and Folklore of trees and plants. In our competition, you are asked to explain why a certain tree or plant is your favourite. Many thanks to everyone involved in helping out with another very successful coffee morning and thanks to the large number of people who turned out in such awful weather! Please keep up to date with news on our Facebook page.

Kynren Calls....

Lanchester WI are planning another visit to the exciting epic Kynren, based at Bishop Auckland, and we have a few available tickets. The date is Saturday 8th September and the cost is £40 each ticket. This includes our return transport and a Gold ticket. More details can be obtained from Carol Troy, c1troy@yahoo.co.uk. Please use email if possible or ring 07592 081809.

Bowls Spring Meeting

Lanchester Bowling Club will hold its pre-season meeting on Thursday 12th April at 7.00 pm in the Pavilion. All members and prospective new members are welcome.

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.

Thursday Club

At our next meeting, 19th April at 1.30 pm, we will, once again, welcome Kath and Harry Gilbert who will take us on a journey 'Beyond Belief'.

Community Centre AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Lanchester Community Association will be held on 18th April at 7.00 pm in the Conference Room of the Community Centre. All welcome.

Social Club

Come along and join the great atmosphere.

Good Company and Entertainment for everyone of all ages.

Sun 1st April - Disco & Karaoke

Sat 7th April - Marty Q - First Class Vocalist

Sat 14th April - Julia McArthur - Female Singer

Sat 21st April - Sophie Danielle - Female Singer

Sat 28th April - Aryana - First Class Singer.

Library Book Club

On Monday April 23rd at 2.30 to 3.30 pm, the group will be discussing Venus in Winter by Gillian Bagwell. A novel about Bess of Hardwick, who became one of the richest women in Tudor and Elizabethan England. A fascinating read.

If you have read this book why don't you come along or pick up your copy of the novel from the library. We have enjoyed a very varied selection of books chosen by Zena Roddom one of the Lanchester's librarians and await her next selection. We look forward to seeing you then.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday April 19th from 5.30-6.30 pm, the group will be reviewing Chocolat by Joanne Harris, an international bestseller. Set in a small town in rural France, this is a mouthwatering read! If you would like to join this book group, pop into the library and pick up your copy.

Chatterbooks

Will be held on Monday April 16th 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.

Satley WI

Our next meeting is on Monday April 9th in Satley Parish Hall commencing at 7.15 pm. Our Guest Speaker is Carolyn Hough who is providing us with a cookery demonstration. We will be able to eat and drink samples of the produce she makes so I am sure it will be an enjoyable evening

Local History Society

Subject: Anderson Place, Newcastle
Speaker: Richard Pears
Date: April 6th
Time: 7 pm
Venue: Lanchester Community Centre
We welcome Richard back to discover this area of Newcastle situated within the city walls, also known as Grey Friars or the Newe House. Charles I stayed at the house during his captivity in Newcastle, the town house of Sir William and Sir Walter Blackett. Visitors are welcome (£3). For more information about the History Society contact marianmorrison@btinternet.com.

Paradiso Social Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday, 8th April at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and the screening of the film - I, DANIEL BLAKE. This film directed by Ken Loach is a tale of astonishing triumph and adversity in modern day Britain, "a masterpiece of scalding and moving relevance". A vital film of our times.

All are welcome:
Ticket entry
£2.50 members
£3.50 occasional visitors
£2 00 young persons

Cuppa, Lunch and Company

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17th April, 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.

Mothers' Union

The speaker at the meeting on Wednesday 11th April, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, is the Methodist Minister, Revd Stuart Earl.

Castleside Art Exhibition

The 46th exhibition of Castleside Art Club will be held on Easter Sunday and Monday in Castleside Village Hall. There will be around 200 paintings exhibited and much of the work will be new.

There are always lots of homemade refreshments, cakes and pies and a Cadbury's Creme Egg for every child who comes along.

We are anticipating that the event will raise funds for a local charity along with Castleside Village Hall which the Art Club continues to support.

Mahjong

The Lanchester Mahjong group meet in the upstairs meeting room in the Community Centre every Thursday morning from 10 to 12 noon. Why not come along and learn this ancient Chinese game (not the computer version!). Cost £2.50 including light refreshments. For further details, please contact Dennis on 01207 520278.

Come Scottish Dancing!

Learning to dance has become an extremely popular pastime and a warm welcome is offered to anyone wishing to try Scottish Country Dancing. You don't need a partner and a wide variety of dances, reels, jigs and strathspeys are introduced. The group meets every Friday evening at Lanchester Community Centre, from 7.30 to 9.30pm. Beginners are welcome, so come along, meet friendly people and enjoy a great social evening.

Flower Club

The next meeting will be in Lanchester Community Centre on Wednesday 25th April. The demonstrator will be Marion Hinchley and her theme will be 'Back to Basics'. Everyone is welcome.

Open House

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

BOWLING WELCOMES 'YOUNGSTERS'

In a historic decision the Derwentside Veterans Bowling League has dropped the word Veterans from its title and removed age restrictions from its rules. Whenever the television companies are doing a story about pensions or bus passes the first thing they do is send a crew down to the nearest bowling club. Well not anymore! In this area at least. We are open

to all, even 'young' people under 55 years of age. Other good news is the club has reduced its fees for the 2018 season. Just £20 for new members and £40 in future years. See the What's On page for details of our spring meeting or go to our website for club details (Google Lanchester Bowling Club) and get bowling, whatever your age.

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CRICKET NEWS

There were two pieces of good news as a shirt sponsor and the overseas player have been confirmed. Over recent years we have created a great partnership with Pip Stop through the Beer Festival and most recently the Gin Festivals and they have now agreed to sponsor the senior team shirts, which is extremely good of them.

On the playing front, New Zealand cricketer, Sam Crooks is to return to the club for a second season. He progressed well last year, scoring over a thousand runs making two centuries in the process, taking more than twenty-five wickets and leading

the way in catches. He'll miss the first game of the season for which he might be relieved, as he hates the cold but should be in place for week 2.

The league is starting a week earlier than normal to prevent the need for a double weekend, so pack your thermals guys. The fixtures have been posted and Ryton are first up with the firsts at home. The firsts then travel to 2017 champions Swalwell while the seconds entertain Hebburn. Week three has the teams playing Cowgate and the third team start their fixtures at Consett. At the time of writing, the junior fixtures have yet to be posted. The first

weekend in April will see the annual big push to get the club and ground ready for the season, although the current bad weather is hampering attempts to start preparing the square. Hopes are high for the new year, with the firsts looking to improve on their third placed finish. The seconds have the opportunity to make a title push following the newly formed league set up after the amalgamation with the Northumberland County League. Amongst the junior teams, the under 13s should be title challengers and we will be able to field competitive sides in all the other age groups.

TENNIS CLUB AWARD AND NEWS

Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club has been given the national accreditation of 'Tennismark' by the Lawn Tennis Association. This award recognises the club as a safe, welcoming and inclusive place to learn and play tennis with good practice and policies in safeguarding and child protection. This followed hard work by the committee to achieve the accreditation and the appointment of welfare officer, Gordon Potter, completed the process. Following the recent wintry weather, it's time to look forward to another summer of tennis action at the Ford Road courts.

Coaching has continued throughout the winter months with the under 8s sessions held at Croft View and this will continue until the middle of April, when it is hoped the grass courts will be available for play. The club has entered a team in the County Summer league and the children are looking forward to the matches. As far as the seniors are concerned, the short tennis also continued during the winter at Croft View, and they too are ready for some outdoor grass court play. On Sunday 13th May, the club will hold a Great British Tennis open day.

A full free programme of activities will be available, including light refreshments. Watch out for the posters and banners around the village (see below for link). Other events planned are a strawberry tea, barbeque and games night.

If you are interested in tennis, please don't hesitate to contact Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278 or email den.lizjane@gmail.com with any query about the club.

Great British Tennis - <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/> events and follow the links to the Lanchester booking area.



Under eight children who have been coached in Croft View during the winter months.

HAS SPRING SPRUNG?



In between the recent periods of heavy snow, Spring is making a valiant effort with a beautiful show of crocuses in the village.

LITTLE EGRET



This Little Egret has been seen in and around Lanchester for the last few months. The photo was taken on the development site bordering Ford Road that has just been refused planning permission but which is to be appealed by the developer. It shows that this is an important site for bringing wildlife into the village. The Little Egret has been using the site on a daily basis for the last few weeks.

WE LOVE BOOKS AT ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY SCHOOL



Children at All Saints' Primary School dressed as their favourite characters, showing their favourite books.

NEXT DEADLINE

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

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