

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 1 Volume 20

Lanchester, January 2019

For contact information, see page 2

A YEAR IN LANCHESTER 2018



A snapshot of some events that occurred in and around our village during 2018 that were published in the Village Voice, taken by our photographer Ronnie Allaker and assembled by him in this collage.

A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS



Amy Fudali and Colin Bailey singing a duet during the performance of the very entertaining production of A Classic Christmas. See article on page 4.

BOXING DAY HUNT



The Master of the Hunt leading the hounds from the car park behind the King's Head. Report on page 2.



Dear Village....

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

Dear Village Voice

It was good to see a sizable turnout for the Christmas Eve 'Carols on the Green'. However I have a feeling that fewer people were singing this year. Perhaps in advance of the event, a mini carol sheet (for just the carols to be sung) could be published on a village website for people to print and bring along, then no one will have an excuse not to sing. There seemed to be a good number of horses this year for the Boxing Day Hunt too. It was an impressive sight seeing the horses exiting from the Kings Head as they made their way through the village.

Ian Taylor

Dear Village Voice

I wish to express my objection of the Hunt in Lanchester. This is a cruel, barbaric blood sport that should be confined to history, along with dog fighting and hanging. They flout the law of drag hunting, by going off trail to kill, often the terrier men dig up a set. The fox is chased by many hounds and ripped apart in a barbaric act. This is inhumane in a civilised society, being as cruel as bull fighting. Many domestic dogs kill lambs and hens, but people would be horrified if the Hunt ripped up a pet dog.

Kelly from Lanchester

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Dear Village Voice

Dog poo dumpers, PLEASE don't do it!

My wife and I had a very enjoyable walk along the railway line and by the river this Christmas, only to be very disappointed by the number of plastic bags containing dog poo just discarded and left lying around. The council will probably not be picking them up because they now have other more urgent priorities to focus on. So it is left to people like me to pick them up, because we care and want to keep our areas pleasant for all to enjoy. Please take your dog poo home! Name and address withheld on request

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for November was 81. The draw was made by J Anderson, Lanchester Community Centre staff.

View the Village Voice online at www.lanchester-villagevoice.co.uk

BOXING DAY HUNT

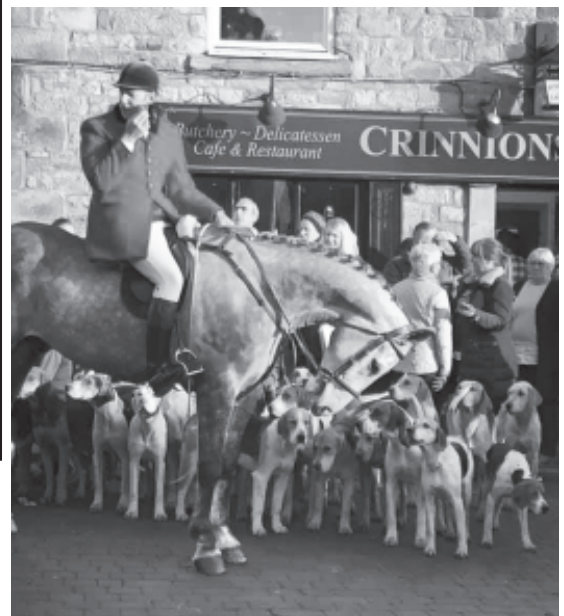
As per usual on Boxing Day each year, the Braes of Derwent Hunt set off from the village centre on their annual hunt.

With the weather clear and dry, large crowds turned out at the King's Head and around Crinnions in the village to see the Hunt off. The hounds and riders arrived at 10.30, with refreshments for the riders supplied by Crinnions. With the road cordoned off, both

bystanders and riders congregated in the village centre. At the sound of the horn, a speech was given by the Master of the Hunt and they set off up Front Street and Newbiggen Lane.

A Boxing Day tradition for many in the village, no doubt the sight of the Hunt provided a great morning out and another way for the community of Lanchester to come together.

Tom Bartles-Smith



The Master of the Hunt and the hounds ready to set off on their hunt.

How to contact the Village Voice

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voiceadverts@gmail.com or telephone Lynda on 07851 775297. Please do not use this number for matters relating to content.

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, Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

Healthwatch County Durham

Healthwatch County Durham will be contacting GP surgeries in the new year to seek patients views on the new Care Navigation appointments service. Brian Jackson, Chair



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CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Carols on the Green on Christmas Eve has been a tradition in our village for almost 50 years and from an original small group of people, it has grown and grown until on Christmas Eve 2018, it was estimated that 1000 people were present.

The Lanchester Choral Society and the Lanchester Brass Band have been in attendance for many years so that the music is of the highest standard. All our clergy or a representative take part and there is a wonderful feeling of togetherness as we welcome the 'Son of God', 'The Christ Child' who is at the heart of Christmas. Peter Jackson, a lay reader at the Parish Church, opened the evening with a warm welcome for everyone, and a short prayer at an appropriate time. Reverend Stuart Earl of the Methodist Church gave a biblical Christmas reading. The Reverend Peter Smith from the RC Church gave a blessing at

the end. David Hughes led the carol singing through the story of the first Christmas and this year as in other years, he asked the children to come forward and sing 'Away in a Manger' This always touches the heart!

The weather was kind especially for the band whose fingers and toes can get very cold, but the band plays on whatever the conditions and provides an excellent background for the carols.

Churches Together who organise the evening like to think that the occasion has made Christmas Day more meaningful for our village. One thing is very clear, that the 'Goodwill towards Men' which is the theme of a number of carols, is certainly present in our village. It is also abundantly clear that the tradition of 'Carols On The Green' on Christmas Eve is here to stay.

1000 people - WOW!
Brenda Craddock



The Howe family - one of the many families who enjoyed Christmas Eve on the Green. Family members and friends had travelled from Scotland, Yorkshire and London to celebrate their Christmas together. See also photo on back page.

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

It is a number of years ago now that another Lanchester tradition began. I am sure readers are aware that our village has some very talented musicians, of whom we are justly proud and musical concerts are always very well attended.

The Lanchester Male Voice Choir and Lanchester Choral Society are two excellent stalwarts of our musical heritage and together, on the Monday of the week preceding Christmas, they perform a programme of music, readings and carols. This year was no exception and on December 15th their Christmas Concert was held in the Methodist Church. Harry Carr and David Hughes conducted their own choirs, accompanied respectively by Noreen Bridgewater and Paul Conroy. The large audience could just sit back and enjoy beautiful music. Perfect relaxation and very much an antidote

for all the frenzy of Christmas.

The choice of music by each conductor was so well performed by their choirs. There were some familiar pieces and some not so well known but all sung with sensitivity and obvious enjoyment. When the two choirs sang together, they made a superb sound, very much appreciated by the audience who also joined in the singing of chosen carols.

Our clergy gave readings at appropriate times in the programme. Miss Sue Smith, a church warden, read from the prophet Isaiah, who prophesied

that God would send His Son into the world. Father Cornelius O'Connor read from St Luke's Gospel the story of the Shepherds and Angels, and Reverend Stuart Earl read about the coming of The Three Kings in St Matthews Gospel and he also pronounced the Blessing at the end of the last carol. It was a very uplifting enjoyable evening with a feast of good music to reflect upon. Thank you to all the people who contributed in any way to this lovely concert. There was a retiring collection for local charities.

Brenda Craddock
See photo on back page.

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A CLASSIC 'FEEL GOOD' CHRISTMAS

For many years, Lanchester has enjoyed the annual visit of North Country Theatre's entertaining and inventive plays, but Nobby Dimon retired this year and this touring

theatre is no more. Fortunately, it seems, the flame will be kept alive by some members of the Company (currently under the auspices of Bluebox Productions of Leyburn) and we were

treated on 16th December to their production of 'A Classic Christmas'. This was not a play, but a programme of Christmas songs and spoken words combined into an entertaining show.

Mark Cronfield, who we have previously seen in NCT plays, opened the proceedings as Santa Claus in a green robe and gave his first monologue about Christmas, its symbols, artefacts and customs. This was followed by vocalists Amy Fudali and Colin Bailey singing (and dancing) 'White Christmas'. This set the pattern for the evening with songs interspersed with talks from Mark.

We enjoyed many Christmas favourites - Silver Bells, Santa Baby, Oh Holy Night, Walking in the Air, Sleigh Ride, Good King Wenceslas (enthusiastic audience singalong) and many more. All were beautifully sung with tasteful backing music.

Mark's spoken pieces covered many aspects of Christmas - evolution from St Nicholas to Santa Claus, The Nativity, Victorian Christmas, modern Christmas and spirit of charity and, more sombrely, the No Man's Land Christmas truce in WWI - as part of this, Amy and Colin sang Silent Night/Stille Nacht in English and German.

The evening concluded with all three performers singing 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'. Presented on stage as a domestic fireside Christmas scene with a splendid Christmas tree, this well attended show had seasonal 'feel good' quality - to the obvious enjoyment of the audience, who also enjoyed mince pies at the interval.

Mark is currently developing a stage adaptation of Robinson Crusoe and they hope to announce an Autumn Toure early in the New Year, so hopefully we will see this in Lanchester in 2019.

Neville Hartley
See photo on front page.

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CRAIG'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

For a number of years, Craig Davies, the organist at All Saints' Parish Church, has organised a Christmas Concert for his chosen charities. He leads the Church Music Group, a group of 20 singers, with Rob Matthews a church warden accompanying with his guitar, and Jeanette Bowes, a very able pianist, accompanying on the piano.

Craig had chosen some lovely Christmas songs, which were beautifully sung by the members of the group. The audience were invited to join in with the well known carols which interspersed the programme and they very

much enjoyed doing so. The programme ended with three Christmas favourites, 'Do they know it's Christmas' (Band Aid), 'White Christmas' (Irving Berlin) and finally and appropriately 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. At the end of the concert Craig outlined the three charities who were to benefit from the concert, and from the donations given at the end of the concert, £100 each has been sent to the following charities. Firstly 'Daft as a Brush' whose volunteers provide free transport for cancer patients to and from

hospital, and especially to the Freeman Hospital where there is a special cancer treatment centre. Secondly 'Danny's Project' which is run by volunteer parents of children with very special needs and thirdly the Village Bus which is now run by Stanley Taxis, Durham County Council and Lanchester Partnership.

It was a lovely concert and a very worthwhile evening, although it was worthy of a much bigger audience. Thank you Craig and the Music Group.

Brenda Craddock
See photo on back page.

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LANCHESTER BRASS BAND 40 YEARS OLD

On Saturday December 8th Lanchester Brass Band presented a Christmas Concert to celebrate its 40th year of existence. Held in the Community Centre, it was extremely well attended which was very encouraging for the band. Mrs Craddock welcomed everyone and gave a short resumé of the band's history.

It was started by Mr Brian Heppenstall, a cornet player, who decided that he would form a brass band when he moved to Lanchester. He soon found people interested in the idea and the first meeting was held on February 9th 1978. A lot of work went into raising money for instruments and music but with the support of parents, other bands and the local community they raised the money and

Lanchester Brass Band was formed.

It was interesting to discover that one member of the band, Neville Hartley, had actually attended the inaugural meeting. Mr Harry Turnbull, also a founder member and their secretary for ten years, was in the audience.

There have been many conductors over 40 years, and some readers may remember Mr David Dye, who conducted the band very successfully from 1982 until 1995, even taking them to perform at the Albert Hall, a great achievement. The present conductor is Mr John Weirs and the audience enjoyed his friendly, easy manner and repartee.

The concert was made up of carols sung by the audience and special



The EP School choir sang a selection of Christmas songs.

Christmas items performed by the Brass Band. The EP School choir sang a selection of very nice Christmas songs, conducted by Janet Knighton and accompanied by Mrs Jane Davis. All Saints' RC School was represented by Catherine Bell and James Hewitson who gave very good solo performances on their brass instruments. Lanchester Junior Brass Band played 'Away in a

Manger' very well indeed. One of the younger members of the band, Rebecca Draper, sang two songs, 'In My Dreams' from Anastasia and 'The Little Road to Bethlehem' and entranced the audience with her beautiful voice. The band were wearing their new entertainment uniforms for the first time and the youngest member of the band Catherine Bell,

presented Mr Neville Hartley with a special maroon waistcoat, with 'Founder Member' embossed in gold on the pocket. A donation to Willow Burn has been made from the proceeds of the concert. The band would like to thank all those who attended and would welcome new members of any age to join them.
Brenda Craddock

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th January 2019

Minutes - Ordinary Meeting 11th December - approved.

Correspondence

1. Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party - agreed that Councillor P Jackson be put in the county draw.

2. Letter of thanks - Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society - received.

3. Lanchester Post Office - information on its relocation - received.

4. Durham Local Councils Charter - received.

Area Action Partnership Councillors were informed that a new Area Action Partnership Co-ordinator for the Mid Durham area has been appointed.

Neighbourhood Plan

Draft four of the document has been compiled which has been distributed around the working group for comment and sent to

the County Council for a health check. Photos need to be included and minor amendments made.

It is planned to present the revised draft to the Parish Council at the February meeting. A meeting has taken place to progress the printing and design of the document for consultation purposes. The public consultation process is planned for Easter time.

Manor Grange Play Area Members were informed that a site meeting had taken place. Officers from Durham County Council had attended to offer advice on a potential scheme.

A number of matters of concern had been discussed including drainage issues and accessibility of the play equipment. To progress the project a lease would need to be agreed with

Durham County Council which could have maintenance and grass cutting implications.

Members considered that the site was important in providing play facilities for that part of the village. Members considered that a feasibility study needed to be undertaken to identify and quantify the key issues of drainage, access and equipment.

Maintenance report - received.

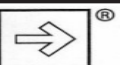
Precept 2019/20 - it was agreed that the precept be set at £62,817.18 for 2019/20.

This would result in an increase in band D council tax of £1.76 a year.

Financial report - discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment - approved. The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 12th February 2019 at Lynwood House at 7.15 pm.

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CURIOUS AND DIVERSE OBJECTS

The annual History Society's Show and Tell was another great success, with a full house of members and visitors. Folks bring along, ordinary objects that can really fascinate you.

One of my favourite objects was a beautifully restored Philadelphia Diston Saw, the 'Rolls Royce of saws', with a tool for setting saw teeth, which was also beautifully crafted.

A member brought along a fascinating set of publications from the 1930s, a folder of printed painted pictures of topics used in an Infant School.



One of the painted infant school pictures.

The 'lesson plans' which accompanied the pictures included songs, poems and instructions for activities to set the children. The artwork was carefully and beautifully

coloured and it set the tone of that era. In fact, Enid Blyton supervised these plans.

One strange object was an early 20th Century Gap Measuring Instrument,

with a particularly low tripod (approximately 18"). Any further information, which would shed light on who used this type of instrument would be much appreciated; references were made to its use by the Army and Archaeologists.

A Brown Glazed Red Clay Drinking Jug from Burton in Lonsdale dated 1855 also amused us all and we learned the secrets of how to drink from this holed vessel. How the pot was turned and decorated with white clay from a cow's horn was beautifully explained.



The Gap Measuring Instrument.

There were a lot of other interesting items, too many, in fact to mention. If you missed this excellent, interesting and entertaining evening, you'll have to wait another year. See you at our next Show and Tell.

LANCHESTER SIGNAL BOX

Lanchester has a number of historic buildings providing an interesting link with the past. One

such building that people might not be aware of is situated at Lizards Crossing on the

Lanchester Valley Railway Footpath (just to the west of the village).

This simple little building is what remains of Lanchester Colliery Junction Signal Box. The box once controlled the connection between the railway and the colliery that lay just to the south. The signal box was actually taken out of use more than one hundred years ago (in late 1907 or early 1908). Following closure, the windows and upper level of the box were removed and the roof was lowered. The roof now rests on what would have been the windowsills of

the upper floor. Presumably, the remainder of the building was retained for storage purposes until the railway eventually closed in 1965. The Lanchester Valley Footpath is a wonderful leisure resource. However, with the exception of some beautiful station buildings (now residential properties), and a number of smoke stained bridges, there are few reminders of the actual railway that ran through the valley.

As time marches on, railway signal boxes are rapidly becoming seldom

seen pieces of the industrial past. It would be nice if this one could be protected against further decline, and if some sort of information about the railway could be provided nearby. I believe that the box is in the custodianship of Durham County Council, although I have been unable to find out anything about its upkeep.

If anybody is interested in sharing information or photographs relating to the box or the colliery, then I would be really pleased to hear from them.

neilfinlay.rail@gmail.com



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POLICE REPORT

This month our priority in the village has been high valued thefts/burglaries. Over the December period we received reports in relation to a £14,500 wood chipper stolen from an address on Cadger Bank and another incident whereby approximately £25,000 worth of items removed from a container near Maiden Law. In relation to the wood chipper it is believed the theft took place on 03/12/18 between 3-6 pm.

If you saw anything suspicious in relation to this crime or can recall witnessing a wood chipper being towed out of the village during this time please contact PCSO 6780 Cullen-Jackson.

With the days now getting dark as early as 4 pm can we please advise everyone to increase security around your property, vehicles and outhouses/sheds. Please make sure locks,

alarms, and lights are being used to deter crime. If you witness anything of concern please do not hesitate to telephone Police on 101.

If you have any problems or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch; you can contact your local beat officers PC 2058 Iain Nelson and PCSO 6780 Lisa Cullen-Jackson on 101 or by emailing lisa.cullen-jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk.

BRIDGE SCHOOL HELPS WILLOW BURN

The Lanchester Bridge School (formerly the Green School) held a Christmas Fair with all the profits donated to Willow Burn.

all the staff. The students had been working for weeks making Christmas gifts and novelties. A magnificent £469.17 was received by Paul Jackson from Willow Burn. He was invited to join the students and staff

for a very seasonal Christmas lunch, a great way to celebrate the end of term. Helen and her team are keen to help in other ways to support this wonderful local Hospice. Paul Jackson



Paul Jackson receiving the cheque from staff and students.

LANCHESTER SHOW 2019

Last shout out to anyone who may be entering any of the classes in the industrial section of Lanchester Show this summer, don't forget you still have time to put forward any suggestions

for classes. January 31st is the last day and then the schedule will be set. There will be adult and children's classes in bakery, photography, handicrafts, art, horticulture and more.

It's a great local show that with your support will continue to grow for many years to come. Please forward any suggestions directly to Justine at jus.1970@icloud.com

THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX Young AND Old Together

Sitting down to watch an episode of Channel 4's 'Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds' before Christmas got me thinking about how people of different ages interact. The series features one of the UK's biggest retirement villages which opens a nursery where the classmates' ages range from three to 102. What can the very young and the very old learn from each other? At first, it seems quite a strange thing to make a programme about. However, on reflection, it appears so much clearer, it demonstrated the value and importance of 'social connections' regardless of age. Of course, we often choose the easier way out,

making decisions we feel more comfortable about, like being around those of our own age or those people who appear similar to ourselves. Sometimes, it is just too easy to make assumptions about other people and perhaps judge them too quickly, without first getting to know them. It's so much easier than engaging with others who you might not know so well, if at all, or upon first thought might appear to have so very little in common with you. Some people might call this, 'being out of your comfort zone' or 'thinking outside of the box'. It will probably be more challenging and difficult to do, but the rewards and satisfaction from making and achieving such new

contacts can far outweigh any unease and awkwardness you might feel to start with. Of course, such TV programmes require detailed setting up, supervision, safeguarding and support techniques for those involved. The same sort of things would be required in any activity you might undertake where getting to know somebody new is involved. But don't let it stop you. The rewards for taking the time to listen, interact with and make a difference to others, regardless of age, can be priceless. You've heard the saying, 'age is just a number'. Now is the time to look beyond 'the age label'.



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KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITY PLAY



A very nice and rather novel presentation of the Nativity story was beautifully performed and sung by these young pupils.

The EP School had a caption on the screen when the parents arrived for the Key Stage 1 Nativity Presentation. It read 'Key Stage 1 proudly present The Inn-Spectors'. Now parents would know the significance of that title because the school has had an Ofsted Inspection this term, which is why there was another caption below which read 'teachers don't worry, they are not real inspectors'. Well that was a relief.

A very nice stable with a shining star right above it had been placed centre stage, and the scene was set for what was a very nice and rather different presentation of the Nativity story. There were three inspectors each

equipped with their clipboards and pencils and it was clear from the outset that they were going to do their job very well indeed. They were encouraged with a song sung by the whole cast which inferred that 'Everything must be perfect because only the best, the very, very, best would do'. There were some very nice singing voices. Mary had a beautiful voice for one so young and she sang confidently too.

The shepherds, angels, innkeeper and three wise men all came under examination by the inspectors, and they were particularly interested in the stable which must be worthy of a King. In fact there was great rejoicing when the inspectors said

and then sang, 'We have found a stable fit for a King'.

It was a very confident performance by these young children, who all conducted themselves very well indeed. They knew all the words of the songs and looked as if they were really enjoying singing them.

The three inspectors were highly satisfied as indeed were the audience. Mrs Davis congratulated the pupils for their excellent performance and invited the audience once more to show their appreciation. The prolonged loud clapping indicated this and everyone went away with a smile. The verdict obviously 'Outstanding' in Ofsted Language.

Brenda Craddock

EP NURSERY AND FOUNDATION STAGE NATIVITY

These very young children gave an enchanting performance of their Nativity Play. They took up their places on the stage, quietly and confidently after noting and acknowledging their proud parents in the audience.

The story of the Nativity unfolded mainly through song, beginning with the visit of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, followed by the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem and their search for somewhere to stay. This led to the shepherds, 'Keeping their watch over their flocks by night' and the shepherds visit to the new baby in a manger was again confidently portrayed by these young pupils while some beautiful angels accompanied the visit in

song. The three wise men then made their appearance and laid down their gifts with poise and reverence.

The Head of the Nursery, Miss Butler, had done a wonderful job in preparing these pupils for their performance, because these very young children knew just what to do and when to do it. The songs were sung so well and the words so clear, making all the action so meaningful. There were some beautiful little voices.

The children left the hall to enthusiastic, appreciative clapping and no doubt there were quite a number of teary eyes in the audience.

It had been such a happy afternoon, and the scene was now set for Christmas!

Brenda Craddock



These very young children gave an enchanting performance. See also photo on back page.



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NATIVITY AND CHRISTINGLE



Pupils from Lanchester EP School taking part in their Key Stage 2 Nativity and Christingle Service at the Parish Church.

Lanchester EP School held their Key Stage 2 Nativity and Christingle Service in the Parish Church on December 20th. There was a morning and afternoon service in order to accommodate all the parents who wished to attend.

It was rather a different Nativity Play called 'Christmas 1914', which appropriately linked with the 100 year celebrations since the end of the First World War in 1918.

The actual focus of the play was the incident in World War I, when something remarkable happened on Christmas Day 1914 on the battlefield in France. German soldiers in the trenches began to sing 'Silent Night' and British soldiers in their trenches followed suit and then both sides moved towards one another, shook hands and declared a truce for that day only. What a pity it was just for one day. Throughout the years this story of the truce has been handed down and made people reflect on the futility of war. The action of the play was

interspersed with appropriate songs, which were very well sung and word perfect.

The Area Dean of Lanchester Deanery, Reverend Stephanie Clark, welcomed all at the beginning of the service and introduced the play, then praised all the pupils at the end of the service for the excellence of their performance.

Year 3 pupils were ready with their Christingle oranges and they began to move around the church in twos. Each pupil concentrated on

keeping their orange still to let the candle shine as brightly as it could. When the main lights were switched off, the lights of the Christingle oranges shone in every corner of the church - a very special moment!

In drawing the service to a close Reverend Clark reminded the pupils that the message of the Christingle is that the Light of Christ should shine in every corner of the world to bring love, peace and goodwill to everyone.

Brenda Craddock

A VERY MUSICAL CHRISTMAS - All Saints

It has become a popular tradition for Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Primary School to close the academic year with a celebration of the musical talents of their students. Mrs Powell welcomed a large and appreciative audience of the whole school and family members of the performers. Brass and guitar players performed festive tunes, starting with 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' and it was obvious that a lot of hard work had gone into practising the pieces. 'Walking in the Air', 'Jingle Bells' and 'Rudolf' were all included in the programme, and the

young musicians performed with enjoyment and enthusiasm. It was also good to see them being so supportive of their friends, listening to their performances carefully and applauding everyone warmly.

Mrs Powell thanked all the performers for their hard work, and all the family members who had helped them with their preparations. For so many people, the Musical Assembly at All Saints' School is a landmark of the Christmas season. Thank you for such a lovely event!

Maisie Raine
See photo on back page.

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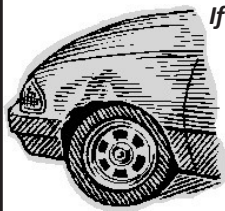
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Children's parties

One way to combat those January blues may be to start planning the year's upcoming parties and celebrations. Children's parties in particular feature in many family calendars, but have you thought about how much single-use plastic also features in these parties? Give your children the best present you can - help them to move forward to a future that is free of single-use, throw-away plastic. Here are a few simple ideas on how to make your parties plastic-free:

- * Use reusable plates and cups if possible, but if you are going disposable, use paper

plates and compostable cups.

- * Get the kids to help you make paper decorations - paper chains or a hand-drawn 'Happy Birthday' banner are simple, cheap and fun for kids to make. Or use decorations which can be brought out again each year, like coloured lights.
- * Ditch straws altogether, or if you need them, buy paper ones.
- * Buy wrapping paper that doesn't have glitter or a plastic coating (and can therefore be recycled).
- * If you are having party bags, use paper instead of plastic ones.
- * Ditch the plastic toys in the party bags too - alternatives include a

book or a packet of seeds, a bookmark, sweets that come in plastic free packaging such as a tube of smarties, a mini wooden puzzle or jigsaw, notepad and colouring pencils, cardboard face mask, wooden ink stamp, bubble bath bar etc.

- * Do you really need party bags? After an afternoon they're usually forgotten and the toys in them broken and thrown away; the most fun kids have at parties is through playing with each other. Make the games and play the focus of the party, rather than the stuff they get to consume.
- * If you need containers for individual lunches, use cardboard lunch boxes; or if serving food at a table, serve in large washable bowls and drinks in jugs rather than buying snacks in individually wrapped plastic packaging and drinks cartons or bottles. The children will still have smiles on their faces and you'll be doing your bit to look after the planet we all rely on.

**DEMENTIA FRIENDLY
GROUP**



Everyone enjoyed attempting a Christmas film quiz.

Lanchester Group holds its first get together

Our new Dementia Friendly Communities initiative held its first social get together on December 20th. There was a festive theme and Lynwood House provided a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. People with memory loss, those who support them and several helping volunteers were all there to celebrate the spirit of Christmas, with representatives from the

Alzheimer's Association on hand to offer information and support. Everyone enjoyed attempting a Christmas film quiz, and festive songs were heartily sung. Mince pies, Christmas cake and tea all added to the enjoyment, and best of all, it was the chance for people to mix and get to know new friends. This was a lovely, friendly get-together, and was the first in what is hoped to be many more. Keep looking out for news of our next meetings. *Maisie Raine*

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THURSDAY CLUB UPDATE

Our December meeting was a most enjoyable Christmas affair. Four of our members gave amusing Christmassy readings. Neville Hartley came along and played the piano in his own inimitable style - carols and Christmas songs that we could all sing along to. We did, of course, indulge in a quiz. The prize was a large tube of Smarties, won inevitably, by the 'smarties'!

It was then time for some nibbles, mince pies and iced Baileys to get us right in the mood for Christmas.

If anyone would like to come along and join the Thursday Club they would be made most



One of Santa's helpers at our party.

welcome. Alternatively, if anyone would like more information on our club please either: email Olive at catbells@gmail.com or

ring Eileen on 529104 or Liz on 521682.

Finally, it just remains for me to wish everyone 'a Happy New Year'.

SATLEY WI December 2018

Fourteen members and two guests attended our December meeting and Linda, our President, began by sending best wishes to our two members who were unable to attend due to ill health. As the committee had enjoyed our celebratory meal at the Jolly Drivers it was decided that we will revisit for a post Christmas meal for all members in January.

The programme for 2019 was issued to members and names were taken for a trip to see Evita at the Gala Theatre in April. The first competition of the year was to make a Christmas table decoration and members had 30 minutes to make one from scratch. We had some really professional looking entries with Linda Butterfield being declared the winner, second place

given to Linda Horn and third place to Avril Carpenter. After all the hard work it was nice to sit down with a bowl of soup, made by Carol Dobinson, followed by a slice of carrot cake or stollen which were provided by Joan Smith and Pauline Grigg. They were thanked by Linda who closed the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

For our Christmas meal of 2018 we chose to go to the Black Knight restaurant at Lumley Castle. All nicely decked out for Christmas it gave a glitzy start to herald in the festive season. We were shown to a lovely round table, the menu was perused, service was good and we were soon partaking of a most enjoyable meal. Starters were Baked Roquefort cheese tart with onion marmalade and crispy leeks and Rillettes of salmon with cornichon capers and a watercress

velouté. Mains were Butter roasted breast of Cumbrian turkey with Yuletide trimmings, Daube of beef in Newcastle brown ale with button mushrooms, baby onions and pancetta lardons, braised red cabbage and creamed potatoes and Pan roasted fillet of North Sea cod with braised Puy lentils and chorizo stew, olive oil potatoes, kale and samphire. Puds were Pistachio and frangipani tart with black cherry and amaretto sorbet and Christmas pud with brandy sauce.

The food was 1st class, absolutely delicious eaten within the lovely ambience of the castle. There was just one small problem, taking into account that we were in an old building and we were possibly dressed in light weight clothes, it was a little chilly. If you are planning on going we suggest you dress accordingly - for winter weather. We shall most certainly be returning but, you've guessed it, we shall be well wrapped up.

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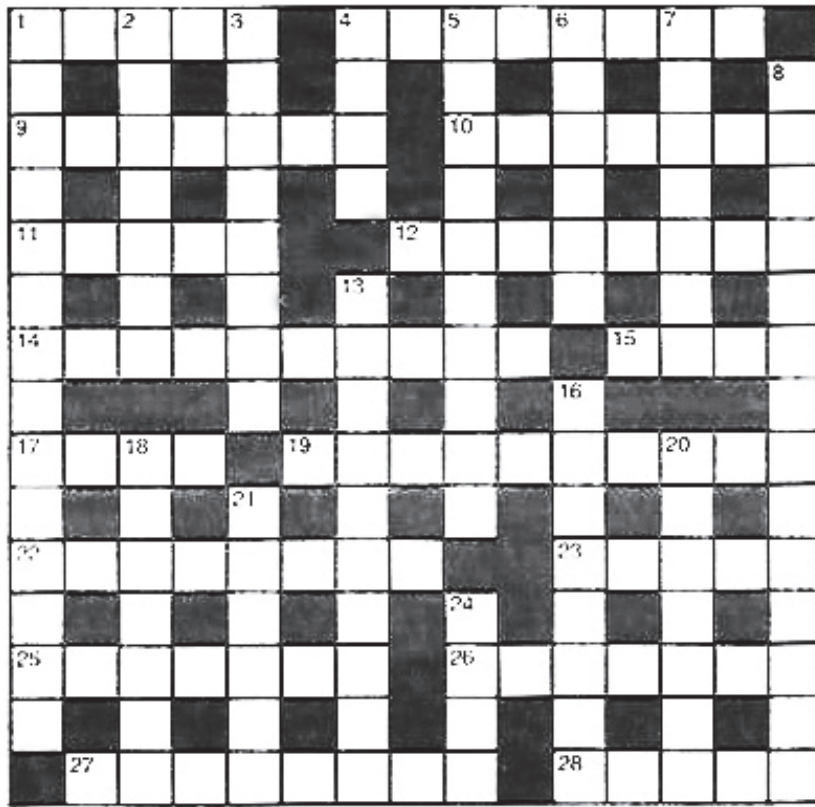
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CROSSWORD 153



ACROSS

1. Comedy (5)
4. Sanctuary for one's savings? (3,5)
9. Dotty individual (7)
10. Remarkably (7)
11. Tedium (5)
12. Bee keeper (8)
14. Stopping (10)
15. Smile (4)
17. Jot (4)
19. Means of propulsion on water (6,4)
22. Asian country (8)
23. Concerning vision (5)
25. Being overprotected (7)
26. Boot reinforcer (7)
27. Maybe get a lot of computer information (8)
28. Hot drink containing spirits (5)

DOWN

1. Digital art (6,8)
2. Attendants (7)
3. Inspects (8)
4. Hike (4)
5. Irrational dislike of foreigners (10)
6. Real (6)
7. Receding flow of the sea (3,4)
8. Done in a methodical way (14)
13. June 24th (2,5,3)
16. Worthy wager (1,4,3)
18. Apprentice (7)
20. Expose over drawback is apparent (7)
21. Name a liver (6)
24. Goes with horn, horse and lace (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 152

ACROSS

1. vanish
4. scorch
9. rollmops
10. cellos
12. chapter and verse
13. Golgotha
14. Roman
16. costs
18. learning
20. at a loss for words
23. beauty
24. put aside
25. remind
26. adhere

DOWN

1. volcanoes
2. nametag
3. separate list
5. cleaver
6. ruler
7. hasbeen
8. Eric
11. uncatalogued
15. minor fine
16. clamber
17. shorten
19. Newgate
21. alarm
22. shed

Name _____

Address _____

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

CROSSWORD 152

There were 14 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Mrs ATait who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

Apologies for the error in the 10 across clue but well done to the entrants who found that Aeolus would fit.

LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

SUDOKU

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

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

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NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

A very Happy and Healthy 2019 to you all from staff and volunteers of your Community Centre.

This is always a time for making resolutions about improving our health and fitness; expanding our interests; learning something new and meeting new friends. Your Community Centre is the ideal place for you to do this. We are local, friendly and have great facilities! For health and fitness we have a well equipped Exercise Centre which has everything you need to get in shape, lose weight and feel great. In addition to this we also have a number of regular exercise classes, suitable for all abilities, for you to choose from.

To expand your interests and meet new friends we have a variety of weekly and monthly classes and groups covering a huge

range of interests and activities from A-Z, Art to Zumba, and lots in between.

There are activities and events to choose from for all ages, abilities and interests and all local in the heart of our lovely village. Check out our Information Point to see what's available.

Why not come along and have a look around and see the great facilities we have to offer, or contact one of our friendly team and have a chat about the classes and groups that you could join. You can contact us by phone; 01207 521275; email us at lanchestercommunitycentre@yahoo.co.uk, follow us on Facebook 'Lanchester Community Centre' or check out the website - lanchestercommunity.wix.com/lanchester. We are always happy to hear from you. Look forward to seeing you soon!

THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE BREAST SCREENING SERVICE



Lanchester Medical Centre

Lanchester Patient Participation Group

The Newcastle upon Tyne Breast screening service currently have a mobile screening unit in Stanley and are screening all the ladies who are registered with a GP and fall within the age range 50-70. One in eight women will receive a breast cancer diagnosis in their lifetime. The aim of the breast screening programme is to detect and treat breast cancer at an early stage reducing mortality. Currently the Newcastle breast screening unit is taking part in a research trial to help assess the benefits and risks of screening slightly younger than 50 and older than 70. The trial is randomised so not every woman in these groups will be selected. Once a woman reaches 70 she is still entitled to a mammogram

appointment but will no longer receive an automatic appointment. We encourage all women over the age of 70 to self-refer. Our aim is to make the service as accessible as possible to everyone. The mobile units have manual wheelchair access and can also accommodate service users with limited mobility however the units are unable to accommodate electric wheelchairs. There is no right or wrong way to check your breasts but try to familiarise

yourself with how your breasts look and feel. By getting to know your breasts you will be able to spot any changes that are not normal to you. Any change should be checked out with your GP. All women should understand that a mammogram is nothing to be afraid of. Early detection is the key to the cure. If you have any queries regarding an appointment please contact the Newcastle Breast Screening Service on 0191 2820202.



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WHAT'S ON?

Cuppa and Company

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th February, 12 noon to 2 pm, in Lynwood House. Volunteers to give lifts or help on the day are welcome. If anyone new would like to join can they call 07808 243720.

Barbara Webb

Lanchester WI

Next month, we meet as always in the Community Centre at 7 pm, on February 4th. We'll hear about 'The Work of Police Dogs' from Dave Bell and our competition is to bring along a favourite dog photo.

We are welcoming several new members and remind them to keep up to date with news and coming events by reading the County Newsletter, the posts on our Information Table, as well as catching up on our Lanchester WI website. Many interesting outings and events are planned so keep up to date! Your vote for the 2019 National Resolution is due - please see details in the November/December edition of WI Life.

Visitors are always welcome to our meetings - we're a sociable group who enjoy making new friends! We hope all members have a happy and healthy 2019.

Canny Café

All Saints' RC Parish Centre will be providing a light lunch every third Wednesday of each month except December and August. Please come and join us for lunch and good friendship. No charge but donations welcome. Further information, contact Andrea Stoddart 01207 520291.

Lanchester Partnership

Have an evening with the Friends of Longovicium at the Black Bull on Thursday 7th February 7.30 to 9.30? There will be information about the fort, the research that has been done and is still ongoing, and information on how to get involved. The event is open to all.

Community Centre

Coffee Morning

Thursday 14th February.

Lacemaking

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

Needlecraft

On Wednesdays 1.00-3.00 pm.

New Monthly Men's Group

Meets in the lounge at Lynwood House on the last Tuesday of each month at 1.30 to 3 pm. There is no charge and tea and biscuits are provided. Come along and enjoy a laugh and a chat and maybe have a game of dominoes or draughts. Assistance with travel may be possible. If you would like to book a place please call 07808 243720.

Connecting Communities
British Red Cross

Lanchester Social Club

Free Live Entertainment every Saturday night in February from 9 pm
Sat 2nd Cassandra
Sat 9th Robert Black
Sat 16th Ellie Rae
Sat 23rd David Walton

Thursday Club

In February on the 21st in the Small Hall of the Community Centre at 1.30 pm, Glynis Grainger will be talking about the 'Young Prince Philip'.

Jeze Lowe Concert

Music lovers please note Tuesday 5th March in your diaries, when internationally popular folk singer/songwriter Jeze Lowe will be appearing in the village at the Social Club.

He is currently in great demand, and is my personal favourite performer bar none!

Support will be from Pete Thompson, myself and Jack Burness and it promises to be a great evening, from which any profits will be imparted to two local worthwhile causes.

Tickets are a very reasonable £8, and are available from the village Post Office or myself, Ian Tute (529286/07889 037102).

Local History Society

Subject: Mulgrave Castle and a Lanchester Link
Speaker: Fiona Green
Date: Friday February 1st
Time: 7pm

Venue: Lanchester Community Centre.

We are delighted to welcome Fiona Green, a resident of Lanchester to talk about Mulgrave Castle, which is near Whitby, Yorkshire. The Castle refers to one of three structures on the same property, an ancient castle, a Norman Castle and a country house.

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

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on Sunday 17th February 10am at Malton providing the visit to Lindisfarne in January took place. Otherwise information nearer the time.

Library Book Club

On Monday 25th February at 2.30-3.30pm, the group will be discussing 'Black Path' by Paul Bulstan, a dark tale of love and lies, obsession and betrayal.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday February 21st from 5.30-6.30pm, the group will be discussing 'The High Mountains of Portugal' by Yan Martel. "His best since 'Life of Pi'." (Washington Post)

Chatterbooks

Monday 11th February from 3.45 - 4.30 pm.

If your child likes books this session is suitable for 5-11 year olds. A theme around a book is chosen and there are craft activities that complement the book.

Future dates are 11th March and 8th April.

Toddler Time

Sessions for under fives, every Thursday between 2 and 3pm. Come along and bring your child to enjoy music, songs and rhymes.

Crafty Coffee Morning

We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 10 am till 12 noon at Lanchester Methodist Church. We have had a large donation of wool and needles and more knitters needed! We are making trauma teddies, premature baby clothes, knitted angels etc. Everyone welcome to call in for coffee and chat.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting on Tuesday 12th February with Noel Jackson (briefly preceded by Steve Hudson WRT), the subject is the Wear River's Trust local project update followed by Fantastical Beasts and where to find them.

Start at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre dining room.

Satley WI

Our next meeting will be held on February 11th in Satley Parish Hall at 7.15 pm. Our guest speaker is Liz from The Body Shop who will demonstrate some of the products which will be available to buy afterwards. Please feel free to join us.

Mothers' Union

A Happy New Year to everyone. Our next meeting is on February 13th, the speaker will be shown on the weekly pew sheet, as the original speaker has had to cancel.

Sunday Bridge

In the Community Centre on 3rd February at 2.00 pm. The entrance fee is £3.00 and all profits to the Community Centre.

Paradiso Social Club

The next Social with raffle, refreshments and film will be held on February 10th in the Main Hall of the Community Centre at 7pm. The film to be screened at 7.30 pm is 'LOVING VINCENT'. This film sets out to explore the life and controversial death of Vincent Van Gogh. Described as a triumph and absolutely gorgeous. Members - £2.50
Visitors - £3.50
£2.00 for young persons. All are welcome.

Mah Jong

In 2019, how about learning something new? How about the Chinese game of Mah Jong? The Lanchester Mah Jong group play in the upstairs meeting room in the Community Centre every Thursday morning from 10 to 12 noon. New players welcome. Full instruction available for beginners. Cost £2.50 including light refreshments. For further details, please contact Dennis on 01207 520278.

CRICKET NEWS

We do hope that you all had a great Christmas and enjoyed your New Year. However, there was another huge shock for the club and in particular the McPhail family, when 13 year old Charlie was diagnosed with an acute form of Leukaemia. Charlie had been a little unwell and his mam Hayley took him to the doctor at Burnhope surgery who saw him the same day and reacted immediately sending him off to hospital. Again the RVI hospital reacted swiftly and Charlie began his treatment immediately. This meant that Charlie

responded well and was able to spend Christmas Day at home with family. Whilst in the hospital, Charlie had visits from Newcastle United footballers and from his cricket heroes Ben Stokes, Mark Wood and Chris Rushworth from Durham CCC. Charlie continues his treatment and we hope that he can be fit to play cricket by the start of the season. Hayley, Alan and all the family are so grateful to the staff at Burnhope surgery and Ward 4 in the RVI who cared for Charlie. They would also like to thank all the friends who

supported them through this difficult time. By the time you read this, the staff from Durham Cricket Board will have been in the two primary schools in the village as part of the Chance to Shine project, a National project whose main aim is to work in schools to provide children with their first experience of cricket (see the Chance to Shine website). There will also be a roadshow at Burnhope Primary on 11th February. We do hope that your children enjoy this and we would love to see them come along to the cricket club and take up cricket. We will be delivering the All Stars project this summer for 5-9 year olds, starting on the first Friday in June at 5 pm for 8 sessions, but you are welcome on Saturday mornings to our coaching sessions. Have fun!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Mixed Root Vegetable Soup

I think that one of the pleasures of winter is making and then enjoying a tasty and warming soup, and this one is nutritious, easy to source and cook and full of lovely flavours. You need ...
 1 large onion, peeled and finely chopped
 1 celery stick, finely chopped
 2 bay leaves
 1.2 litres of vegetable stock
 1 large potato, peeled and diced
 2 large carrots, peeled and finely chopped
 225g pack cooked beetroot in juice, drained and finely diced
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 Fat free natural fromage frais and chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

METHOD

- 1) Place the onion and celery in a large saucepan with the bay leaves and 150ml of the stock. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 5 minutes until tender.
- 2) Add the potato, carrots and the remaining stock. Bring back to the boil, cover and simmer for 25 minutes until tender.
- 3) Add the beetroot and simmer for a further 5 minutes. Discard the bay leaves.
- 4) Transfer to a blender or food processor and process for a few seconds until smooth. Season to taste.
- 5) Reheat the soup, if necessary, before serving topped with a little fromage frais and chopped parsley.

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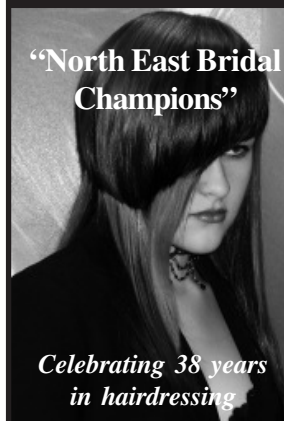
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CHRISTMAS EVE - CAROLS ON THE GREEN



Members of Lanchester Brass Band at the Carols on the Green Service. **Article on page 3.**

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS



The Lanchester Male Voice Choir and Lanchester Choral Society combining at the Celebration of Christmas concert in the Methodist Church. **Report on page 3.**

CRAIG'S MUSIC



The All Saints' Parish Church Music Group led by Craig Davies perform their Christmas Concert. **See page 4.**

EP NURSERY NATIVITY



Looking 'angelic', these nursery pupils performed wonderfully at the Nursery and Foundation Stage Nativity. **See article page 8.**

ALL SAINTS' MUSIC



Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Primary School showed off the musical talents of the students with a performance in front of the whole school and family members. **See page 9.**

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 12th February.
The deadline for **adverts** is Friday 8th February.

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