

£500,000 DONATION BY SIR TOM

Pupils at St Bede's School who had assembled in the hall on the morning of Tuesday 4th April gasped with astonishment when Sir Tom Cowie announced the donation from his charitable trust of half a million pounds. This enormous sum will release external funds to fund the Sixth Form College which will commence building in July this year and be completed in September 2007.

Prior to the announcement Sir Tom had taken a great interest in the school's India project and was introduced to some of the children, then studied the plans and artist's impression of the new block which were displayed in the hall. Head Teacher Mrs Maureen Bates then formally welcomed Sir Tom and David Gray, the Management Trustee of



Head Teacher Mrs Maureen Bates and Deputy Head Maria Matthews welcome Sir Tom Cowie to St Bede's

Sir Tom's Charitable Trust. She paid tribute to Sir Tom as one of the country's most successful and highly respected businessmen, who had shown the commitment, determination and vision which the school tried to inculcate into the pupils. There was a nod of

approval from Sir Tom when she said that one of the things the students were told was "you can do whatever you set your heart and mind to do". Sir Tom then immediately revealed that the Trustees had agreed to donate £500,000 over the next five years towards the capital

build and refurbishment project. He said that he had lived just outside Lanchester for the last 40 years, having moved from his native Sunderland. He set up his Charitable Trust 3 years ago and, after sponsoring a number of Sunderland schools to achieve

specialist status he had recently helped Blackfyne and Greencroft schools in the same way, grant aided Medomsley primary school to create a wood and Beechdale Nursery school to create a new entrance lobby, all at a cost of £125,000 but also bringing in Government money of £1 million. His donation means that St Bede's will not need a loan from the LEA which would have drained the school budget by £80,000 a year. Responding, Mrs Bates said that the donation would provide not only a new Sixth Form Centre and science labs, but also refurbish areas in the old sixth form block for Inclusion, Administration and Staff Development. She looked forward to welcoming Sir Tom to open the Sir Tom Cowie Sixth Form Centre when completed.

CLEAN UP LANCHESTER DAY



Volunteers for the tidy village day, including Jill Gladstone, second from right, with the skip which was overfilled by the end of the day

During the last two weeks of March the village was enlivened by a sea of brilliant posters - they seemed to be everywhere. The children of our two junior schools had made more than 300 of them, and they were all put on display in shop windows, in the dentist's surgery windows, on shop walls and (on March 30th and 31st) on lamp posts. They were urging people to come and pick up litter on 'Clean up Lanchester Day'.

And they must have been good posters, because masses of people did come. On April 1st about 130 of them came to the Village Green. There the organisers, the Lanchester Partnership, gave them bin bags, gloves, litter-picking grabs, etc. and directed them to various parts of the village to pick up litter. On their return they were given refreshments and the children and young people were given certificates and badges.

continued on page 4



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 otherwise amend any letter published. Letters must contain your name, address and telephone no., all of which may be withheld at your request.

Dear Mr. McKenzie,
You will recall that at our last meeting, members of this Council were

reminded of a decision taken by them to embark on the commissioning of a Lanchester Locality Map, subject to the acquisition of gift funding. Subsequently a donation in the sum of £5,000 was received from "Awards for All" to help finance related field study, consultation, publication,

printing and binding associated with that project. Work on the provision of a Locality Map for the whole Parish can now commence with those involved, to be followed later with consultation involving the whole community. Members instructed me to inform you of the above project as a matter of local interest - that I now do with the greatest of pleasure.
Yours sincerely,
Jim S. Owen, Clerk to the Parish Council

THE VILLAGE VOICE *IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE*

ROWENA LAMBERT RETIRES



Rowena with husband Ken

After 25 year's service to St Bede's School, school cleaner Rowena Lambert retired on Friday 31st March. She was invited to attend a meeting of the cleaning staff, and was totally surprised to be greeted by the teaching staff as well as husband Ken and other members of her family. Rowena's retirement was then marked by a short service, with singing from the choir, prayers and 'readings' by Head Teacher Mrs Maureen Bates and staff members recalling Rowena's dedicated work. Rowena worked at the 'staff end' of the school and was an unofficial greeter to visitors. When Mrs Bates arrived in the morning she shared her perfume spray with Rowena! She received dozens of cards and leaving gifts of cash and vouchers, as well as a cheeky tea-cloth from IT staff Andrew and Chris bearing a photo of Rowena and a 'Lambert and Butler' health warning: Rowena does like a smoke! Her main gift was a glass bowl which will be suitably engraved. The service was followed by a buffet and wine, and an opportunity to share 25 years of memories with her friends at St Bede's. Rowena has no plans for holidays, preferring to stay in Lanchester. She has five children, three girls and two boys, and nine grandchildren who all live locally, so will not be short of company.

KEY TO MYSTERY PHOTO



Thanks to Village Voice readers, we can reveal the names of the Young Farmers dance team featured last month. The daughter of Jean

Hodgson, nee White, who passed away last December, rang to say that her mother was the small girl third from left in the photo. Jean White lived at High Brooms Farm near Leadgate and was a member of Butsfield Young Farmers, which drew members from a wide area.

Mrs Ann Kemp, who now lives in Victoria Terrace, remembered all the dance team who were Ann Tailford (now Kemp), Nancy Stockdale, Jean White, Dorothy Vickers, George Stockdale, Frank White, Cecil Davidson and Lesley Steel. The club was very active, not just in dancing but in sports, handicrafts and cookery. An annual rally at Houghall enabled members to enter competitions in all these skills and more. Cattle and sheep judging skills were developed, and one member, Valerie Burnett, became a respected judge at all levels.

Many thanks to our informants who brought the photo to life. By the way, it was taken on a field at Consett where the swimming baths were built later.

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GOLDEN WEDDING JOY FOR MAVING AND ALMA



Maving and Alma Taylor celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Maving and Alma Taylor of Newbiggen Lane celebrated 50 wonderful years of marriage on 28th April 2006. They were married at St Paul's Church, Ryhope Sunderland, held their reception at the Barnes Park Hotel, and spent their

honeymoon in Keswick. Alma is originally from Ryhope whilst Maving comes from Stakeford in Northumberland. They met at Sunderland Polytechnic where both were studying to become pharmacists. After qualifying they

worked for about two years before starting their own business. They eventually built up a chain of five Chemist Shops in the Stanley area where they spent their entire working life.

Maving and Alma have now lived in Lanchester for 32 years and have two children. Peter, who is married to Julie, lives near Dundee and they have three children, David, Joanne and Guy. Their daughter Melanie, who is married to Mark have two children, Andrew and Matthew, and they live locally. Much of Maving and Alma's time is now spent with their grandchildren. A family reception was held at Beamish hotel on 28th April to celebrate this wonderful occasion.



Maving and Alma Taylor on their Wedding Day 50 years ago

DIAMOND WEDDING CELEBRATION

John and Edna Thornborrow of Alderside Crescent, Lanchester, celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 6th April. They were married at St Peter's Church, South Shields in 1946 with a quiet family reception and a honeymoon spent at Ambleside. They met in 1944 at Kirkby Lonsdale, where Edna had been evacuated to teach at a school there. At the time John was serving in the RAF as a Spitfire pilot. After their marriage they returned to South Shields, where John started a grocery business for a short time. He then changed his business interests to

his real vocation, gardening, so he opened a Garden Centre which he ran until retirement. Meanwhile Edna continued teaching her favourite subject, History. They were friends with the late Canon Chase and his wife whom they met while Edna was at Durham University and it was through them that they decided to live in Lanchester in 1984. John and Edna have two sons, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They lead a very full life, being members of Newcastle Association of Antiquaries; the South Shields

Archaeological and History Society, as well as the Wildlife Group, the History Society; and the Art Club in the village. They celebrated their 60 years of marriage at an hotel near Ipswich close to their son's home, where other members of the family had gathered for the occasion. Just prior to the visit they were invited by a close relative to an international bowls tournament in Durham and during the Scotland versus Wales match, when play was stopped, they were presented with a beautiful bouquet and there was a round of applause from all the players.

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John and Edna Thornborrow celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary

CLEAN UP LANCHESTER DAY

continued from page 1

Believe it or not well over 200 bin-bags full of litter were collected and put into a big skip which was filled completely - the last ones had to be squashed in!

Removing that amount of litter has made an enormous difference, even though there were not enough helpers to clear up everywhere.

This problem is on-going and affects us all - what can be done about the persistent littering in the village? Perhaps readers of the Village Voice could help us by commenting on the litter situation in these columns.

Thanks are due to The Parish Council for funding, to Derwentside DC for providing the skip, lots of bin-bags and litter-picking grabs, to Groundwork for

providing some litter-picking grabs, to Peter's for providing refreshments and to Carolyn Wardle and Jill Gladstone for organising it all - but the biggest thanks are due to all of those who picked up so much litter, including 25 members of the new Rugby Club.

Let us hope that the village now stays clean for a long time - a litter free Lanchester. In particular, could dog owners dispose of doggy bags in the correct bins and stop flinging them into bushes or onto the ground, where they stay for months and months? It has been suggested that this should be an annual event - Spring-cleaning the village! If so, we will need just as much help next year - or will we?



Some of the volunteers to tidy the village

The last words belong to one young man who was heard to say as he was leaving "Mummy, I'm never going to drop another bit of litter for as long as I live".

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Children's posters all over the village, and especially in this window next to the optician's, roused interest in the tidy village event



Councillors Tom Forster and Ossie Johnson help to tidy the village

LANCHESTER FEATURES ON BBC TV NATIONAL NEWS

On Tuesday 4th April BBC Lunchtime News featured Lanchester with some excellent filming of the newly litter free centre areas of the village for about five minutes. Earlier in the morning Professor Neil Ward, Director of Newcastle University's Centre for Rural Economy was interviewed on the village green about England's rural population ageing faster. Also on film were Mike and Jill Gladstone of Lanchester Partnership. Mike spoke about the need for resources for the elderly and Jill was filmed helping youngsters to read at All Saints Junior School, where she is a volunteer.

As was outlined in the recent 'Crucial Conference' (last issue VV), Lanchester's ageing population was highlighted. The university's Case Studies for their conference on the same day in York were Mike and Jill Gladstone on their lifestyle since retirement and also Arthur Maughan, Chairman of the Community Centre, and his wife Mavis. Both couples were also photographed and had articles about their lifestyles published, in the Journal and Northern Echo respectively, on the same day. Arthur Maughan was featured the following week in an article in the Northern Echo which

emphasised his role in developing and running the Community Centre. Professor Philip Lowe, of Newcastle University who co-presented an overview of the 'greying countryside' at the seminar in York commented. 'It's ageist and misleading to say that the older population present a threat and a burden to our society. Most people continue to live active lives and contribute in many ways to their community before and after retirement.' Newcastle University experts say the changing countryside demographics provoke numerous issues which should be urgently addressed by central and local Government and other relevant bodies.



Professor Neil Ward flanked by Angela Upex and Claire Jordan, Newcastle University Press Officer

YOUTH CLUB

It is hoped to reopen the Youth Club in September this year. The aim is to provide a safe place every Wednesday evening where all the young people in Lanchester can meet together and enjoy suitable activities with

good supervision. This club can only start if there is a rota of supervisors to provide guidance and ensure that the youngsters get the maximum benefit from their activities. The aim is to create a rota of 20

people so that the burden does not fall on a handful of volunteers every week, and the venture can not start without these volunteers. Please phone 528114 if you would like to talk about this.

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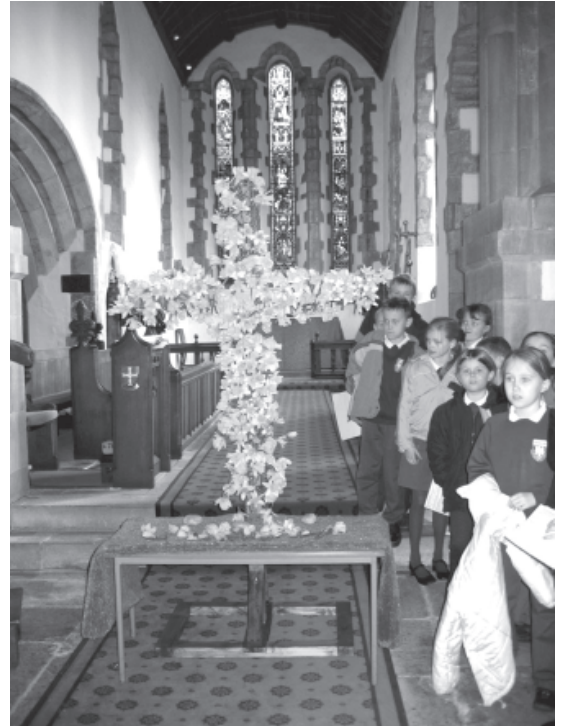
EASTER SERVICES

Village Green Witness Service

From Tragedy to Triumph



Churches Together greeting each other at the Easter Day Witness on the village Green



The daffodil adorned Cross at the Parish Church



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On Thursday April 6th at the Parish Church, the whole of the Lanchester EP School with the exception of some of the year 6 pupils who were at Middleton in Teesdale attended a lovely Easter Service entitled 'From Tragedy to Triumph'. The pupils conducted the service themselves with

confidence and clarity, both with readings and some delightful singing. During the proceedings symbolic artefacts of the crucifixion were placed on the cross and later removed as the service developed. At the end of the service,

each person in the church was invited to adorn the cross with daffodils, which signified Easter. The church was completely full with parents, families and friends, which made the atmosphere special for the children.

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Rev Mary Lloyd welcomed members of "Churches Together" to Lanchester Methodist Church on Palm Sunday. A large congregation celebrated the beginning of Holy week with music and readings on the theme "Olivet to Calvary". Music was provided by representatives of all the church choirs in the Lanchester area with soloists Andrew Fowler, Sharon Murray and Richard Woods. Words of hymns and readings were displayed on two large screens, interspersed with pictures taken from the Oberammergau Passion Play.

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EASTER EGGS AND BUNNIES

The Easter Monday egg decorating and bowling attracted a large number of children, and of course their mums and dads, to the egmobile behind the Green School, where many years of experience have made Burt Hunter a master of the art of mass egg-processing.

Other members of Lanchester Wildlife group were on hand to advise children on how to wrap their eggs in natural materials, then onion skins, then in the cloths provided and neatly tied with a label, before being immersed in Burt's twin cauldrons inside his campervan. Noel Jackson played a few tunes on his English concertina during this process.

The children then ran off up Pace Egg Hill to search for previously-hidden sweets, and on their return retrieved their eggs. After this the painstaking and solemn process of judging took place to select the eggs with the most interesting patterns, the prizes were awarded, then the action moved up the hill for the traditional booling.

This was a deserved success for the Wildlife group, who this year attracted over thirty children for a well-organised event. The sun shone, the children enjoyed themselves and not a cross word was said.



Noel Jackson entertains with his concertina



The four proud winners of a chocolate egg



On Thursday 13th April these young people came to Lanchester library, whose versatile staff helped them to decorate eggs and make Easter bunnies.

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LANCHESTER PARISH LOCALITY MAP – GRANT RECEIVED!

As reported in the last Village Voice the Parish Council have commissioned Steve Scoffin, Director, Great North Forest, to advise on the production of a "Locality Map" for the whole Parish. The Parish Council are now delighted to be able to report that they have obtained a grant of £5,000 from Awards for All which means that the work can start **now!**

Steve will be working with a steering group chaired by Councillor Keith Harrison of Colepike House Farm. It also has representatives from the Lanchester Partnership and the

Lanchester Wildlife Group. Lanchester Partnership has agreed to administer the grant on behalf of the Parish Council.

It is intended that the Map will help all in the Parish as well as the Council itself in the task of conserving and enhancing the best features of the Parish. It is also intended to support the Land-owning and Farming community in remaining viable - working farms are the best safeguard of the Parish features! There will be an initial meeting with landowners and Farmers on May 10th. at 7.00 pm and a full day on July 8th. when

it is hoped all Parish residents will take the opportunity to make their contribution. It is hoped that the July event will be similar to the day which some will remember that launched the Village Design statement work. It is hoped that the Locality Map will have the same status as the Design Statement but relate to the whole Parish as the setting for the village not just the village itself. Anyone wanting more information about the farmers' meeting can contact Keith on Lanchester 529522. More information about the July day will be in the next Village Voice.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

The Blue Bell Inn at Kip Hill

On March 17th, we decided to go back to one of our favourite haunts where we're always given such a warm welcome, it invariably feels like a home from home. Eddie and his staff make sure that all customers get a personal word and have their requirements attended to.

We even had pink grapefruit ordered specially for us when we said it was something we loved. It's little touches like that that make this place truly special. This occasion proved no exception.

The food we enjoyed this time was Beef Stir-fry, minted Lamb Jenny and Haddock, followed by delicious melt-in-your-mouth desserts and steaming hot coffee. We must also mention that they have a comprehensive and tasty permanent Pizza menu, a set menu and always a specials board. The welcome was wonderful, the food fantastic and the service superb. All in all another lovely Blue Bell experience.

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A NEW BEGINNING

Dear Lord, I am so glad
You sent us
Into this friendly place.
We have found such
warmth in the welcome
From many a smiling face.

Though we don't always
know what you say!
If in doubt, I just nod and
reply
"Why aye, man, it's a right
canny day!"

For your welcome we give
praise
And thanks, to the One
who sent us here
In the twilight of our years.
Nan Brown March 2006

When we walk into the
village,
Perhaps a gent will raise
his hat.
And someone will stop
and greet us,
As my husband says
"Who's that!"

We may not always
manage
To put the right name to
the face.
But, dear Lord, we are
glad you sent us
To this really friendly
place.

We recently moved, from
just outside Bristol, to live
nearer to our family in
Lanchester, and are so
impressed by the warmth
and friendliness of the
residents, including the
shopkeepers.
This is just to say how
much we appreciate the
welcome.

We are getting used to
the "lingo"

So, Dear residents of
Lanchester,

NEWCOMERS TO GENEALOGY



On 13th April the family history expert John Milburn was on hand in Lanchester library to help newcomers to genealogy to trace their family trees. John regularly comes to the library on the last Thursday of every month (with the next one taking place on 25th May) from 10am till 12noon to guide people through the maze of web-sites that are available to you.

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LITTLEBURN IND. EST. LANGLEY MOOR
DURHAM

A superb Charity Concert for Macmillan was held at the Social Club on Thursday 13th April. The noise was enough to burst the ear drums but - what a night! Hugh Hall held the evening together with consummate ease as he introduced the various events, whilst Glenn Coxon (Thomas), played and organised the entertainers in his own lively inimitable style. There was some excellent singing from Darren Adamson; Dave Robertson; Scott Graham; Lee; Debbie; with Emma Coxon, Glenn's sister, making her stage debut. She really did well. In between the entertainment Buck Rogers, a colleague of Glenn's had his head shaved for the cause, and local policeman, Gary Densham, had his body hair removed, both courtesy of Jenny from Talking Heads. There was bingo which raised £171; three buckets going around for the people who agreed to be shaved for which the audience donated £273; and the auction and raffle raised £1000. The auction included a Halfords children's bike; a pair of Shay Given's signed gloves (thanks to Mark Ord); ladies jewellery value £50 from Tielles, Hexham; and a year pass from Mister Twisters. Hugh would like to express his very grateful thanks to all his helpers on the night who manned the door, sold raffle tickets etc., but particularly to all those who attended the evening and gave so very generously including those who went home somewhat differently to how they arrived for the evening. The total raised for Macmillan was a massive £2730, which included £750 from Barclays for which thanks are also given. The sponsors for the event either in the form of gifts, donations or vouchers were as follows and of course the organisers are so grateful to these supporters of Macmillan as well. In no special order they are: Kings Head; Queens Head; Crinnions; Lanchester News; Lanchester Pharmacy; Talking Heads; DTE Electronics; Lanchester Hardware; Cathedral Travel; Lanchester Carpets; New Image; Spar; Lanchester Social Club; Valentino's; Country Stores; Alan and Ann Hill; Lilydale Pet Supplies; Lanchester Paints; Country Gifts; C & C Coachworks; MFI; Lanchester Wines; Halfords; Lanchester Plumbing & Heating; Oakwood Stables; Barclays Bank; Morrisons; Tesco; Mister Twisters; The Co-op; Theresa Erwin (Virgin V); Black Bull and Shay Given.



Scott Graham, Emma and Glenn Coxon belt out the numbers for Macmillan

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 11TH APRIL

Police Report

PCSO Ray Husband reported that there had been five burglaries during the past month, including public houses, 12 incidents of criminal damage, and 14 incidents of nuisance behaviour with young people who were coming to Lanchester when displaced from other areas.

There had been problems with people parking in the access to The Square so that dustcarts could not get past. This led to discussion about parking, with perhaps yellow lines in the area concerned, and questions about the issue of parking fines by police. PCSO Husband confirmed that all the people booked recently had been village residents. He suggested that the Parish could employ a traffic warden, and clamps were also mentioned.

Working with Local Youth

Mike Gladstone gave a summary of a draft document drawn up by Lanchester Partnership, copies of which were given to Parish Councillors. He said that we should be proud of our teenagers. Only 5% of them caused nuisance as opposed to 25% in other adjacent villages. Though there was more deprivation than comparable areas,

there was less problem. He cited clubs like the Brass Band and Cricket Club where young and old were involved, an ideal situation, and Lanchester is lucky in the facilities it has. He appealed for help in restarting the Youth Club, and ideally would like a drop-in centre like that provided in Sacriston. The village needed a coherent set of strategies to help young people, and now with new facilities to be provided at Kitswell Road and both the EP school and St Bede's offering support, this was an ideal time.

Lynwood House - proposed closure

County Councillor Tom Forster emphasised that closure was only proposed, not decided, and that a 3-month period of public consultation was under way (Anyone wishing to comment should write to David Callum at County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UQ).

Informal consultations are taking place with Lanchester surgery, the Pharmacy, Willow Burn and other agencies about the future use of the site.

Derwentside Draft Community Strategy

Councillors were asked to comment on this document which they received at the meeting. It was noted that comments were needed

by April 24th, which was short notice.

Planning Matters

Plans for a garage, stables and storage at Woodlea Manor were considered. Members commented that a new extension to this mansion was received every other month, and it was thought that this application might well be retrospective. The Council resolved to ask the planning officer involved to visit the site to check whether this was the case.

An application was also received to replace twenty-six windows and three doors at the Dower House, Woodlands Hall. Final decisions will be taken at District Council level. Mr T. Wilks has asked to speak to the Parish Council about the Russell Close Garage, which he owns. He has already had planning permission relating to the site. It was agreed to invite him to a sub-committee meeting at a convenient date.

Annual Village Conference

This event preceded the Council meeting and was attended by five non-councillors. The main matter discussed was the proposed installation of lighting in the Park House play area. A quotation for this had been obtained from Durham County Council, who quoted £12,566, which was unacceptable. Councillor Wardle asked if no alternatives had been considered. He was informed that solar panels would not serve the same purpose.



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'IT'S SHOWTIME'

Karen Stewart Dance and Performing Arts Academy presented a most spectacular show of song and dance at Stanley Lamplight Theatre on Saturday April 4th. Children from the ages of three up to students and teachers took the sell-out audience through the glittering world of dance. Routines from the following shows: 42nd Street; Oliver; Mary Poppins; Roxy; and South Pacific; to name but a few, were performed. Karen and

her students worked hard for many weeks putting the final touches to the two hour show.

Some Lanchester pupils performed solo routines:

Bethany Davison as 'Magic';

Abigail Gibson in 'Princess Diaries';

Shannon O'Connor in 'Memories';

Sarah Coburn as 'Mulan'; and

Amy Henderson in 'Last Dance'.

The show was such a huge success that

Karen and her pupils will be presenting a further show on Sunday July 2nd at 5 pm once again at the Lamplight Theatre. New routines will be added ensuring another fantastic evening of fabulous entertainment. Tickets will be available soon. Classes are held on Tuesday evenings at 6.30 pm at Lanchester Social Club and Wednesdays at 4 pm at the Community Centre.



Karen Stewart Dancers at the Lamplight Theatre

GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY

May is the time when spring is in full flow and buds are bursting on every plant. However, there may still be the threat of a frost so remember to have some fleece to hand if the forecast is for cold nights.

Herbs: Prune your Rosemary now and grow a pot full of bright herbs you can enjoy in both the kitchen and garden this summer.

Vegetables: Sow a block of sweetcorn (blocks

pollinate better than rows). Sow French and runner beans in the open or in toilet-roll tubes indoors. Plant brassicas and tomatoes.

Flowers from seed: Sow hardy (e.g. nasturtium, sunflower, and alyssum) and half-hardy (e.g. cosmos, nemesia, nicotiana) annuals.

Cold and cool greenhouse: Ventilate and shade the house. Prick-out seedlings of tender plants. Plant

tomatoes. Pot-up begonias and gloxinias and harden-off annuals in the cold frame.

Hardy border flowers: Continue staking. Thin out shoots where required. Lift, divide and replant polyanthus.

Lawns: Apply selective weedkillers.

Trees and Shrubs: To keep brooms compact, prune directly after flowering by cutting off flowered shoots. Plant bamboos.

LMVC PATRONS' EVENING



Harry Carr, Conductor, with members of the Male Voice Choir



Jim Brennan raises a few laughs to amuse the choir and the Patrons

On Saturday April 8th, Lanchester Male Voice Choir entertained its growing number of Patrons to a social evening in the Community Centre. The entertainment began

with four items from the choir led by the conductor Harry Carr. This was followed by songs from The Lantones Barbershop quartet. A marvellous piano solo from Noreen

Bridgewater marked the centre point, and highlight, of the performance and was followed by the Lantones before the final songs from the choir. Jim Brennan was compere for the

evening and entertained the audience with his tales. An excellent supper was provided by Sara Allison and her church ladies group and the evening concluded with a quiz and dancing.

The Patrons' Evening is an annual event when the choir members can show their thanks to our patrons for the support they give during the year.

More than meets the eye ...

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OPTOMETRIST

G R E A T P R E S C R I P T I O N S U N G L A S S E S O F F E R

Spring is finally in the air and it's time to make the most of the finer weather!

That means less time sitting indoors and more time out in the fresh air ... and, hopefully ... the sunshine!

So, May is the ideal month to call

into Alastair Wade Optometrists for an eye check ... a new pair of glasses and - if you spend £69 or more on your frames ... a free pair of prescription sun glasses just in time for the summer holiday season!

Alastair Wade have been here in Lanchester for over twenty years and we still provide the reassuring balance of community-based eye-

care yet with all those extra benefits normally associated with the big City Centre opticians.

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prescription sunglasses from as little as £49.

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MUSIC IN THE LIBRARY

A welcome event in the "Live in the Libraries" series will arrive at Lanchester library on Friday May 26th at 7.30pm. The artistes are Kate Smith (harp) and Dawn Miller (flute) called the 'Aurora Flute and Harp Duo'. Graduates of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, they have been working together since the year 2000, touring in the UK and Europe and playing with various orchestras for radio and CD recordings. Tickets at £4.50, concessions £3, are now available from the library.

MP

Our member of Parliament Hilary Armstrong will hold her monthly surgery on Friday 12th May at 6pm in the Civic Centre, Consett

WILDLIFE TRUST

The next meeting will be held in the Community Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th May. Val Standen will be talking about Velvet Ants and Glow-worms.

CYCLE FOR WILLOWBURN

On Sunday 21st May a cycle ride is being organised from Lanchester to Bearpark in aid of Willowburn Hospice, commencing at 11am. For sponsor forms please ring 528167 or call at the hospice. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

JUNIOR WILDLIFE

The group for 6-11 year olds meets on Saturday 27th May at the Viewpoint car park at the top of Peth Bank at 10am before visiting the pond in the local nature reserve. Parents are welcome to attend with younger children who are interested in wildlife.

For more details please contact Noel Jackson (560684) or Elaine Williams (520063).

COUNTRY MARKET

The former WI market, now transformed to Country Market, still meets in the Community Centre on the first Saturday, 6th May. Cakes, pies, vegetables, eggs, crafts and so forth at 10am.

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Michael Richardson, local historian and part time lecturer who was unable to speak at the April meeting returns to the club in May with another interesting visual evening of Old Durham. He will not only be selecting from his vast archives of some 14,000 photographs, but he will also be showing a selection of newly discovered old photographs.

Michael's collection, all of Durham and surrounding areas, dates from 1850 and is undoubtedly one of the finest visual records in the County. He has also produced nine photographic books and the 10th is well on its way.

The talk will be given on Friday, 5th May at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre.

MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting is our Musical Evening on 10th May, starting at 7.30pm in the Chapter House adjoining the Parish Church, when we will be entertained by the Bowers Singers.

RED CROSS WEEK

From the 8th to the 13th May is Red Cross Week, when the volunteers from the charity distribute and collect envelopes in which the kind folk of Lanchester are asked to put some money for their funds. If you're not in when they call, or if you don't get an envelope, please make a donation at the Red Cross Shop.

WHAT'S ON?

CHURCH HOLDS OPEN DAY

On Sunday 21st of May Lanchester Parish Church is holding an open day from 1.30 to 5pm to introduce visitors to the new bells. The bells, which left the church on February 18th after being lowered from the tower by Hayward Mills of Nottingham, were returned on the 15th August and re-installed with a new steel frame. A service on 9th October was held to celebrate their restoration, and now visitors will be able to enjoy a guided tour of the bell tower, as well as tours of the church, a slide show in the old vestry, and a cup of tea and a biscuit.

CHURCH "OPEN HOUSE"

Lanchester Parish Church is to hold Open House on the first Thursday of every month between 11.30am and 1pm, commencing on the 1st June in the Chapter House.

This initiative will provide an opportunity to have a cup of tea or coffee or a light lunch in a convivial atmosphere. There will be no charge for the refreshments but donations will be welcome.

It is also an opportunity to pray, meditate or to have a look round this historic and beautiful church. So, if you fancy something to eat and a bit of craic come along to the church Open House.

All are welcome.

LANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP

The annual general meeting of the Partnership is to be held on May 13th at 11am in the Community Centre. Members are invited to come along and hear about this year's successes, and next year's challenges. New members who would like to support the Partnership in improving life for Lanchester people are very welcome too.

FLOWER CLUB

There is no meeting of the club in May because an outing has been arranged to David Rylands Garden, Hazel Cottage, Armathwaite on Tuesday 6th June.

SHORT WALKS

Acorn Amblers have a walk in Chopwell Woods on Sunday 21st May, starting at 1.30pm in the Linzford Mill lay-by on the A694 Derwent Valley road.

The Byways & Bridleways group have a walk at 7pm on Tuesday 2nd May starting at the Black Horse, Waterhouse (ring 238639 for information), another at the same time on 16th May starting at the Causey Arch pub on the A6076 (for info ring 237986), and another at the same time on 30th May starting at the Moorcock Inn near the Smiddy Shaw reservoir on the Stanhope road.

Preparing for Baptism?

All Saints R.C. Church, Lanchester invite parents to a Baptism preparation course.

- 11th & 25th June 2006
- 1st & 15th October 2006
- 28th Jan. 2007 & 11th Feb 2007

These programmes are available for all the family, further information can be obtained from:-

Sarah Biasi 0191 3734002

or

Sharon Bell 01207 529016

Booking forms available from the presbytery

ROLF INSPIRES ART GROUP



The new artwork

A new art-work, which at the time of writing can be seen in Lanchester library, has been created by 16 members of Lanchester Art Group, inspired by a much larger televised project in

Trafalgar Square when Rolf Harris had dozens of artists copying an art-work.

Each Lanchester artist painted a separate panel of a view of Lanchester church, based on a

drawing by former member Florence Dowd, using acrylic paint. Club member Ken Coates directed the process. The sixteen panels have now been assembled and are on view just inside the

library, but the collaborative work has been donated to the Community Association and will be installed on the dining-room wall. This method of working, which was first suggested

by Marjorie Dobson, group Treasurer and wife of Chairman Harry Dobson, has been so popular that another work is being considered for display at Hall Hill Farm.

WAR IN FICTION

Lanchester library hosts a special evening for readers on Tuesday 9th May at 7.30pm. Author Martyn Bedford offers an evening of two halves; a talk on the theme of war in fiction and the anti-war novel and a reading from his new novel "The Island of Lost Souls" on the subject of a draft dodger, followed by time for questions from the audience. Free tickets will be available from the library, and is hoped that this initiative will be rewarded by a good turnout. Copies of Martyn Bedford's book will be available for sale.

ST JOHN'S COFFEE

There will be a coffee morning in the Chapter House of Lanchester Parish Church in support of St John's Holmside on Wednesday May 3rd from 9.30 to 11.30am. St John's Parish Festival on the same day is marked by Parish Eucharist at St John's. Lanchester & Holmside Parish News also appeals for financial help for the maintenance of St John's churchyard, which like the church is supported by a small congregation.

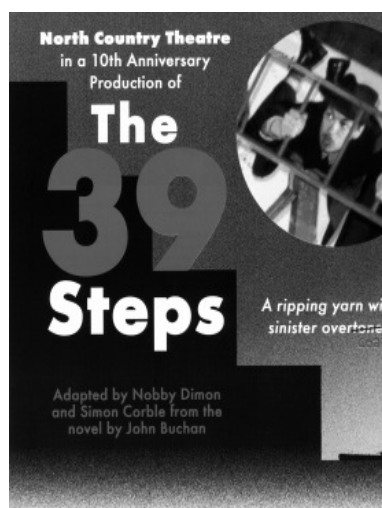
WI

The next meeting of the WI on the second Monday of the month, 8th May at 7pm, features a talk by John Simmons

about the Tall Ships Youth Trust. Members will all be bringing 'a nautical item' for the competition.

Lanchester Community Centre

Presents



Thursday 8th June 2006 7.30pm

Tickets £7 available from Lanchester Community Centre (521275) and Lanchester Newsagents Front Street Lanchester

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CRICKET CLUB

As the new season approaches preparations are in place to ensure we are ready for action. The first game is the Under 13s on the 23rd April v Ryton. We urgently require players at this level, so any budding Andrew Flintoffs in the area are asked to come along on a Saturday morning for practice with games taking place on a Sunday.

Thanks to a grant obtained through Sports Lottery Funding, we will be running coaching courses for juniors of all ages throughout the season. Our new Australian professional, John Raywood, arrives at the end of April and we hope he together with the newly assembled 1st XI fare well in Division B1 with a view to returning to the top flight this season.

We have new portable outdoor nets this season, mainly thanks to some kind sponsorship from Lanchester Pharmacy, Brendan Quayle and George Wilkinson.

The other home fixtures for April/May are:-

1st XI

- Whickham 13th May
- Whickham Sun 21st May (Fosters Cup)

2nd XI

- Morpeth 6th May
- Seaton Burn 20th May
- Percy Main 27th May

Under 18s (League Champions 2005)

- Burnopfield 16th May
- Sacriston 30th May

Under 15s

- Swalwell 24th April
- Crookhall 27th April
- Sacriston 1st May

Under 13s

- Ryton 23rd April
- Swalwell 7th May
- Blaydon 21st May

We have entered nine cup competitions with several home draws. The dates will be on the notice board in the clubhouse as soon as they are arranged. As ever, anyone wishing to lend a hand, support the teams or simply relax in the clubhouse are more than welcome.

Thanks to Derwentside Council we now have a Bottle/Can Bank in the car park to enable us to recycle as much as possible and any local residents wishing to use it are very welcome.

CHAPEL STAY STRONG TO THE END

A friendly game, which was played at home, gave the squad a competitive run out against a Bethsabre squad from Sunderland who are in one of the lower leagues. Lanchester went 2-0 up through Steven Behan and Graeme Hall but the visitors pushed on and pulled it back to 2-2. The skipper, Nigel Hepplewhite, surged forward though to score and win the game 3-2 for the lads.

With a top three finish still possible the Chapel lads travelled to Airport Church, Newcastle, and in very difficult muddy conditions we ground out a very impressive 3-0 win with a sound team performance from front to back. Matty Bradford rose to meet a right wing cross from Lee Hall for 1-0, Ray Wilkinson got a simple tap in after great work from Steven Poutler and Andy Sword rounded off a 3-0 win, with a super finish in the second half. Hope House Sunderland

with whom we were involved in a 3-3 draw earlier in the season were the next visitors to Kitswell. Graeme Hall put Lanchester in front scoring after a great flowing move from the back. Lanchester's passing and moving was a joy to watch but the finishing touch was just missing as chance after chance was carved out and the Sunderland defence stood firm (not often you hear that in a report!). One slip up at the back though, in Lanchester's impressive back line, and Sunderland equalised with a great finish from the edge of the area. The champagne football then flowed from the home team. Lawrence MacDermott was heard to say on the touchline "this is like watching the Brazil team of the seventies". Steven "Pele" Poulter, Oliver "Alberto" Webster and Andy "Rivelino" Sword all grabbed two goals each, in a 7-1 rout. A mention

must also go to Peter "Zico" Ollivere in central midfield who pulled all the right strings. The team performance of the season without a doubt, excellent.

Emmanuel Yarm made the long journey to Rio de Kitswell next and unfortunately the samba football of the previous week was only seen in short spells but Yarm still could not handle the in form Lanchester Lads. Two goals for Andy Sword and a curling corner from Pele Poulter secured a good 3-1 win. Only two games to go and hopefully a high finishing position for all the hard work that has been put in.

Yours in football
Jeff "Socrates" Parker

WELL I NEVER

On Thursday 4th May, at 2 minutes and 3 seconds after 1.00 in the morning, the time and date will be: 01:02:03 04/05/06.

That won't ever happen again.

DERWENTSIDE FUN RUN ENCOURAGES FITNESS

As part of the 'Try Five Project' to encourage children to eat healthily and adopt a better lifestyle, the Council organised a massive Fun Run at Berry Edge on Tuesday March 21st. The event had been planned for the previous week but snow made a postponement necessary. As a result several schools had to drop out due to

other commitments, but the run still encouraged almost 4,000 children to take part from 30 local primary schools. The event was opened by Steven Miller, Paralympic Gold Medalist, and before their races children were warmed up with exercises, dancing etc to some great music. After the race the children were given a bag

with fruit, a medal, certificate, and Sports Centre vouchers. Despite the very cold conditions Lanchester EP School entered a large squad for the event and plaudits go to Michael Ledger and David Garfoot who won their year 3 and 4 races against several hundred school children from schools in the area.



Lanchester EP Fun Run Squad

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Thank you

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any contributions for the next edition by Tuesday, 16th May.

Thank you.

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