

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 5 Volume 9

Lanchester, May 2008

For contact information, see page 2

CENTURIONS BEN HUR RALLY

For a change, after three very wet years the Centurions were blessed with hot, glorious weather for the setting up of the rally on Thursday 8th May. They celebrated in their own inimitable way with an unofficial party during the evening. By Friday night, however, the rain began to fall. Yes, it was too good to be true. Friday night bands attended by a full complement were 'The Dee Tees' and appropriately named, 'The Brew'. Saturday night entertainment was provided by 'Bessie and the zinc buckets' and 'Powerrage'. Music drifted across the village during both evenings but not too loud to be troublesome. On Saturday morning, no doubt somewhat bleary-eyed, the bikers awakened to glorious sunshine which

remained throughout the day. Many of them arrived at the Queens for breakfast outside.

On site there was the usual, food, and sales stalls, mainly geared to motorbike enthusiasts. This year, for the first time, show rides for children were available to try and make the event even more family orientated.

There were, of course, the various competitions for which awards were given and 'Silly Games' were played with great enthusiasm on the Saturday afternoon after much beer had been consumed!

The beneficiaries of this great, traditional weekend in the village were the bikers themselves who enjoyed every minute and the charities they support. They were hoping to raise about



Not quite 'Breakfast at Tiffanys', but the meal outside the Queens was as good, as shown by the smiling faces of Wayne Tilley, Chairman of Centurions, and friends.

£4000 during the weekend and intended dividing the money between Air Ambulance, and Tree Tops Children Charities. The latter was very supportive to young Keegan Houston who was

recently injured in a road accident in the village, and whose father Mark is a member of the Centurions (see Letter page 2). The exact amounts will be published in the next issue of the Village Voice.



Mark Houston and friends try to carry out emergency repairs

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Most people will be aware that the elections for the County Council, soon to be the Unitary Council most of us voted not to have, took place on May 1st and two councillors were elected from the constituency of Lanchester, Castleside and Burnhope. The result of the poll was Richard Young (Independent) 1188 votes, Ossie Johnson (Labour) 1172, Margaret Gray (Labour) 975, Michael Carr

(Conservative) 891 and Brenda Gilmore (Liberal Democrat) 461. The first two were duly elected and are following an induction course at County Hall to meet the challenges of the new Council. Both new Councillors are also District Councillors and will continue to fulfil a dual role until Derwentside District vanishes in April next. Boards have been set up to consider the framework

of the new Unitary Council and the role of possible district organisations to handle local issues, with Planning a crucial consideration, and the new Councillors will decide whether or not to accept their advice.

For our two new Councillors it will be a steep learning curve. Above all, they will be working together to obtain the best outcome for Lanchester, Castleside and Burnhope.

VANDALS DESTROY SHELTER



Vandals destroyed the shelter in the Park during the May Bank Holiday weekend



Dear Village....

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

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

Dear Editor

With reference to the recent road accident in the village in which our son Keegan sustained injuries, the family would like to thank all those who helped out at the scene. Keegan is now progressing and hopes to make a full recovery. Dominique and Mark Houston, 44 Manor Grange, Lanchester.

Dear Editor

On the 25th March our 3 year old little girl Emma was diagnosed with an Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. In what has been a very difficult time, the support and the well

wishes we have received have been truly overwhelming.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their very kind thoughts, words and kindness, it really has helped us all and has demonstrated that there is still a strong community spirit within Lanchester.

We would also like to say thank you to the Kings Head who very kindly organised a charity race night with the proceeds going to the Children's Cancer Fund, a charity that supports the ward on which Emma is being treated. We would like to thank everyone who attended, all the local businesses who donated prizes and finally to all the individuals who gave up their own time to help make the evening a success. In total over £1600 was raised for the charity. We are hoping to arrange more events over the coming months as we have seen at first hand what an important role the charity plays.

Thanks again, Steven, Ruth, Kieran and Emma Bell

Dear Village Voice

As we all know, crossing the road in Lanchester is becoming a nightmare! Front Street, Station Road, Cadger Bank, Ford Lane and the Bypass; to name a few of our heavily used busy, busy roads. How can our pedestrians be expected to safely use the roads? To carry out daily activities like walking to the doctors, going to the park or just walking along the pavement. Going shopping or like many children and teenagers in our village, walking to school. The crossing outside St. Bedes School,

was demolished over THREE weeks ago and has not been fixed. Having made two phone calls to HAL (The Highways Action Line) I've been reassured that the matter was in hand and would be rectified soon. (Whose hands and how soon?) Many children including my own walk to and from the school daily. Now, not only is the road too fast at 40 miles per hour, but the crossing and school signs have been demolished.

Sharon Gardiner

Dear Village Voice

The Queens Head car park is primarily for the parking convenience of our valued customers free of charge. Short term parking in our car park for 15 minutes or less is permitted to ease parking congestion in the village centre. The local schools 'walking train' is also exempt from charge in term time for school runs. To ensure adequate parking is available for our customers, parking charges for other users of the car park are to be introduced as follows:
Hourly rate £1.50,
Daily rate (8 hrs) £10.00,
Daily rate (24hrs) £15.00.

Parking permits are available from the management team in The Queens Head.

CCTV is in operation for the protection of patrons and to monitor use of the car park. Clamping will be in operation for unauthorised parking and a release fee of £30.00 will be charged.

There are now re-cycling facilities for public use in the Queens Head car park. Thank you for your cooperation.

McKenna Inns, Queens Head, 17 Front Street, Lanchester.

90th BIRTHDAY

There was a family celebration for Joe Spraggon on the occasion of his 90th birthday. The King's Head was the chosen venue for the celebration. A superb meal was enjoyed by all.

Joe sincerely thanks everyone for all the lovely cards, good wishes, etc. We'll praise him for all that is past, We'll trust him for all that's to come.
Mrs L Spraggon



The Cutting of the Cake Ceremony

BOOKS - FOR SALE AND SOLD

(i) *Short Walks Book*

As summer threatens to break out bear in mind that the best way to keep fit is to walk. A book of 30 short walks, 'Short Walks in North West Durham' is available from Lanchester library.

(ii) *Books for Willow Burn*

A sale of books in Lanchester library has so far raised £103.74 for Willow Burn Hospice. Donations of books are always welcome, and the sale continues.

TO CONTACT THE VILLAGE VOICE

By 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 0JQ

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EVACUEE RETURNS TO LANCHESTER

During World War Two a London restaurant owner wanted to protect his three daughters from the Blitz, and thought of his friend George Brennan. They had become friends while George and his wife Mona were working in London, but they had now moved to Lanchester.

The three daughters came to Lanchester until the end of the war, when they returned to London. When their father became ill with cancer he decided to sell his restaurant and return to Cyprus, his native country, taking his family with him. At the age of 75 his

eldest daughter, Yvonne, still nostalgic for the village where she had found safety from the blitz, decided to make contact with the family of George Brennan, who had generously made a home for her and her sisters, but when she sought out her temporary home her memory failed and she visited the wrong house.

That could have been the end of it but for a strange coincidence, thanks to Mrs Margaret Graham. While visiting her building society in Chester le Street the counter clerk commented that Mrs Graham came from

Lanchester, and asked if she knew a family called Brennan. As it happened, Mrs Graham's best friend is Teresa Steinwender, nee Brennan, George Brennan's niece, and the counter clerk was Helene, the daughter of Yvonne, the evacuee.

Mrs Graham reported this meeting to her friend Teresa, but when she visited the building society again, Helene had transferred to another branch and the society's rules forbade passing messages to its staff. Apparently a dead end.

However a message was posted in Lanchester post office seeking to



Teresa, Yvonne and Margaret enjoying a cup of coffee in Lanchester Country Homes and Gifts

contact the Brennan family, and giving the name and phone number of Helene Gorman, Yvonne's daughter, in Chester le Street. Teresa replied and a reunion

was arranged. Later she also delighted to meet George Brennan's daughters Agnes and Monica, who had married and moved away from Lanchester.

METHODIST WALK



On a hot Saturday afternoon 10th May, children, parents and grandparents from the Methodist Church set off on a four mile walk for a project of Samaritan Purse 'Turn on the Tap'. The aim was to raise money for children in Africa and Asia. Four miles is the average distance a child has to walk to obtain clean water.

Kath Stronell BSc(Hons) Pod. MCh.Soc.

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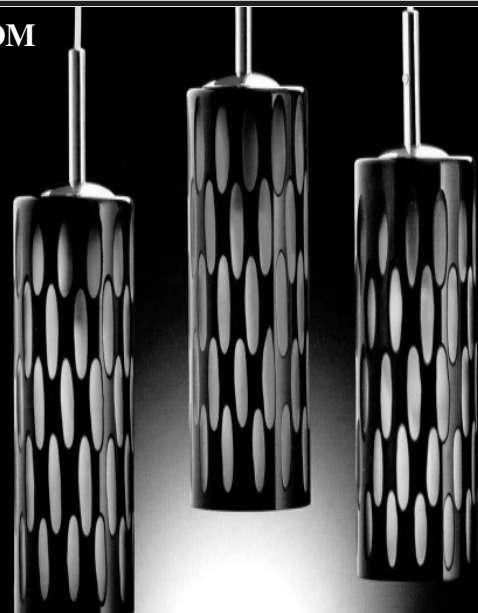
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**NEW CLERK FOR PARISH
COUNCIL**

Sally Laverick, who has lived in the village for 14 years with her husband and two children, has been appointed to succeed Jim Owens as Lead Officer and Clerk to the Parish Council from the 28th of April. Sally has previously spent 19 years with Derwentside District Council and Leisure Sport, and she is looking forward to her new challenge. The Parish Council phone number where Sally can be reached is, 521957.



Sally Laverick, Lead Officer and Clerk to the Parish Council

**MOTHERS' UNION LADY DAY
SERVICE**

On Monday 31st March, Lanchester Mothers' Union hosted the Lady Day Service when members from the other 12 branches in the Lanchester Deanery joined us and brought their banners. Canon Waterhouse conducted the service and gave the Address. After the service everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by the Committee of Lanchester branch.



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PARK AND STRIDE FOR ALL SAINTS

The ceremony for this very important development took place in glorious weather at 3.00 pm on Wednesday May the 7th.

Mike Gladstone, of the Lanchester Partnership, began his opening speech by congratulating Richard Young and Ossie Johnson on their recent election success (see Page 1). The two councillors received the highest number of votes in

the recent County elections. Both have helped considerably with funding for a considerable number of local projects involving young people.

As children from All Saints School were present, Mike Gladstone geared his speech mainly to them, explaining with an excellent example, why a safe footpath was necessary. The idea which had been thought about for a

very long time was about to happen.

He continued by telling the children that their teachers, their parents as well as many others in the village were worried that an accident would occur because of congestion outside the schools.

Mike Gladstone further explained that the gate leading to the footpath at the back of their school had been there for about six years, due

to the help of several people in the community, including former Head Teacher, Tony Reather, his wife Jill, Alan James, Safety Officer from County Hall, and County Councillor Tom Forster.

However, whilst this was a beginning of the road to safety for children, something else was needed. Thanks to the efforts of Richard Young who proposed the idea of parking at the Social Club and having a new gate on to Valley Walk, efforts were made with the help of Mrs

McKenna, the Head Teacher, Allison Lonsdale, Travel Planning, County Durham, and the Social Club Committee, the long wait was over.

Mike Gladstone ended his speech by thanking all those involved, including mums and dads for their support, and finally asked Councillor Richard Young to 'open' the gate adorned with silk white ribbon, by cutting it with a special pair of silver scissors provided for the occasion by County Hall.



Caption: Councillor Richard Young 'opens' the new gate on to Valley Walk. Left to right: Councillor Ossie Johnson, Councillor Colin Burton, Jill Gladstone, Mike Gladstone, Helen McKenna, Head Teacher, and Allison Lonsdale, Travel Planning, County Durham, with children from All Saints RC Primary School in the foreground



Mums and children - the first to use the new Park and Stride to collect their children from school on a bright, warm and sunny spring afternoon

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■ The extensive building work may at some point require the premises to close for a short while. We anticipate the renovation to be complete by mid/late summer 2008. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused during this period.

■ All patients will receive an oral healthcare pack at their next dental visit as our way of thanking you for your patience and loyalty to the practice.

We welcome all enquiries relating to the practice and the services we will be offering to our clients. A member of the team will be happy to take your call on 01207 520265.

This is an advert paid for by Westlands Dental Care 26 Front Street Lanchester DH7 0ER

JUST DESSERTS

The Methodist Church again hosted a 'Just Desserts' event organised by Mel and Sue Somersall. This was on April 18th, and involved the guests enjoying a variety of puddings, tarts, flans, mousses, cheesecakes and other delicacies from the repertoires of Lanchester's cordon bleu cooks. This

tittillation of the taste-buds was followed by the main musical course, a concert from Consett Salvation Army Band. Introducing the band, Mel thanked all those who had donated the desserts and the team who had worked behind the scenes, and the band which had donated its services. He explained that funds

were needed to build a boys' dormitory at the orphanage in Monrovia which the Mercy Ships had adopted. The work had started, but had to be finished before the rainy season. He also thanked the band for donating its services for the event. He then handed over to conductor Jeff Baker who launched the band

into The Champion, followed by a slower piece called The Mission, showing the sheer power of the band and their controlled elegiac side. In an impressive programme the most memorable pieces were a hymn played at a cracking pace, a version of My Grandfather's Clock which featured

euphonium player Christian Marklew playing slowly to dazzlingly, a beautiful rendering of Faithful God by two flutes and a guitar and a rousing American Civil War medley.

The generosity of the Band, caterers and helpers helped to raise the massive sum of £1377.20.



Consett Salvation Army Band entertain at the Just Desserts evening



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LANCHESTER BRASS BAND PATRONS CONCERT 2008



Conductor Jonathan Fenwick and the Lanchester Brass Band acknowledge the audience's appreciation

An enthusiastic and appreciative audience of Patrons and Friends of the Band packed Lanchester Methodist Church on Saturday 19th April, at 7.30 pm to enjoy Lanchester Brass Band's Annual Patrons' Concert. The audience was warmly welcomed to this much anticipated annual event by Mr Brian Oram, speaking for the Band's Sponsors, the Lanchester Village Voice.

The programme opened with 'Fanfare and Soliloquy', and contained references to the band's strong connections with the Durham Miners Gala in a rousing performance of R.B.Hall's march 'Officer of the Day', as well as in a sensitive and haunting version of the Miners' Hymn, 'Gressford'. The band's tradition of contesting was highlighted by an

enjoyable offering of this year's Area Test Piece, 'Four Cities' Symphony' by Rodney Newton, which enabled the band to transport us through music to London, Paris, Rome and Moscow.

The musical qualities responsible for the band's creditable victory in the Durham League's Quartet Competition (Ben Johnson *flugel horn*, Susan Hayton *tenor horn*, Helen Griffiths *baritone*, Adam Towse *Eb bass*) were clearly evident in the excellent playing of a four part arrangement of Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus'.

Fine solos played by Principal Cornetist Christopher Jones ('Share My Yoke') and Flugel Horn player Ben Johnson ('Over the Rainbow') were both much appreciated by the audience for their fluent and delicate playing.

The mid-programme performance by the Training Band promised well for a secure future for the band, as prolonged applause greeted a four work mini-programme of 'Portsmouth', 'Floral Dance', 'Eventide', and 'The Great Escape', an excellent effort smoothly co-ordinated by Training Band Conductor, Daniel Laverick.

As customary, the Annual Awards were presented. The Peveller Baton (Most Improved player) was awarded to Daniel Laverick, the John Jennings Memorial Trophy (Exceptional Service to the band) to Robert Vallance and the Anthony Brown Memorial Trophy for Best Junior Player to Grace Laverick.

The evening was brought to a close with two arrangements by Goff

Richards, 'Pastoral' and 'Crimond' played either side of 'Gressford'. Loud applause persuaded conductor Jonathan Fenwick and the band bid the delighted audience goodnight with a welcome encore of 'New York, New York'. As well as looking to the future with its Training

Band and Youth involvement, the band is also celebrating its heritage and is looking to create a CD of a Pictorial History of the Band. If you have any photographs of the band, particularly, but not exclusively, of the Early Days, please contact the band on 01207 271337.



Principal Cornetist Christopher Jones plays 'Share my Yoke'

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LANCHESTER ARTIST'S SUCCESS

An invited audience of art lovers, critics, dignitaries and Friends of the Bowes Museum, packed the Ceramics Gallery of the Bowes Museum at 6.30pm on Friday 18th April to enjoy a pre-Exhibition

Private Viewing of 'Illumination: Judy Hurst'. The animated and appreciative viewers declared the exhibition a rousing success as the 'red dots' indicating 'sold' began to multiply against the attractive exhibits. Indeed, one of the exhibits, 'Phoenix', has been acquired by the Bowes Museum for its permanent collection.

Born and raised in County Durham, Judy is following a distinguished career in teaching, both in the UK and New Zealand, with an equally distinguished career as an artist. Discussions are in progress for future exhibitions of her work next year in Trevelyan

College, Durham, and in the Musee Adrien Dubouche, Limoges. Meanwhile, 'Illumination: Judy Hurst' is open to public viewing from 19th April to 20th July. As well as the pictures in the exhibition, Limited Edition prints of Judy's work are available from the Bowes Museum Shop.

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Local Lanchester artist Judy Hurst has created a wonderfully colourful and inspired collection of intricate and illustrative works, using gold leaf and sumptuous colour applied to vellum, paper and canvas. The works are inspired by mediaeval illuminated works, to create spiritually-compelling images, often with symbolic underlying themes.



Artist Judy Hurst with her work 'Becky Loves Parrots'

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TALKING HEADS NEWS

I know it's been a while since we had any news lately, but we've been so busy what with babies, salon refurbishments, sport relief and now we have a winner!

Well, as many of you have noticed, the salon has had a revamp. We have all worked really hard. The salon is gorgeous and I'm very proud of it. It's a classy, fresh and warm place to be as you relax and enjoy your time with us giving your great looking hair!

Well moving on, Michelle and Natalie showed off their running skills as they

took part in the 6 mile sport relief run at Saltwell Park and raised £260.

I can't say they enjoyed it or would ever want to set foot in the Park again, but they did it and did it well in 1 hour and 10 mins.

Also on the subject of Michelle and Natalie they have just been involved in a photo shoot for B L hairdressing training academy. Michelle was Natalie's model and Natalie had to design a hairstyle, make-up and clothes. It was held at Newcastle a few weeks ago, they worked really

hard to get it perfect, and she did just that as on Monday 28th of April they announced the winner at a presentation night presented by a well known hairdresser Lee Stafford, and, when they announced the winner was Natalie, she couldn't believe it.

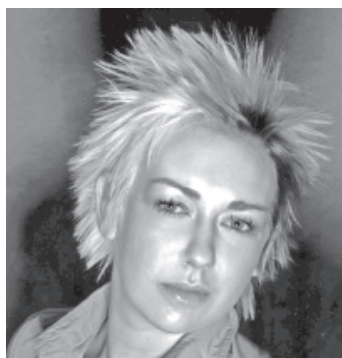
Well I'm sure you'll agree, massive well done to Natalie and of course thank you to Michelle who is looking forward to being a model again. This is a great boost to the salon, the staff and the clients. Jeni Carson

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Michelle models for Natalie



Natalie with London hairdresser, Lee Stafford

NEW SUPPORT FOR WILLOWBURN

Willow Burn Hospice has a new Corporate supporter. Moor Graphics from Houghton le Spring. Not you might think a close neighbour of ours. However the power of the North East Chamber of Commerce knows no bounds and Moor's Managing Director John Hambling shared lunch with us at an NECC networking event. The rest, as they say, is history. Moor Graphics and Willow Burn now have a partnership delivering service benefits to users and financial return to Willow Burn. Put simply Moor Graphics provide office stationery and consumables to anyone in the home, business/ corporate and small office population in

Derwentside. They price match or better existing contracts and donate a percentage of the sales they make to Willow Burn. This is a true win-win arrangement where anyone can help their hospice by changing one thing in their business life and by doing so help us to change life for the better for everyone in Derwentside depending upon Willow Burn's services. Moor Graphics have been trading for 30 years and, like most of us, work hard to make an honest living. As MD John Hambling says, 'our company is not huge, we do not have a multi-national or even a national presence, it is therefore not simply a

question of donating money. Whatever we do it has to be linked to business creation in some way'. In 2008/9 it will cost Willow Burn Hospice **£840,000** to provide our vital services to the local community, yet **only 30%** is received from the local Primary Care Trusts. The remaining **£600,000 must be raised through grants, fundraising and other voluntary income.** We must meet this target just to continue providing the high level of service that we currently offer. In order to move forward and increase our service provision in line with the needs of our community we need to increase the amount of voluntary income that we receive.

BISTRO COOKS UP SUMMER FUND RAISING SUPPORT FOR HOSPICE

Willow Burn Hospice has joined forces with one of the region's best loved restaurants to raise money for patients. Terry Laybourne's Bistro 21 in Durham City will be raising money for Willow Burn throughout June and July to support its work with people with life limiting illnesses. A voluntary £1 donation will be added to every table bill at the restaurant in June and July. Bistro diners will also be able to make additional donations in special envelopes provided with their meals. The scheme will run this year and continue each summer until 2010, providing vital funds for

the running of the hospice which offers general palliative care through day-care, at home and out-patient services. Nick Shottel, from Bistro 21, which is part of the 21 Hospitality Group, said: "We have a good relationship with Willow Burn Hospice and have worked closely with them in the past. It's near to the Bistro and is an organisation that's close to our hearts. "The hospice does so much fantastic work with patients and their families. This is a simple and effective scheme that will contribute towards their work in the future." Helen Mills, chief executive at Willow

Burn Hospice, said: "Bistro 21 is loved by many people around here and Terry and his team have been very generous with their support. Terry helped us open our new kitchen last year. "June and July are probably the busiest months of the year at the Bistro, so we're thrilled we're involved. Any money raised will help us with the costs of our day-care and round the clock support for patients." For more information, please contact Bistro 21 on 0191 3844354 or visit www.bistrotwentyone.co.uk. Willow Burn Hospice can be contacted on 01207 529224.



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PARISH COUNCIL

The regular meeting on 20th May was preceded by the Annual Meeting. Ossie Johnson was elected the Chairman and Margaret Gray the Vice Chairman and membership of the Planning, Recreation Facilities, Appeals and Finance, Development and General Purposes committees approved. The latter was renamed as it now includes responsibility for the Parish Plan.

Police Report
Police had received 95 calls. Crimes included theft of a tax disk from a motor vehicle, burglaries in Valley Grove and Crow Hill, one bogus caller who was sent packing, criminal damage in Front Street, and a 15 year old riding a motor

cycle. There will be joint patrols involving the police and fire service.

Matters Arising
There had now been 6 applications for the post of Village Handyman.

Two ways of allowing public participation in the Council meetings were discussed and a decision reached combining the best aspects of both.

A sum of money towards toilet cleaning will be offered to the owner of the Queens Head in exchange for permitting public use of the toilets during opening hours.

Correspondence
An inspection of the parish's play areas had been largely favourable. The County Council had replied to a request

for a speed visor on the A691 by detailing the costs to the Parish Council.

Mrs Margaret Gray is to take a course of Chairmanship Training.

Broadgate Farm Co-op quoted £1067.28 for providing hanging baskets.

Lanchester Parochial Council had requested replacement of litter bins adjacent to the church, and the cost is to be investigated.

Durham County Council had consulted the Parish re Bus Strategy. It was agreed that an officer would be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting, and that funding of the Village Bus was important.

The youth group of Lanchester Partnership

had put forward suggestions for provision of play equipment at Kitswell Road, and a meeting of the Recreation Committee was arranged to consider this.

Annual Village Conference

The Parish Council considered matters brought up at the above meeting. They referred a request for zebra crossings at Front Street and Station Road to the County Highways, a request for the removal of weeds at the junction of the Valley Walk and Newbiggen Lane (aka the flower meadow) to the County Council, and agreed to put a seat near the cemetery on Kitswell Road.

Finances

The new Parish Clerk, Mrs Sally Laverick, distributed spreadsheets showing the Parish's accounts and balance sheet for the previous year, and proposed to supply a monthly budget during the following year. Councillors expressed satisfaction at this arrangement.

Quality Council Status

The Clerk circulated a working document on the actions and evidence needed to achieve the Quality Status. The Council had already accepted a code of conduct, had produced a Schedule of Meetings and planned to issue an Annual Report and quarterly newsletters.

Damage to Teen Shelter

On May 3rd the roof had been ripped from the Teen Shelter behind Park View. As it is made of

galvanised steel and was firmly attached, this must have been a difficult and dangerous process, and which it is hoped will have been revealed on the CCTV camera overlooking the site. The roof had now been welded on again at a cost of £200.

Broadband

There was some considerable discussion on the procedure for bringing broadband into the Parish office in Park View. The outcome was that only BT or Talktalk could deliver what was needed, the latter being the cheaper.

Moles

The little velvet gentlemen are now tunnelling under the Village Green and need to be removed. Cllr Harrison will be arranging this.

Primary Strategy for Change

Cllr Glass asked if a representative of the County Education Department could be asked to attend a Council Meeting to explain the above. Change to primary schools could mean closures, and although Lanchester's schools could not be closed extra pupils might be sent to them from other primary schools.

Yellow lines

The question was again raised of the double yellow lines which have been removed from in front of the Community Centre, creating a dangerous traffic bottleneck. This matter will be taken up at County Hall.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th June 15 minutes later at 7.15pm. All welcome to attend and participate.



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PLANNING MATTERS

A Planning meeting was added to the already lengthy Parish Council meeting. C o u n c i l l o r s considered plans for garages with gym above at Crow Hall, felling of two trees at All Saints primary church to enable a new exit from the car park, a two storey extension at Broadmeadows Farm, and a conservatory in Ford Crescent. They had no objections to these, subject in some cases to complying with the Village Design Statement. Regarding a dwelling house and apartment behind the library building, a single storey extension in Ford Road, and an agricultural building at West Newbiggen Farm councillors requested some maps from Derwentside to help them make a decision.

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

At the May meeting the Partnership again discussed car parking. A survey by the County Council had found that there is no problem. It was understood that shop owners had commented to Mr Wafer of the County Council, but no report had reached the Partnership. The Village Bus no longer runs on Thursday evenings as the grant has run out, but its regular run now starts half an hour earlier at 9.40am and is extended for half an hour to 1.38pm. The bus has been running since April 2001, but grants are now more difficult to

A "Quiz Aid" event for Christian Aid was held on Friday, 16th May, in the Methodist Church. This was supported by all three churches and a great time was had by all. Special thanks are due to Jean and Harry Carr's housegroup who served morning coffee and then made and served lunches. A group of ladies came for lunch from Amigos, whilst the Bric a Brac stall and the jam and marmalade stall were very successful. The winners of the Quiz were Margaret Hughes and Claire Hepplewhite, whilst Claire Burnett and Muriel Tomlinson took second place. Well done to all who took part. Thanks are also due to all who came and donated so generously, raising a total of £550.50 to be sent to this worthwhile charity, which is desperately in need of funds following the recent earthquake and cyclone.

QUIZ AID FOR CHRISTIAN AID

A customer consults Sue and Pat on a purchase at the bric a brac stall



The winners of the Quiz pose for the camera

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LONGOVICIUM TO STANEGATE WALK

To celebrate receipt of his nationwide (well, English!) pensioners bus pass, 65 year old Lancastrian, Ian Andrew, walked from Lanchester to Carlisle, returning home each evening mostly by "free" buses. Ian stays on the High Ford Estate, just a few hundred yards from Longovicium Fort. More years ago than he cares to remember, he stayed in a flat in Carlisle, just a few hundred yards from the site of Stanegate Fort.

He started walking on All Fools' Day, which his wife Olna and the "children" thought was most appropriate! Rainbows accompanied his damp journey via the Lanchester Valley Way and the Derwent Walk to Swalwell. The second leg was from Swalwell along the Keelman's Way and over the Blaydon/Scotswood Bridge to join the

Hadrian's Wall Path. This took him along more reclaimed railway lines and a river bank walk where in 1640, the battle of Newburn Ford was fought; result England 0 Scotland 1. However, the Jocks did the English proletariat a favour because victory forced Charles to recall Parliament to pay the ransom money. This led to ferment, the Civil War and eventually the Parliamentary Democracy that we all enjoy today. The sting in the tail was a steep uphill path to Heddon on the Wall.

Returning to Heddon on the Wall, he had his first sight of the actual Roman Wall. Because there were very few people on the Path, he saw lots of inland birds from goldcrests to woodpeckers. The quality of the path itself varied enormously, although

being a retired construction professional, he was probably expecting too high a standard. To the North, Northumberland was green, whilst to the South, County Durham was white with snow. Heavy rain came on as he neared The Portgate (the A68/B6318 junction).

For the next section, his wife Olna dropped him off at The Portgate and collected him from Housesteads, as the logistics of using buses on this section simply did not hold together. He met fellow long distance walkers on the Path for the first time and at one point spent 30 minutes repairing a gate that had been damaged, using only materials that he could scavenge! Returning to Housesteads for an early start, he was alone and feeling on top of the world as he walked along the crags of the Whin Sill. It was a day for seeing large birds with the swans on Crag Lough the largest. His respect for the Roman

soldiers who built and manned this outpost of their Empire grew with every passing day. From near Greenhead, he walked out to the A69 at Blenkinsop for the 685 bus home. There then followed a long intermission for a wedding (see April Village Voice page 3) and a hospital appointment from which it took him a week to recover. Finally, on the 21st of April, Olna dropped him off at Greenhead to walk the twenty-odd miles to Carlisle. Ian lived in Carlisle for many years, but still managed to get lost on arrival because of all the redevelopment in the town centre!

Why did he do it, apart from celebrating his bus pass? As a well-known Methodist Local Preacher he was able to raise £600 in sponsorship from the members of the Methodist Churches in the Stanley Circuit. £300 has been sent to the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (Olna and Ian's son Jamie is a medical paediatrician

in the West of Scotland) and £300 to the Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team (The Team Leader, Dave Bartles-Smith, lives in Lanchester). For Ian, this was just the first of an epic three stage journey from Lanchester to his birthplace, Blackpool. He hopes to complete the second stage, from Carlisle to Ulverston along the Cumbria Way in June when he will be inviting Lancastrians to sponsor him to raise funds for The Edith Jackson Trust, a charity which promotes school building and education in poorer areas of Sudan and for our Village Bus. Sponsorship for the third and final stage from Ulverston to Blackpool will be sought from people living in those areas. In the meantime, Ian is busy drawing sketches of the Longovicium-Stanegate walk similar to the one illustrated, in order to produce notelets for sale to raise further funds for charitable causes.

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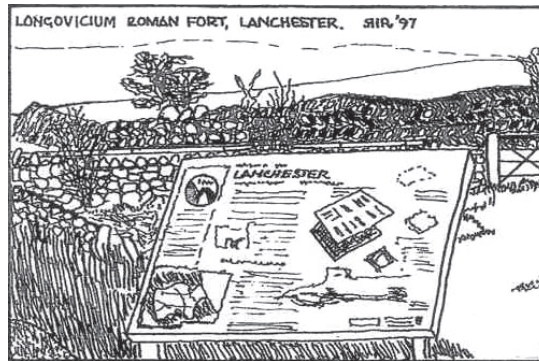
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One of Ian's sketches which he produces in the form of notelets to retail, for charity, at 3 for £1 including envelopes

LIONS' BOOKSTALL



The brilliant sun brought out the Lions Bookstall again with Mike Stoddart and Brian Naylor running the stall. Customers are Margaret Ballard, Rachel and Anna Crowe.

NEEDLECRAFT FOR HOSPICE

Members of the Wednesday afternoon needlecraft group came together in Lanchester library on Thursday 24th April to make and sell cards in aid of Willow Burn Hospice. The needlecraft girls usually support Elaine's suggestions, however

much of a challenge they are and the hard work involved. They were there from opening time to closing at 7pm creating individual designs for the cards, which were sold at £1.50 each, raising a sum of £110. Later more cards were sold making £135 in all.

They would like to thank the library staff and 'Oliver Twists Threads Ltd' for their support. The needlework group meets upstairs in the Community Centre from 1pm till 3pm on Wednesday afternoons, and new members are welcome.



The group at work in the library (l to r) Breda Branscombe, Edith Pierce, June Wallis, Elaine Williams, Margaret Pybus, Judith Wilkinson

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The menu offers a nice range and for a starter I chose Vietnamese spring rolls served with a chilli, lime and peanut dipping sauce while my partner chose an English onion soup with a sage and

cheddar crouton. Both were delicious!

For our main course we both chose the Northumbrian rib eye steak with garlic mashed potato, roasted vegetables and red onion marmalade, with one request for medium rare steak and the other medium - they were both perfect! I have to say this course exceeded my expectations and the meat was extremely tender and full of the natural flavour that only good quality produce can accomplish. The garlic mash was extremely subtle and overall the different flavours and subtleties of the dish complemented each other perfectly.

For dessert we chose a sharing plate of miniatures which

consisted of a sorbet, a tiramisu, a chocolate brownie (or a very delicious chocolate thing), a summer fruit panacotta and some pistachio ice cream - all of which were very rich and well worth the calories!

This was all accompanied by a shared bottle of wine and 3 after dinner drinks (each) and I'm afraid to say that by the time all of this was consumed I cannot recall the full total spending for the evening except that at the time it seemed very reasonable and very pleasurable and I'm sure it was and still is. This restaurant is situated on

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ALL SAINTS PTA MAKE MUSIC IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The PTA at All Saints School held another of its now famous Music Evenings at Lanchester Community Centre on 26th April. There was yet more new talent on show to add to the tried and tested formula of past events. The move from the school hall to the community centre allowed for a larger audience and also for space for dancing to be available in front of the stage.

Colm Doyle introduced nine performers, old favourite Chris Kelly getting the evening off to an excellent start. Angie Winter's songs from Les Miserables, accompanied by Marie Harrison on piano, brought some emotion and glamour to the night and Claire Jordan, the school's Deputy Head, presented a cultured rendition of songs from the musicals - a

performance that would not have been out of place on a professional stage in London's West End.

Tony Reather, recently retired Headteacher at All Saints, returned to perform his, now famous and energetic, Pinball Wizard and the first half was brought to a close by Chris Kelly who added some humour to his presentation.

The audience enjoyed an excellent supper provided by members of the PTA while they completed a quiz including pictures of places in the village and questions about characters from the musicals.

Chris Kelly, an accomplished singer/guitarist returned to the stage to get the second half underway with one of his own compositions before Tim Madeley and

Katy Grey, two new faces to these events, took to the stage with a blend of more contemporary numbers. Jonathan Yates was another new face and his guitar playing proved to be popular, particularly among men "of a certain age" in the audience.

Lesley Suddes rounded off an excellent evening with a lively performance, her bouncy set encouraging audience participation, dancing going on until late in the evening.

The event was a great social success and also managed to raise around £350 for the PTA to provide much needed play equipment for the children of All Saints Primary School. "This was great value for money, we'll definitely be here for the next one" said one satisfied customer.



Claire Jordan sings at All Saints PTA music evening, accompanied by Marie Harrison

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Members voting on resolutions

President Jennifer Macdonald welcoming 22 members and two visitors. The business included voting on the annual resolutions previously discussed. Both resolutions, on a ban of trawling the bottom of the sea and inappropriate imprisonment of the non-criminal severely mentally ill, were passed. The coffee morning raised £82 after expenses and Jennifer again thanked everyone for their support. 5 members are going to Ushaw College on Thursday 24th July where they will enjoy dinner and listen to after dinner speaker Steve Smith the "Rumpole of Rotherham". Even though it seemed very early to discuss our birthday meal for November we need to book the coach and venue. The alternative suggestion of lunch at the Riverdale Hotel, Bellingham stopping at Corbridge on the way for coffee and perhaps some Christmas shopping seemed very popular. Secretary June Wallis read the minutes of the last meeting. Mrs Mary Moralee won the raffle and the competition "a security tip" was won by Ann Carr with Maureen Barker second. The speaker was Sharon Harrison on Doorstep Crime. Sharon works for Durham Trading

Standards which most of us know for checking everything from sausages to petrol stations to make sure we the public are not cheated. The department has now been updated to include doorstep crime eg bogus officials pretending to be from an official body. Durham County formed this task force after Help the Aged questioned an official report in 2001 that said only 19,000 people had been cheated, they did their own survey which came up with 300,000. People did not report crimes for many reasons eg feeling foolish that they had been taken in. We watched a video- "Beware The Bogeyman" which showed that the people who target the elderly and infirm are criminals and informed us of things we can do to help ourselves including [1] do not keep money in the

house [2] use a door chain. [3] do not have your name on the door [4] close the door on the person and ask them to return when a friend or relative can be there. WHEN IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT. Trading Standards have a list of registered traders which has been in place for 4 years, all are police checked. You can find this online at www.county.durham.rts.org.uk or phone 0191 383 3589. Help The Aged have a Handy Van scheme which if you are over 60 will help with free advice and practical support to make your home secure. Ring 01255 473999 for more information. Ann Carr gave the vote of thanks and the meeting finished with members buying from a sales table and enjoying tea and biscuits.



Speaker Sharon Harrison

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Manager, Richard Windmill, secured a licence from 8.00am until midnight on both days so there was a good opportunity to enjoy the facilities of the marquee erected in the car park complete with pool table, at the request of the bikers, with a massive 'hog roast' for lunch.

With everyone sampling the 22 real ales on offer the atmosphere was extremely convivial. As well as the Queens, the other beneficiaries from the weekend were Willow Burn Hospice and Air Ambulance, as there was a bucket collection for both charities.



Richard Windmill, Manager of the Queens Head, advises some of his customers on the excellent quality of the 22 real ales on offer

CORNSAY'S BLACK HORSE INN
Celebrating 3 Years in Style on camera!!

A short promotional film has been made about the Black Horse at Cornsay Village to celebrate Jane and Gary Natrass's three years as owners. The film features owners and regulars past and present with a fictional

character - based on the man with the jug by the window in this photo - delivering a 'tongue in cheek' narration. Landlord Gary explained, "We felt it was important to celebrate being here and beginning our 4th

year in the Black Horse. The film seemed a novel way to do it!" Over 300 people have already viewed the clip. You can see it on YouTube at www.YouTube.com Search for The Black Horse Inn Cornsay



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HAPPY JACK REVIEW

The Community Centre was host recently to the Library Touring Theatre Company's production of John Godber's play "Happy Jack". This is the story of the marriage of Jack Monroe, an irascible far from happy miner, and his long suffering wife Liz. The couple's every-day life is laid bare in a random series of sketches, we see them listening to Mario Lanza records, courting, honeymooning, having "domestics", walking by the seaside and much more. We see Jack threatening violence to a neighbour, barman and a female theatre cashier, ranting against the NCB and the establishment although his pride prevents him from missing a day's work. They discuss death - Jack is to be buried, he has seen too much coal burn to be a candidate for cremation! They belong to a culture that perceives tenderness on the part of its menfolk as an affliction worse than death and Jack is not a

man to betray his class in this respect. He does however write bad poetry and one feels that Godber's use of this device to try and soften Jack's character is not convincing. Jack is an inveterate man's man and this leaves Roger Cook little scope to display his acting talents. On the other hand Liz is a much more balanced character. We see her as a teenager with attitude, a tipsy holiday maker and prone to depression when the four walls of her daily existence crowd in on her. Jack's reaction to these low points is to support her by repeating "take a pill Liz". Liz is a much more interesting part to play and Deborah Kelly uses her considerable talents admirably bringing her to life in a thoroughly convincing way. Godber's entertaining story is based on his personal experiences and as such is no doubt a reflection of many such relationships forged in

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- Application forms and job descriptions are available from school. These should be returned to the school by **Friday 13th June**.
- Interviews will be held on **Friday 20th June**. If we have not contacted you by Thursday 19th June you have not been selected for interview.

Durham County Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer. We want to develop a more diverse workforce and we positively welcome applications from all sections of the community but candidates should be in sympathy with the Christian ethos of this Catholic School. Applications from people with disabilities will be granted an interview if the essential job criteria are met. **Our school is committed to safeguarding children and any offer of employment will be subject to receipt of a satisfactory Enhanced CRB check and references.**

the dreary villages of the northern coalfields. It is a study of frustrated hopes and expectations but then whoever said that a walk down the aisle is a prelude to a lifetime of walking in the park on a sunny afternoon.

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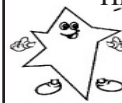
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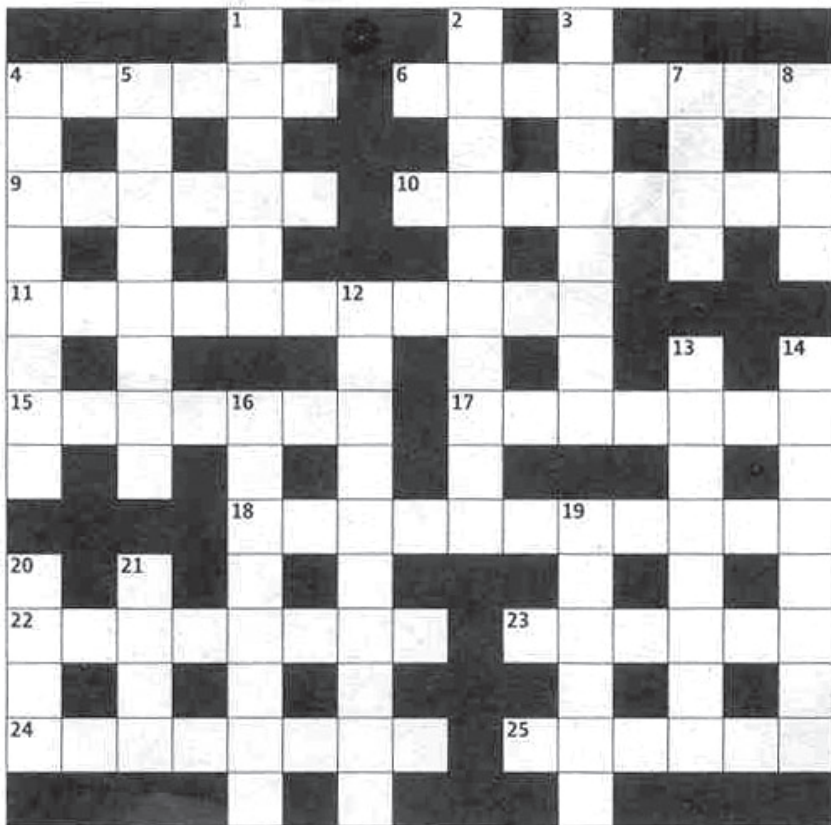
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CROSSWORD 25



ACROSS

4. Maiden in distress? (6)
6. American state (8)
9. Argos starts with fifty slow, broad passages (6)
10. American state (8)
11. Colourful blossoms, maybe on the fringe! (11)
15. Wanderer takes in a French overflow (3,4)
17. Close to the beach (7)
18. Oh! feet surge becomes exile multitude (7,4)
22. Ripple as hard workers (8)
23. Pattern from Moa (*sic*) (6)
24. American state (8)
25. Tribute (6)

DOWN

1. Start at golf (3,3)
2. What apiarists do (10)
3. American state (8)
4. American state (8)
5. American state (8)
7. Fruit of the blackthorn (4)
8. Oh! woe is me (4)
12. An elf error is assigned (2,8)
13. American state (8)
14. American state (8)
16. American state (8)
19. Mass departure (6)
20. Tranquil (4)
21. Epileptic loses heart for big adventure (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 24

ACROSS

1. escaped
5. captive
9. livid
10. orientate
11. serviceman
12. see 26
14. go one better
18. piano player
21. raze
22. avoid dogma
25. Toblerone
- 26,12. coup d'etat
27. forceps
28. session

DOWN

1. enlist
2. cavort
3. Paddington
4. drone
5. chicanery
6. punt
7. in a state
8. electors
13. reproduces
15. oblivious
16. aperitif
17. Zanzibar
19. agouti
20. warden
23. ideas
24. mere

Name _____

Address _____

Please send your entries to The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0JQ.

CROSSWORD 24

There were 15 entries in our competition last month. Congratulations to the winner in the draw, Peter Bridgewater of Alderside Crescent, who will receive the £10 prize.

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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.

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

FUN AND FITNESS WEEK

Pupils at Lanchester EP school enjoyed a week of active enjoyment from 19th-22nd May. On Monday Justin from the School Sports Partnership introduced every class to the once-

popular art of skipping, and a 'sponsored skip' raised money for the British Heart Foundation. The younger pupils also had tennis coaching. On Tuesday the older pupils embarked on a bike

ride down the Lanchester Valley Way which took them to Broompark and beyond, while younger bikers rode in the school grounds. On Wednesday Mobilix ice hockey players introduced

years 3 and 4 to ice hockey, while years 1 and 2 had a walk to the park and year 6, together with children from Witton Gilbert school had a knockout competition obstacle race. In the afternoon everyone

enjoyed the outdoor 'ice' rink and a barbecue. On Thursday some groups went on visits to a lighthouse and to the Louisa Centre, while the remainder had a cricket tournament.



The bike ride



Skipping tuition



Great fun was had on the 'ice'



Chefs for the day, Mr Taylor and Mr Stephenson in charge of the barbecue

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for April is 34. The draw was made by Mrs Dobson of the Art Group.

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www.littlefeetnursery.co.uk

Northumbrian Evening

Support the Community Centre on Saturday May 31st at 7.30pm where there will be excellent entertainment, including Pipe music, traditional singing and humorous readings from the works of local authors. Tickets priced £5.00 each will be available at the door.

Colepike Farm Open Day

As part of the Farm Sunday event on Sunday June 1st, Colepike Farm will be open to visitors free of charge. It is a working farm with cattle and sheep, run by the Harrison family, who will be offering guided tours between 11am and 3pm. The farm is on the B6296 (Satley) road and notices will guide visitors. No dogs please.

WI

The next WI meeting will take place in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 2nd June at 7.00pm. The speaker will be Geoff Bryant telling of his experiences in training the Iraqi Police force. This meeting will also be open to men and all visitors will be welcome, admission £1.

Country Market

The next country market in the Community Centre will be on Saturday 7th June at 10am. The usual array of cakes, pies, eggs, jam and other delights will be on sale.

Family Picnic

Churches Together has organised a family picnic which will be held on Sunday June 8th on All Saints primary school field (or if wet, in Croft View). Any families from the village are welcome to bring their own food and chairs and join in from 2.30 to 4.45 pm.

Family Fun Day

Not played tennis for a long time?

Have not played tennis before?

Fancy a go?

Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club is holding a Family Fun Day at the club courts off Ford Road on Saturday 7th June 1.00 - 4.00pm.

Events will include Tennis Fun Factory, Ball Machine, Games, Mini Matches, Tombola.

All ages and abilities welcome, all equipment supplied. Refreshments available, prizes to give away.

Come and enjoy the fun. For further information please contact the club secretary on 01207 520278.

Alzheimer's Society

The best source of information about dementia in the Derwentside region is the Alzheimer's Society, which offers information and guidance including home support service, one-to-one support and training for care staff. Accumulating evidence suggests that the antioxidants in tea can help reduce the risk of neuro-degenerative diseases, so it is entirely appropriate that the Society is asking you or your community group to organise a 'high tea', 'tea at three' or 'cream tea', or maybe even a 'tea dance' during Dementia Awareness Week (6th-12th July).

Anyone who would like to be involved is asked to contact Alison Rundle on 01207 591835. They can also write to The Alzheimer's Society, Derwentside Branch, 5 Trafalgar Street, Consett, County Durham DH8 5AP or email a_rundle@derwentside.org.uk.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting on 10th June will be a flower survey of Hurbuck Triangle, meeting at the end of the former viaduct on the Lanchester Valley Way. For details ring 520063.

Short Walks

The Byways & Bridleways group offers short walks on Tuesday evenings: on 10th June meet at River View, Blackhall Mill (L after crossing Derwent) at 7pm (details ring 542482), and on June 24th at 7pm meet at Crawley Engine, 1m N of Stanhope (details 520960).

The 'Short Circuits' group meet at Winlaton Mill car park (NZ186609) at 10.30am on Saturday 7th June, and at Wolsingham Demesne car park (NZ076375) on 21st June at 10.30. Bring a picnic.

Mothers' Union

At the meeting on 11th June, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, the speaker will be Carole Hopkinson talking about Mothers' Union Action and Outreach.

Sunshine and Strawberries

We are promised that both of the above will be provided at the Summer Fair to be held in the Chapter House of Lanchester C of E Parish Church on Saturday June 14th. From 9.30 to 11.30am coffee, tea and scones either strawberry and cream or cheese will be served. Cakes and savouries, cards and pictures, books, bric-a-brac, bottles and plants will be on sale, and the Grand Summer Draw will take place. All donations made are for church funds.

WHAT'S ON?

Wildlife - Continued Help

A further working party is being arranged for Saturday 14th June, this time on the Malton side of the village. Durham County Council would like our help near the Malton picnic area on the Lanchester Valley Walk. The work is to maintain the wildlife interest and given the overall length of the route there is a lot of work to do.

Coralie Dickinson, Countryside Ranger, would like help building a small dam, cutting grass and removing Himalayan Balsam. Himalayan Balsam is a plant introduced by the Victorians and now taking over areas adjacent to rivers. It is very successful in that it swamps other plants and reduces the variety of wild flowers to be seen and enjoyed.

The plan is for a group of us to meet at the Malton picnic area at 10.00 am on Saturday 14th June and finish about 2.30 pm with a break for lunch.

Coralie will bring all the tools and provide any training needed. Only a little physical fitness is required as there will be light jobs as well as heavier ones. All you need are some old clothes, a packed lunch and plenty of enthusiasm. Just come along or if you would like more information please contact Michael Horsley on 01207 520764.

MP Surgery

Our MP Hilary Armstrong will be available to meet constituents with gripes and concerns at her 'surgery' on Saturday June 14th, starting at 11am at Citizen's House, Consett.

Film Club

The next film to be shown on Sunday 15th June at 7.30pm in the Community Centre will be 'After the Wedding'.

A multi-millionaire wants to know how much his money can really buy in this drama from Danish filmmaker Susanne Bier. Though born and raised in Denmark, Jacob Peterson (Mads Mikkelsen) has made a life for himself in India, where he runs an orphanage for homeless children. While Jacob cares little for money, raising funds is part of the responsibilities of his position, and when he learns that Jørgan (Rolf Lassgård), a wealthy Danish businessman, is willing to donate four million dollars under the condition that he meet with him in person, Jacob grudgingly hops a flight back home. Once in Denmark, Jørgan insists that Jacob attend the wedding of his daughter the next day; at the celebration he meets Jørgan's wife, Helene (Sidse Babett Knudsen), whom he recognizes as someone he knew many years ago. As Jacob finds himself revisiting a past he would prefer to forget, he discovers that Jørgan has an ulterior motive for bringing him to Denmark. After Brylluppet (aka After the Wedding) received its North American premiere at the 2006 Toronto Film Festival. All Movie Guide

Weardale Railway

On 15th June, there will be a special event for Fathers' Day and Big Boys Toys. See www.weardale-railway.org.uk for further information.

Lions' Carnival

The Carnival will be held on Saturday June 21st on the Village Green and thereabouts, and will begin as usual with a procession starting at 1pm in Kitswell Road. All the fun of the fair, plus entertainment and refreshments on the Green and in the Methodist church. The theme this year is 'Pirates and Princesses'.

Carnival Night Music

An event has been arranged on the evening of Lanchester Lions' Carnival (Saturday 21st June) in aid of Willow Burn Hospice. It is in Lanchester Social Club and consists of live music from the lively local group, The Gents, and a pie and pea supper, from 8 till 11pm.

Tickets £8.00 are available from David Smith on 01207 529880, david.smith@unn.ac.uk or david.smith@northumbria.ac.uk.

Theatre in the Park

Mad Alice Theatre Company presents an open air promenade version of Shakespeare's comedy, 'Much Ado About Nothing', in Blackhill and Consett Park from Tuesday 24th June to Saturday 28th June (suitable for all aged 10 and over). Set in 1950s England with Teddy Boys, live music and the conga to add to the fun. Tickets £5/£4 from Consett Empire Theatre (01207 218171) or

Open discussion to follow Partnership AGM

All Lanchester residents - not just Partnership members - are invited to have some drinks and cheese and join in an open discussion following the Lanchester Partnership's AGM on Saturday 28th June in the R C Parish Centre. The AGM will be at 11.00am and the refreshments and discussion will start at about 11.30. There are 28 different projects in the Partnership's 2008-09 action plan! If you want to know more please come and ask. If you are happy, or unhappy, about anything that the Partnership is doing, or is not doing, please come and say so. The Partnership is no longer having an Open Day in October.

All Day Cafe

Another event to support the building of a dormitory in a Monrovia orphanage takes place on Friday June 27th, and it's all day in the Methodist church, with morning coffee, lunches (a buffet with salad and cold meats and three choices of pud) and afternoon teas starting at 10am and carrying on till 4pm. For further details ring Mel and Sue on 529153.

Flower Club

The 35th Anniversary meeting, to be held on Friday 27th June at 7pm in the Community Centre, will feature a demonstration by Malcolm White of Washington entitled 'Something Old, Something New'. This is an open meeting, with visitors welcome.

Planning ahead?

Let us know when and where. Ring 520559.

DURHAM CITY

Terry Deary never gives talks to local groups. However, if Kevin Leary, Secretary of Lanchester History Society, who is well known for charming birds out of trees, had persuaded him to speak at his society's May meeting he would have told them about Durham City. They would have learned that Mary Ann Cotton was hanged at Dryburn in 1873 for poisoning her husbands and children, that the castle was built by obnoxious Normans who introduced the feudal system which exists to this day. (They also built an ostentatious cathedral which the humble Cuthbert, who refused to be a bishop, would have hated).

He might well have said that Margaret Handland, aged 82, was transported to Australia, that Durham Market Place was once a graveyard and that it now contained a statue to the particularly loathsome Lord Londonderry, who kindly paid a week's wages to the widows of miners killed in his pit, and that the statue should be replaced by a list of the dead miners, that the most Horrible person in History was the psychopathic Henry VIII, and that Oliver Cromwell was misguided. Oh yes, and that the British Empire was a disaster, and lots of other interesting things which would have amused and edified those present.

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A scene from 'Much Ado About Nothing'

DADS V LADS RUGBY

Lanchester Rugby Club ended their successful season with a Dads versus Lads rugby event. In weather far too hot for exertion, especially for the Dads, a very enthusiastic game was played with no quarter given. The Dads actually

beat the under 16 team by 14pts to 12pts. Showing enormous stamina the Dads went on again to play the under 14 team with slightly different rules. Dads played touch rugby but the lads could tackle, which they did with great

enthusiasm. However, once again the Dads were victorious winning the game 12pts to 7pts. This game was refereed by Dorothy Parry, Head Teacher and Rugby Coach, who received total respect from the players, but some dodgy time-

keeping was suspected in this match, which may have altered the result! Afterwards there was a social event etc, with a presentation to Dick Parry for all that he has done in forming the club and where he has taken it so far. A further

presentation was made to Jacob Noble who was a valued player but is unfortunately leaving the area. More players are needed for next season so anyone who is interested please contact Dick Parry on 520412.



The lineout



The scrummage

BOWLS REPORT

Last year Lanchester Bowling Club struggled through May, the opening month of the outdoor bowls season. For some reason May appears to be a popular month for club members to take their holidays and it is difficult to raise full teams and get good results. This year the club has fared a little better as the results below show but still found itself short of full teams on occasions. Hopefully once May is over members will get back to playing and results will follow. It's still not too late to join the club and learn to bowl. The summer beckons and what finer way to spend a summer's afternoon or evening than a game of

bowls. By the way the bowling green is fringed with fine flower beds which are worth a visit even if you are not a bowler. The results so far:
Derwentside Veterans League Monday Triples
 Away v Leadgate 8-2, Home v View Lane 8-2, Home v Annfield Plain 4-6.
Derwentside Veterans League Tuesday Rinks
 Away v Annfield Plain 6-4, Away v Sherburn Park 0-10, Home v Leadgate 2-8.
North West Durham League Wednesday
 Away v Burnopfield 0-6, Home v Annfield Plain 2-4.
North West Durham League Saturday
 Home v Dipton 6-4, Away v South Moor 2-8, Home v Burnopfield 8-2.

WELL DONE, BEN

Congratulations to Ben, 11 year old son of Jane and Lee Spraggon, who entered his first junior dressage event at Holmside Park on Sunday 11th May and won his first rosette riding his pony Roo (aka Tynevalley Terracotta). Ben is a pupil at Lanchester EP School and a member of Sunnyside Riding Club. Probably the first rosette of many.



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NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 17th June
 The deadline for **adverts** is 15th June.

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