

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 12

Lanchester, March 2011

For contact information, see page 2

VILLAGE GREEN DEVELOPMENTS

Development work on the village green has been going on for some time now, and the end result is slowly starting to take shape. Lanchester Parish Council proposed the improvements some time ago, with the local community involved in the original discussions. Proposals included the construction of a recreational walk way along the side of the burn. This would be approximately 130 metres long, linking the existing seats and connecting the paths at the top and bottom, creating a circular path. The way would be wheelchair accessible and allow people easier access along the whole of the green, providing an attractive short walk for everyone to enjoy. Other planned developments included surface improvements

to an area beside the church, the placing of a Parish Council information board on the green, and the installation of a circular tree seat on the main green to encourage people to relax and enjoy the surroundings. Last year, the Parish Council applied for a grant to help towards the cost of the project, and was offered a sum of up to £12,000 from the County Durham Environmental Trust, on condition that 10% of the cost came from a third party. Lanchester Dairies was approached and agreed to help with the required amount, which eventually came to £1,500. We are all looking forward to the completion of the project, which hopefully will enhance our local environment and give pleasure to Lanchester people of all ages.



One of the new circular seats on the Village Green



The new Notice Board has now been installed on the Village Green



The new path is now well on its way to being completed

LANCHESTER LOCALITY MAP PROJECT UPDATE



The farming group discussing training needs



Happy habitat pile makers

The Lanchester Locality Map began last November and was almost immediately hit by the snow that affected everyone so much. But the fair weather that has

followed (so far!) has meant that a lot of work has been started since the New Year. So I thought I would put together an update of some of the things we've been getting up to.

Farming

One of the main aims of this project is to support the land based economy of the Parish including identifying training needs and providing advice

sessions. This will be an on-going process throughout the project's lifetime but with a combination of working groups involving local farmers and talking to

individual members of the rural community, we are beginning to deliver the training that has already been highlighted. Training requests have included providing practical sessions such as first aid qualifications, computing and trailer driving and information sessions on renewable energy schemes in the face of rising energy costs and sale of produce locally are also planned in the near future.

Continued
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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 Village Voice,

On 31st of March I am going into uncharted waters. No, I am not trekking through the Amazonian rainforests or swimming with sharks, but journeying into the unknown territory of retirement. At the end of March I am retiring after 30 years working as a Practice Nurse at Parkhouse Surgery. I think that I am looking forward to it, but time will tell. I started working in the surgery in 1981 in two rooms on the second floor in the Community Centre with Doctor Lund and two receptionists, Val Forman and Norma Burns. Although it was a little cramped, we managed to give a good quality service to the people of Lanchester.

After a couple of years working in the Community Centre we moved to what we thought of as heaven, the very palatial Parkhouse. Here we had more space, took on more staff, the practice grew, the team spirit and camaraderie between staff and patients was excellent. It was whilst we were in Parkhouse that doctors Paul and Barbara Milne joined the practice. Then we moved into a new purpose built surgery that we know today as Parkhouse Surgery. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Parkhouse and cannot believe that I have been there for 30 years – see the old saying is true ‘time flies when you are enjoying yourself’. I would like to say a big thank you to all of the people who have made my time there enjoyable, and wish Parkhouse Surgery all the best for the future.
Yours sincerely,
Hilary Edwards

the service and some given privately amounted to £600 and this has been sent to the RSPCA where a tribute to Mavis has been placed in the Book of Memories. Mavis spent two weeks in St Cuthbert’s Hospice in November 2010 and a personal donation has been sent to them.

Dear Village Voice,

My sister Mandy has taken on a rescue dog, not knowing at the time that Venice (her dog) is deaf. Venice is a Staffie so lots of people think she is nasty. As she is deaf, she cannot hear herself when she barks at other dogs, she only thinks she is copying them by moving her mouth like them. When walking, if Venice is not facing Mandy, she doesn’t know what Mandy is signing for, so sometimes when she sees another dog, she will slip her long lead and run to the dog. This has caused people to give her a hard kick or a smack with a stick, and all she wants to do is play.

Venice is having some training lessons, so please be a bit understanding if you meet her. Mandy is worried that this behaviour to her might change her nature. Thank you,
Christine Eland,
Deneside

Dear Village Voice, Royal Wedding

Does anyone know of any community events around the forthcoming royal wedding, such as a large screen viewing? Linda Petrie,
Kitswell Park

VIKKY ORD

My name is Vikki Ord and I am the Community Liaison Officer for Derwentside. As part of my role I help promote Neighbourhood Watch and Farmwatch scheme in the area. Neighbourhood Watch is a successful initiative which is renowned for its success as a crime reduction tool. As part of Neighbourhood Watch we have a free messaging system called Voice Connect, which allows Durham Constabulary to send out area specific messages to members regarding where you live, appeals for information, good news stories and community events. This system utilises voice and email messages to pass information on to members and neighbours. I am looking for interested parties who wish to act as a coordinator for their street or even their estate. Neighbourhood

Watch schemes can function to suit the neighbourhood they are looking to protect and as a Co-ordinator, this can take up as much or as little of your time as you wish. Neighbourhood Watch increases community safety, helps reduce crime and encourages community spirit. It may also offer a reduction in home insurance policies with some providers. All we ask is for you to look out for your neighbours, remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to us on 0345 60 60 365. If you would like to know more about Neighbourhood Watch or would like to know more about Farmwatch please contact PCSO Vikki Ord on 0191 3752455 or email victoria.ord@durham.pnn.police.uk PCSO Victoria Ord Community Liaison Officer Durham Constabulary Tel: 6642455/0345 6060 365

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 0PB.

To advertise:

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Dear Village Voice,

Arthur Maughan would like to thank all family and friends for their kind support following the death of Mavis on 24th January 2011 after a long illness. The messages of sympathy and most beautiful cards were so helpful during a difficult time and a special thank you to the Reverend Gavin Hume for conducting the service at Mountsett Crematorium and to Jennifer Oliver for delivering the eulogy. Mavis was passionate about wildlife and donations given after

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be the knowledge that you are working with the dynamic team that make up the staff of the Village Voice. If you are interested please contact Mike Stoddart on 520291.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for February 2011 is 39. The draw made by Emily Parkes of the Gym.

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LUNCH FOR JOHN GRAY'S RETIREMENT FROM THE VILLAGE VOICE

A retirement lunch was held at the King's Head on Sunday the 13th of March for John Gray, founder member and Treasurer of The Village Voice. The majority of the Management Council were able to attend with their spouses/partners for this special occasion. A brief tribute was paid to John Gray by Chairman, Brian Oram. John was presented

with a gift from the members by another of the founder members, Anne McKenzie. The third of the Founder members who are still with the paper, Babs Maskery, presented John's wife, Joan, with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. As has been previously reported John's position as Treasurer has been taken up by Mr Ken Todd.



Left to right: Babs Maskery, John Gray, Joan Gray and Anne McKenzie

RUGBY VISIT TO ROME



The picture above shows the inaugural visit to Rome of the Lanchester Six Nations Rugby unofficial supporters group. They went to watch the Italy v Wales match on Saturday February 26th 2011. By the look on the smiling faces all must be Welsh supporters as Wales convincingly won the match. First-half tries helped see Wales home 24-16 as they weathered an Italian second-half storm.

Pictured on Sunday 27th February are Irene and David Rees, Judith and Keith Brown, Sue and Mel Sommersal whilst they were walking in Vatican Square where the Pope had just addressed the crowd.

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ANDY BELL CELEBRATES 80TH BIRTHDAY

Andy was born on 1958 Andy joined the Friday 13th March, Ford Motor Company 1931 at Stanley Hall as a Temporary Farm. At the age of 14 Demonstrator. In 1960 he left school to work he transferred to on Causey Hill Farm R H Patterson as a which he thoroughly Tractor Salesman enjoyed. However, his before moving back to first connection with Ford permanently in Lanchester came 1963 as a Tractor Demonstrator. He sooner than expected when he contracted TB spent the rest of his from cattle and spent working life with Ford nine months in Maiden travelling extensively, Law Hospital. After involved mainly leaving farm work in solving technical



Andy Bell celebrates his 80th Birthday with lovely wife, Meg

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problems and liaising with dealerships until he retired in 1988. In 1969 Andy married Meg and moved to

Lanchester where they remained until about nine years ago before moving to Annfield Plain. During his time in Lanchester Andy was a member of Lanchester Lions Club becoming President in 1989/90. In 1994 he was a volunteer 'Odd job man' at the Community Centre for quite a few years and undertook similar work for Bloemfontein School in Craghead, also on a voluntary basis. Andy also did an excellent job as Santa Claus for various schools and organisations in the area.

longstanding friends. There was a knock on the door at about 6.00 pm in the evening and a very emotional Andy opened it to be surprised by the arrival of Gordon, with Julie and their grandson Adam, who had flown up from Heathrow especially for the occasion. That really made Andy's day. What enhanced it as well was news that Gordon, as an 80th birthday present to Andy, is providing a family holiday in Switzerland later in the year.

Andy, with Meg, is well travelled, visiting many parts of the world but particularly Texas, USA where their daughter Elaine, Doug, grandchildren and now their great grand children live. He also spent time in the 'States' at various Lions' International Conferences.

Andy still maintains his strong connection with the village of Lanchester where he can be found at the bar with his friends every Tuesday and Friday at the Social Club.

The big 80th birthday was celebrated at home with many of their

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MURIEL TOMLINSON - 90 YEARS OLD

Muriel has lived in Lanchester for over 50 years. She was born in Tipton (then in Staffordshire) but was brought up in Herefordshire. She trained to be a nurse and worked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, which at that time was a new and very prestigious hospital. She loved her work but in 1949, after marrying Henry she moved to Co Durham and lived in Durham city for four years, before moving to live in Ford Road in Lanchester. Henry was a Civil Engineer and worked in town planning. Unfortunately, Henry had to retire at 56 due to ill-health and Muriel cared for him devotedly for the rest of his life. He had a very debilitating illness but largely because of Muriel's devotion he lived until he was 94 and sadly died in 2006. Henry and Muriel had a daughter, Angela who lives in our village, and a son Edwin who lives in Beverley near Hull. Angela and Michael have two sons, Ian and John, both of whom graduated from Cambridge with Master's degrees. They were educated at our EP school and Dame Allan's School in Newcastle and were regular attenders at All Saints' Parish Church

Sunday School until they left Junior School. Edwin and his wife Julia have three grown up children and Muriel is extremely proud of all her grandchildren and indeed of all her family. All of Muriel's family are very attentive despite her being a very independent person and she is very appreciative of this. Muriel has a strong Christian faith and this is very important to her. She is a very committed member of All Saints' Parish Church and has always taken an active part in the life of the church family. She has attended this church since moving to Lanchester early in her marriage and is very well respected both there and in the community of Lanchester. She has been a member of Mothers' Union for 50 years and was president of it during the time when the Reverend Wright was the vicar. She is still on the rota for reading from the Bible in church services and attends two of the Bible Study Groups regularly. She is a very knowledgeable person and can always be relied upon to give intelligent responses to questions and queries. She has always taken an active part in Women's World

Day of Prayer and is a former president of it. In the community Muriel was a founder member of the Bridge Club which flourishes in Lanchester and is the oldest founder member now. She was also a founder member of the Durham Branch of Samaritans and stayed there for 10 years, until Henry needed more nursing. Muriel is held in high regard by everyone in the community and she is to be admired for her very positive outlook on life and she has many friends. This was very evident on the afternoon of her birthday when she had an 'at home'. It was standing room only for most of the afternoon and Muriel thoroughly enjoyed seeing all these friends who hold her in high esteem.

Her family were taking her to Hull where her son lives, and where all her family are going to celebrate her birthday in style at a lovely hotel. Congratulations Muriel on your 90th birthday and we say 'Many Happy Returns' to this remarkable lady. Brenda Craddock



Muriel Tomlinson sits for a photograph on her 90th Birthday.

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LANCHESTER LOCALITY MAP PROJECT UPDATE - Continued

Conservation Group

On the 26th February the first of the monthly conservation days took place as a joint task between Durham Wildlife Trust and the Locality Map Project and thirteen of us had a marvellous day working around the ponds and woodland at Malton Nature Reserve. This was an

trees for you to plant. Future events in the pipe line include footpath improvements, a guided butterfly walk, a charcoal training day as well as grassland and woodland management days. Many of these will be running alongside the other organisations such as the Durham County Council

Data Service (DBDS), the County Council, the Wildlife Trust and regional groups such as the bat group, to bring together the current knowledge of the habitats and species of the parish with the aim of producing a booklet detailing the distribution of habitats and species across the Parish.



Hedgerow planting

amazing number of people for a first task, especially when you consider that there had been another successful volunteer day on the 13th February with the Lanchester Valley Volunteers and Durham County Council working on the railway line at Malton. March has also started well as we've already been out with Durham County Council Rangers in the west of the Parish to plant a hedgerow which included trees donated to the Green Group by the Woodland Trust.

Countryside Rangers and The Durham Wildlife Trust. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved. You do not need to be super fit as working at your own pace is encouraged and full training is given at the beginning of each day.

Wildlife and heritage audits
As well as practical works, volunteers have been helping to put together audits of both the wildlife and the heritage of the parish. Local experts, including members of the Lanchester Wildlife Group, have been working with the Durham Biodiversity

Work is also apace on producing an audit of the heritage of the parish, and the first full consultation has just taken place between local experts, including the History Society, the Pathfinders, Ramblers and walking groups and interested volunteers to again bring together current

knowledge. The aim is to produce walk leaflets that will cover the Parish highlighting the history of the landscape around us. If you would like to get involved with any of the Projects activities give Sue a call on 07585 001 355, or e-mail her at sue.charlton@lanchesterparish.info You can also find out more information about what the project is up to by visiting the Lanchester Parish Council website (www.lanchesterparish.info), or you can follow us on facebook (Lanchester Locality Map) and Twitter (LanchesterLM).

Monthly work groups are now planned combining the conservation groups, working on tasks around the Parish. The next work party is this Saturday (26th March) when we shall be joining the Lanchester Partnership for their annual spring clean of the village, why not come along and join us, there may even be a few



John Gall talks to the group about the Heritage Audit

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Gardening in April

There are signs of change at last!! I am not saying that the cold weather is over in the NE but we have had some warm, sunny days at the end of last month, and the season seems to be moving in the right direction. The seasonal colour of spring bulbs and primulas and primroses will be in our borders this month. We may even spot some lambs in the fields and some swallows may well arrive after their long journey.

Lawns and Borders

My lawns seem to be worse than ever this year with the cold and wet that winter has thrown at it; the amount of moss is a reflection of the winter that we have had. If your lawn is the same you can mount a three pronged attack on it – chemical treatment, rake and scarify and improve drainage. There are several products available to kill moss with the cheapest being the use of lawn sand but there are also combination 'weed and feed' treatments. Once treated green moss soon dies and blackens. You can leave it to decompose naturally but it is better to rake it out and remove it. You must however, follow the instructions on the packs

as over-application can damage the grass as well. It is really hard work to scarify by hand and there are many rakes and scarifiers available to help. Some use shallow blades which you push into the lawn and scrape along to remove the moss and thatch. The blades leave shallow grooves which help drainage. A good way to improve drainage is to use a hollow-tined aerator. Use your weight to push the hollow tines into the ground and collect up the cores of soil. Then pour dry sharp sand into the holes. If this is done over the whole surface it greatly helps the drainage. In your borders you need to provide supports for your perennial flowers as they will soon shoot up this month. Additionally you can sow seeds of hardy annual flowers (eg Aster, Calendula, Clarkia, Helichrysum, Lavatera, Nasturtium, Pansy and Petunia) either under glass or in your borders. Other jobs include: pruning your forsythia as soon as it finishes flowering; planting out dahlia tubers about 10 cm (4 inches) deep; taking delphinium and lupin cuttings from the new shoots when they appear;

and trimming and tidying wall-trained winter jasmine.

Vegetables

If you did not plant your onion sets last autumn, then April is a good time to do it. It is also the time to start planting early potatoes either in plastic bags or in your garden. It is useful to cover the seed beds of your vegetable plot with cloches or sheets of polythene to warm the soil. Once it is warm you might sow outside broad beans, Brussels sprouts, beetroot, cabbages, cauliflower, mangetout, parsnip, peas, spinach and spring onions. If you have not already sown tomato, courgette, sweet pepper and chilli under cover then now is the time to do so but still in a frost-free environment.

General Tasks

Around the garden the following jobs can usefully be completed this month: treat timber and fencing with preservatives; protect new growth from slugs and snails with a copper ring or beer traps; cut back wall climbers growing close to gutters and windows; give paths, steps and paving a good clean with a pressure washer; and hoe regularly between rows to keep down weeds.


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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 8TH MARCH

Police Report: The report was for the month 1st to 31st January. Details are: Burglary 2, Anti-social behaviour 9, Criminal damage 1, Theft 3. Current Community Operations - Operation Livorno (tackling street drinking) Cllr Bob Glass said that he had spoken to Inspector Dave Turner about non-attendance of Police at Parish Council Meetings and he is willing to come to a meeting to explain the position. It was agreed that he should be asked to attend.

Matters arising from Planning Meeting on 1st March. Members were alarmed that a decision had been made about the silage pit and new access road at Greenwell Farm before the response of the Parish Council had been received. It was agreed that a reply should be sent to the Planning Committee saying that the response had been sent within the time given and that letters should be sent to the Highways Authority, the Footpaths Authority and the Environment Agency.

Correspondence: Members received the following:

Durham Police Authority - Future of Police Community Consultative Groups. It appears these twice-yearly meetings will be discontinued due

to cost and the Police plan to build on successful PA meetings with further consultation later.

LINK - latest newsletter and information.

Lanchester Allotments Association - the Minutes of their AGM as agreed last month.

Trinity Medical Properties Ltd. Members considered a proposal for surrender of the Parish Council's lease in part of land adjacent to Park House Surgery. It was resolved not to surrender the lease but that the request would be reconsidered if no progress is made on the Lynwood House site by 1st September 2011.

Area Action Partnership and Parish Council Committee. Cllr Burton reported that the next AAP Board Meeting

would be on 23rd March and that of the PCC on 18th March. At the last PCC Meeting there had been a talk by the Leader of the Youth Service; it appears that there is very little money to provide services but the AAP is trying to make things better soon.

Members received the following documents which had been prepared by the Lead Officer and which had been previously sent to them for examination:

- Risk Assessment Schedule;
- Internal Audit Arrangements;
- Grants Policy;
- Community Engagement Statement of Intent.
- Training Needs Analysis 2011-2012.** Forms were given to Members to complete so that the Lead

Officer could compile a training plan. The two new Members were thanked for agreeing to attend a conference and Chairperson Cllr Johnson said that it was necessary to keep up-to-date with local development so that good practice in the village continues.

Schools-Distribution of newsletters. It was agreed that £75 should be donated to each of the Primary Schools and that the system of satchel delivery be continued.

Grants/Donations. A number of these had been received and in accordance with the Council's policy, members agreed to award as below. The yearly budget allows for £1,000 to be donated. £430 has already been given to Lanchester Lions for Bonfire Night (£400) and £30 to the British Legion. In view of rising expenses the Council does not wish to exceed the budget, much as they would like to, and regretted having to turn down some requests.

Finchale Training College fitness room renovation project - £100;

Lanchester Parochial Church Council maintenance of tower clock - £170;

Great North Air Ambulance - £100;

Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club centenary event - £100;

Churches Together in Lanchester and Burnhope sound system for village green - £100.

It was agreed that the Lead Officer should inform the groups who had applied for grants of what is available from the AAP.

Financial Information. This document, prepared by the Lead Officer, was accepted.



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PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED AND PLANNING MEETINGS

Accounts for Payment. These were approved.
Date of Next Meeting. The Annual Village Conference will take place at 7.15 pm in the Conference Room, Park House Lanchester on Tuesday 12th April 2011 and will be followed by the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council.

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8th FEB.

Planning Applications. Members received the following:

Erection dwelling at Greenwell Farm, Lanchester. Members considered this application and raised various concerns including: the size and location of the proposed dwelling, its justification, the availability of other properties and information provided on the application form. **RESOLVED.** That Members object to this development and raised the following issues:

- i. query when the farm was purchased in 2010 that it included dwellings;
- ii. the dwelling to be unacceptable development in the open countryside;
- iii. Members are concerned at the size, style and scale of the dwelling;
- iv. Members would wish to refer to the following points on the application form:-
Section 6; Section 15; Section 17;
- v. The access to the dwelling is from a narrow public road subject to the national speed limit;
- vi. Members are unconvinced of the argument for a dwelling;
- vii. Members refer to the

financial accounts and data and query the relevance of this information;
 viii. There is concern that it passes very close and within sight of the historic Dere Street;
 ix. The visual impact;
 x. There is concern that this could lead to further development in the countryside;

xi. Ask that a Planning Officer visit the site;
 xii. Members would request that this application is referred to committee for decision.

Siting of temporary static caravan on land to the West of West Newbiggen Farm, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester. Members considered the application and raised various concerns. **RESOLVED.** That Members object to this development and raise the various issues.

Kitchen and bedroom extension at 11 Sunnybanks. Resolved. That members raise no objection to the application.

Replacement of windows at Lanchester Community Centre. **RESOLVED.** That Members raise no objection to the application.

Decisions of the Planning Authority. Planning applications had been approved by Durham County Council: Link garage and pool extension to side and rear The First, Browney Bank; Reduce in height by 50% two sycamore trees at 19 Fenhall Park; Erection of new build 4 bedroom detached dwelling with integral garage on vacant plot within residential estate on land to the north-west of 12 Ashdown Grove; Pruning of one alder tree at 5 Fenhall Park;

Loft bedroom and shower room via two rear dormer windows and front roof lights and ground floor single storey extensions at 8 Officials Terrace, Malton.

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1st MARCH.

Members considered the following planning applications.

Application Condition 3 to enable part of garage, stable and storage building to be used as a residential annex at Woodlea Manor, Browney Bank, Lanchester. **RESOLVED.** (i) That Members object to the application as a detached residential development in the open countryside and that (ii) Members consider that Condition 3 of planning permission should remain in place.

Members also stated that if approval was to be given to the development, then a condition on the approval be made to state that it can only be used as an annex and not as a separate dwelling.

Change of use from police station to wedding car hire business and changes to former Police Station, Millfield.

Members raised various concerns. **RESOLVED.** That members object to this development and raised the following issues:

- i. that the development is within the designated conservation area;
- ii. consider this to be a significant commercial development in a residential area;
- iii. the access and egress to the site and of vehicle movement within the area
- iv. a congested location next to a church and schools;
- v. disruption for current residents.

Agricultural Determination for the erection of a silage pit and creation of new road at Greenwell Farm.

Members raised various concerns, including public right of way, highway issues and the silage tank. **RESOLVED.** That Members object to this development. A member of the planning committee has done extensive research on

this application and it was agreed that these notes form the response.

Felling of one silver birch tree at White Lease, Crow Hall, Lanchester. **RESOLVED.** That

members raise no objection to the application but request that the felled tree be replaced with a suitable alternative.

Conservatory to rear at Foxhills Crescent, Lanchester. **RESOLVED.**

That members raise no objection to the application.

Decisions of the Planning Authority.

The following planning applications have been **refused** by Durham County Council:

Advertising consent for the erection of one fascia sign with three sign lights above and erection of one awning at 33 Front Street, Lanchester;

Proposed surface mining of coal with restoration of the site to include woodland, species rich grassland and hay meadow, scrub, water features and agriculture at site to be known as Bradley, near Leadgate, Consett for UK Coal Ltd.

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**Peter on 07939496873 to arrange a suitable interview time.
(Wages negotiable)**

Pupils from Year 4, Lanchester EP School performing their Play in a Day

Pupils from Year 4, Lanchester EP School recently demonstrated their drama skills by learning roles in a play, and then performing before an audience, all within one school day. Helped by their tutor, Lisa, representing the Lynx Drama Company, the class began their day with some warm up drama activities, then began their work in earnest.

The play was produced without costumes, using only voice, movement and facial expressions, and the children approached their task with much enthusiasm and enjoyment.

We were introduced to the “Breakfast News TV Team” investigating the factors which make up a healthy life style. We

met the Herb family, who were discussing how to achieve a balanced diet which would bring good health to everyone. Then the students acted as the different organs of the body, showing how they are affected by what we eat. Other youngsters spoke up for various foods and vitamins, describing how they all contributed to our well being. Celebrity chefs appeared, reminding us about the “5 a Day” rule, and the message came across loud and clear- we should all look after our diet and exercise sensibly. It’s not really necessary to spend time in a gym, Year 4 told us, activities such as walking the dog, dancing, and using stairs instead of lifts can contribute to good health.

The students performed with flair and confidence in front of an appreciative audience of family and school friends.

At the end of the play, form teacher Mrs Grayson congratulated all the cast, praising their effort and great team work. This was good learning, valuable messages presented in a fun situation. Well done, year 4.

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The end of our play - what have we learned?

EUROPEAN COMENIUS PROJECT



Children from the school in Oriestada, Greece, in their traditional costumes

Lanchester EP School has been participating in the Comenius Project since September 2010 which enables school communities to learn more about different cultures, songs and dances of European countries.

The second visit in the project took place at the beginning of March when three staff visited the town of Orestiada in Northern Greece, close to the Turkish and Bulgarian borders. Staff from seven different European countries arrived in the town to discover more about traditional Greek dance and song. Once again, a tremendous welcome awaited all the visitors and the children of the school were so excited to practise their spoken English!

While there, our staff - Mrs Brennan, Miss Randall and Mrs Davis learnt a super traditional Greek dance and song which the whole school will soon be able to confidently perform (we hope!). The welcome all staff and children received in both Greece and Portugal really was second to none with the whole community involved - something which we would like to replicate here.

On Tuesday 12th April, our school (and village, we hope!) will be buzzing when staff and pupils arrive in Lanchester from Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Poland and Holland (around 20-25 in total). They will descend upon our village to spend three days in the village learning more about our culture, traditional dances and songs.

Whilst in Lanchester, our friends will be staying in traditional English country pubs, looking around school, talking and working with our pupils and also attempting to find time to sample a little of our history with visits to the village, Durham and Newcastle. Most of our friends coming have never set foot on England soil before.

The highlight of the visit will take place on the Wednesday evening - an event to which we would like to invite the whole community of Lanchester. At 7 pm on Wednesday 13th April, we will be holding a concert and dance in our school hall to which everyone is invited. At the concert, some of our children will be performing songs and

dances and the Moorcock Ceilidh Band will also be there, teaching and leading us all in some traditional English Country Dancing. Tickets are £1 and are available from the Main Reception.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to come along to school on Wednesday 13th April to help us celebrate this wonderful occasion in our school's history. You will also have the opportunity to meet and talk to our friends about their schools and countries.

The school Easter Service will take place at 1.30 pm on the Thursday afternoon in All Saints Church and this will be immediately followed by a demonstration of Maypole Dancing on the Village Green by the children from the school. Burt Hunter is coming to school this term to help teach the children some maypole dances and we are hoping to re-introduce this tradition into village life through this project. It would be wonderful for anyone from the village to see the Maypole Dancing demonstration on the village green. In case of inclement weather, this would take place in the school hall.

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MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

Tuesday 8th March 2011 marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. I have been busy giving and attending a number of talks in Durham and Parliament about the role of women in British politics to celebrate the event.

Currently women make up 51% of the population of the UK, but only 22% of MPs are women. While advances are clearly being made, our position is still poor by international comparison. Research from the Inter-Parliamentary Union ranks the UK at number 52 in the world for representation of women, a position that places us below countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and Belarus. I believe that it is important to be proud of and celebrate the role played by North East women in society and politics. One of my personal heroines is Ellen Wilkinson, one of the first North East female MPs. Ellen is perhaps

most famous for organising her Jarrow constituency's march in 1936, but I think her finest achievement was as Minister of Education in the 1945 Labour government where she raised the school-leaving age to 15, despite the shortage of buildings in post-war Britain and the need for many extra teachers. She was also responsible for the 1946 Free Milk Act, which provided free milk to school children to counteract the effects of rickets and malnutrition.

The current Government Cabinet has just four women at the top table and only two of them in senior roles, so much work still to be done. I want to see equality widened for women, not just in politics but right across all areas of our working lives.

I had my own bit of good news this week. I have been appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to Maria Eagle MP, Labour's Shadow Transport

Secretary, who also has a portfolio that covers the North. I was thrilled to be selected for this post and particularly in the work that I will be able to do in furthering our region.

On a separate note, I was delighted to read about Hall Hill Farm scooping an award for 'Farm Attraction of the Year' in the last edition of the Village Voice, and would like to congratulate them. This is a fantastic local achievement and Hall Hill Farm is a great example of a successful, innovative family run business.

I am always keen to hear from constituents so if you would like to speak with me please contact me using the below details.

Pat Glass MP, 1 Gledstone House, 26 Newmarket Street, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5LQ

Tel: 01207 501 782

Fax: 01207 501 791

E-Mail: pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk

DURHAM LESOTHO LINK



Rachel, Margaret and Alexandra Brown

On Saturday evening, March 5th, a very enjoyable event took place in the Social Club. It was a fund raising event organised by Mrs Margaret Brown and her twin granddaughters, Rachel and Alexandra, and took the form of a quiz night followed by a lovely supper.

The girls are in the 6th form at Durham High School. The school has established a link with the missionary work carried

the girls raise money through sponsorship and fundraising events. This is the second fundraising event which Margaret and her granddaughters have organised and they have raised almost £1000

Very good work has been done in Lesotho by Durham High School girls and Rachel and Alexandra are greatly looking forward to going there in July. It will be a wonderful experience for them and they consider it a great privilege to be able to represent their school in Lesotho. There is no doubt that the girls will make the very best of this opportunity to further their education with this very worthwhile work.

We wish them a lovely trip and look forward to hearing all about it when they return.

Brenda Craddock

ENGLISH CHORAL CLASSICS



Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society with David Hughes - outlining the programme of the concert, English Choral Classics

When I first saw the programme for the Spring Concert presented by the Choral and Operatic Society I had two thoughts-very royal and a feast of music - then I looked again and thought - a feast of music that will need some digestion - a trifle heavy for me in the musical sense. I had heard of two of the songs before. First came 'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast, a bit long for a starter but helped by the script provided and the pictures on the 'PowerPoint fixtures' on the wall. The singing was, as usual, very good and enthusiastic.

Next came 'English Songs', beautifully sung by Jessica Holmes, the guest soloist, followed by a selection from Judas Maccabeus, which included one of my favourite pieces - 'See the Conquering Hero Come' - some wonderful music and singing. The second half started with Vaughan Williams 'Serenade to Music'- again new to me but easy to listen to and well explained by David. Next came Jessica with 'I Know that my Redeemer Liveth' and 'Endless Pleasure', both from Handel, followed by 'Coronation Anthems,

by Handel and Parry, sung by the choir. The final sequence was from 'Samson', by Handel - again very well

sung by the choir and soloist. Well done everyone. Thanks go to Paul the 'PowerPoint man',



Musical Director, David Hughes, with soloist, Jessica Holmes, at the Spring Concert

Lillian, for the organ playing - even my unmusical ear could appreciate the excellent playing with no wrong notes. Thanks to David for his conducting and historical background to the music and songs, to Richard and Jessica for their solos, and the choir

for their very hard work in rehearsals, and performance on the night. One tiny criticism - there are moving microphones at Chapel. Could they have been used for the soloists whose voices were superb but at times a bit quiet? C

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LYNWOOD HOUSE REBORN

Public Consultation
and Meeting

Thursday 14th April
Lanchester Social
Club, Newbiggen
Lane, Lanchester
(function room)

11.00 am - 6.00 pm
Opportunity to look at
proposals and plans
6.00 pm

Public Meeting and
formal presentation of
plans by partners.

The community may
recall that in 2006 a Day
Conference was called
by Lanchester Parish
Council and Lanchester
Partnership and held in
Lanchester to consider
the future of Lynwood
House. At that time it
was seen that the home
was likely to close as
part of the originally
agreed policy of the
Council.

This Day Conference
was chaired by the
then local MP Hilary
Armstrong and was
attended by more than
100 local residents,
local medical staff,
representatives of the
Primary Care Trust
(then Derwentside
PCT) and other health
related organisations.

The key issue that
came from this
conference was that
the site should be
retained to cater for
the health needs of
the community, with
priority given to the
needs of the elderly.
Since that meeting a
steering group of
partners have met
regularly to discuss
options for the
shaping of any future
development of the
Lynwood site.

There is a proposal for
the redevelopment of
the site to provide an
innovative multi-user
centre for the benefit
of a wide range of
users. The proposals
include:

- * A medical centre to incorporate the existing Park House Surgery GP practice but to provide sufficient additional space for a wide range of additional treatments;
- * The medical centre to incorporate the existing Lanchester

Pharmacy which
would provide a
range of
additional
wellbeing clinics
which it cannot
provide at the
present time due
to space
constraints;

- * Shared space and offices available to local community groups;
- * Creation of a 28 bed unit by the charity Mental Health Care to in the main provide a combination of physical nursing care as well as mental health rehabilitation to the over sixties;
- * Creation of 29 two bedroom apartments for the 'over 55's for rent or purchase' by Derwentside Homes, a charitable, registered social landlord.

Please come to view
the plans and take part
in the public meeting
to discuss the project
in more detail.



Lynwood House has only been closed a few weeks but thieves never miss an opportunity. Some of the lead has been stripped off already.

LANCHESTER BRIDGE CLUB RETIREMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The committee and members of Lanchester Bridge Club at their AGM expressed their thanks to Mr Peter Curnow for being a very able Chairman for the last six years. Peter has run the evening sessions as friendly but fairly serious, with the club members enjoying the splendid game whilst in a convivial atmosphere. He was wished happy bridge playing in his retirement. Mr Trevor Blacklock is the new Chairman. The successful Club usually holds 14 tables with 56 members enjoying their Bridge games. The club also runs training sessions for people wanting to learn how to play bridge.

New starters this year are almost ready to start bidding, some are learning responses to one no trump, and others are practising scoring and slam bidding ready to join the club. It is not too

late this season to join in with the beginners, or the next beginner session will be in September, after the summer break. Contact 521948 if you are interested in giving bridge a try.



The old and new Chairmen (Peter Curnow and Trevor Blacklock) of the Lanchester Bridge Club

LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The regular meeting of the Society was held on Friday 4th March in Lanchester Community Centre, the speaker being Philip Nixon. He is a regular visitor to the Society and gave a presentation 'Exploring the History of Cumbria', which is the title of his latest, beautifully illustrated book. The Chairman, John Thompson, welcomed around 30 members

and friends before introducing Mr Nixon and his friend, Dennis, who had done the narration of the slides shown. There were beautiful views of Cumbria and these were accompanied by music and other pictures, interesting comments and anecdotes, all done through the use of sophisticated technology. After the introductory overview of the

county, there followed a fascinating history of Appleby Horse Fair, Hawkshead Grammar School, the Border Rievers, St Mary's Church, Wreay and an entertaining vampire story from Croglan village..

Both Philip and Dennis were thanked by the Chairman who described the presentation as 'pictorial poetry' and added that he hoped they would come again.

PROPOSAL - CHANGE OF USE SENIORS' BUS PASSES

Durham County Council have proposed that Senior Citizens travelling before 9.30 am will be charged 50p. This will be put before committee later

in March and will begin on April 1st, if passed. If this new policy goes ahead it will be interesting to know if it has the desired effect of deterring bus pass

holders from using buses in rush hour, and how much money will be raised by County to offset transport costs. Watch this space next issue!



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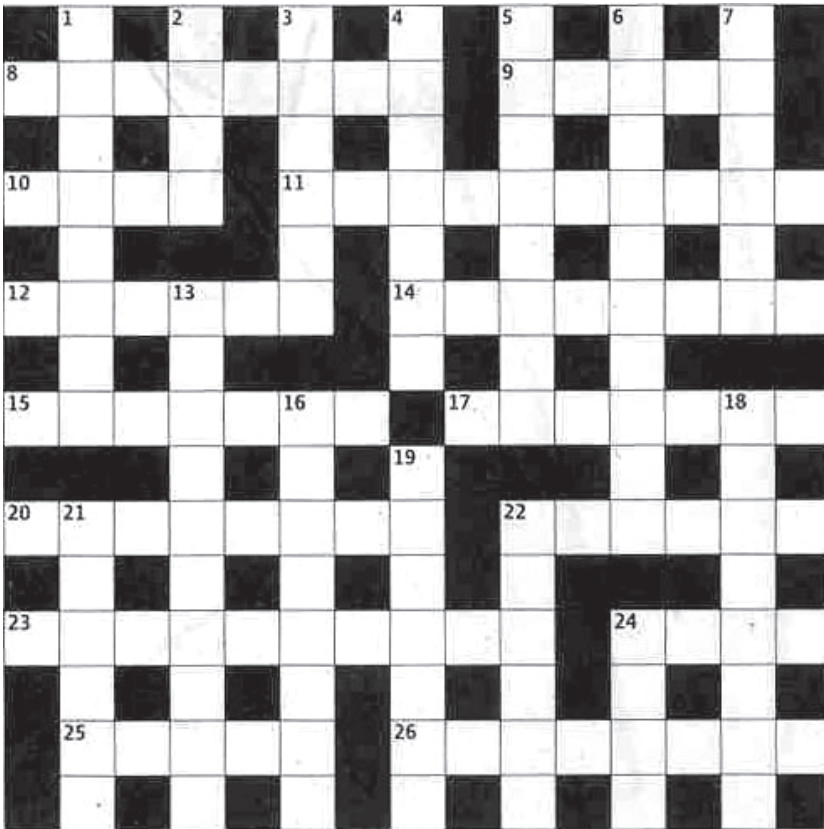
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CROSSWORD 59



ACROSS

- 8. Prisoner (8)
- 9. Adolescence (5)
- 10. Advantage in engineered genes (4)
- 11. Conform (3,3,4)
- 12. Frustrate (6)
- 14. Image of the deep (8)
- 15,17. Recklessly fast (4,3,7)
- 17. See 15
- 20. Throw rider from horse (8)
- 22. Highly charged from taunt or ridicule (6)
- 23. Untrustworthy (3-2-5)
- 24. Bog (4)
- 25. Lecher (5)
- 26. See 13

DOWN

- 1. Footware for the beach? (8)
- 2. Hint (4)
- 3. Dogmatic decree (6)
- 4. Dave's about being harmful (7)
- 5. Yacht leg makes entrance (4,4)
- 6. Copier (10)
- 7. Have courage from punch I use (4,2)
- 13,26. Fit (1,5,4,2,6)
- 16. Commonplace (8)
- 18. Emitrage and leave (8)
- 19. Car maker (7)
- 21. One eyed, one armed admiral (6)
- 22. Crabbed (6)
- 24. Sigh (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 58

ACROSS

- 1. system
- 4. cyclone
- 9. Champagne
- 10. peeve
- 11. undid
- 12. detriment
- 13. bloater
- 15. hairdo
- 17. Edison
- 19. hyped up
- 22. realistic
- 24. organ
- 26. atone
- 27. biosphere
- 28. entitle
- 29. pundit

DOWN

- 1. succumb
- 2. shard
- 3. expedites
- 4. cheetah
- 5. Capri
- 6. open-ended
- 7. ejects
- 8. Agadir
- 14. odd man out
- 16. impromptu
- 18. notable
- 19. hector
- 20. pungent
- 21. create
- 23. *id est*
- 25. greed

Name _____

Address _____

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

CROSSWORD 58

There were just 14 entries in last month's competition though not all were correct.

Congratulations to Helen Hedley of Fenhall Park who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

Test your skill on John Wilson's latest challenge.

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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.

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

WI NEWS

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed members and visitors to our March meeting before the reading and correspondence including thank you letters from our last two speakers. Cars were allocated for Knitsley Farm on March 21st and the Annual council meeting on April 12th. Cars will be allocated for the May meeting at Lanchester Garden Centre in April. £5 deposits are now being taken for the Summer trip on Wednesday 29th June with the balance due by the 6th of June. Jean Forster won the raffle and the competition winners

were Shirley Lamb and Ann Carr.

Our speaker from Lanchester Dairies was unable to come but we had a wonderful talk from Michelle and Nicky, South Farm Cornsay who run "Butterfly Farm" selling online a lovely range of unique handcrafted items which are delivered beautifully wrapped. They started in 2010 at craft fairs which are still a very important part of the business and all fabrics used are manufactured in Britain. Business Link helped them start with money and advice, not only were they Durham Enterprise winners for 2010-11 but Vogue

Magazine are doing a piece on them in March. These are two very committed young ladies who deserve to do well and we wish them all the best in the future as they work towards doing this full time with local sewers (their mums help now). Their work can be bought on www.butterfly-barn.co.uk, www.noths.com and at fairs.

Jennifer gave the vote of thanks, we then admired the work displayed by Michelle and Nicky whilst enjoying refreshments (including choc ices for those looking forward to ice-cream.



Speakers Michelle Houlst and Nicky Dent showing their handcrafted work to members Maureen Barker and Jean Forster

LOCAL TAXPAYERS WILL BENEFIT FROM POLICING COUNCIL TAX FREEZE

Durham Police Authority has agreed a financial package for policing across County Durham.

The Authority has made the decision to freeze Council Tax at last year's levels. To achieve this, the Police Authority has identified budget savings of £10.792m. With a zero percentage

increase in Council Tax the Authority will qualify for a special Government grant receiving £0.727m for each year for the next four years.

Throughout the budget setting process, the Authority's main target has been to make the necessary savings to balance its budget,

without diminishing service delivery. It has achieved this target by working with the Constabulary to establish a new model for service delivery across the Force area, a recruitment freeze of both officer and staff posts, together with a root and branch review of non staffing budgets.

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

Greener houses - The Challenge

Lanchester Partnership - GreenGroup-Sunday 27th March 7.30 - Small Hall Community Centre. A talk and discussion - "The Retrofit Challenge". Sally Hancox will be sharing knowledge of recent experiences in the North East with adapting existing housing to benefit from renewable energy. She will also expand by talking about the Government's idea to try and make more of the country's housing stock benefit from renewable energy - 'The Green Deal'. All welcome.

Country Market

The next market is to be held on Saturday 2nd April, 10-11.30am, when cakes, scones, pies, jams, marmalades, chutneys, crafts and plants will be on sale.

Lenten Lunches

Lenten Lunches for Lanchester and Burnhope will take place at the Methodist Church on the next three Tuesdays during Lent: March 29th; April 5th and 12th.

All are welcome to a shared lunch and a cuppa, 11.30 - 12 noon. This will be followed from 12.00 - 1.00 by the latest York Course 'Rich Inheritance' written by Stephen Cottrell.

Please bring a small contribution to share, enjoy the company, fellowship and leadership of one of our Clergy or Lay Readers.

Sunday Bridge

The next Bridge afternoon will be on Sunday 3rd April in the Dining Room of the Community Centre at 2 pm. Price £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuit.

Lanchester Reading Group

We would welcome new members. We meet on Tuesday afternoon 2 - 3.30 pm for 10 weeks in the upper room at the Community Centre.

Our next book, commencing 15th March is 'An Artist of the Floating World' (Kazuo Ishiguro) to be followed by 'Unless' (Carol Shields). If interested contact Suzanne Eckford (529155).

Lanchester Local History Society

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Ms Margaret Hedley who was due to speak on 'Women of the Victorian Pit Villages' at the next Society meeting on 1st April, is now unable to do so. However, all is not lost as Arthur Dodds, a well known and celebrated WW2 historian and member of our Society, (remember his talks on 'The Geordie Spy' and 'Aerial Intelligence Surveillance'), has kindly agreed to take her place, but with a different subject entirely.

Arthur will continue the theme of war time events, ie intelligence gathering, surveillance and spies with a talk on 'The History of Espionage', during which he will examine aspects of espionage from the Elizabethan era up to and including the Civil War, Crimean and World Wars 1 and 2.

Another intriguing evening is in prospect, and will take place in the Community Centre on April 1st at the usual time of 7.30 pm.

Open House

All are welcome at the Chapter House on Thursday 7th April. A sandwich lunch is served between 11.30 am and 1.00 pm.

Short Circuit Walks

2nd April, Cleadon Hill circular, 5 miles. Meet at car park to north of Souter Point Lighthouse, NZ407644.

16th April, Morpeth to Bothal circular, 5 miles. Meet at Morpeth Railway Station, NZ202855.

30th April, Prestwick to Dinnington circular, 6 miles. Meet Prestwick village (north of airport on minor road from A696 to Dinnington). Park in lay-by, 100 yds east of Bank Top Garage, NZ186726. All walks start at 10.30 am.

Lanchester Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 2nd April, SAMANTHA TAYLOR, Amazing Young Singer
Saturday, 9th April, STEVE LAVELLE, Great Male Vocalist
Saturday, 16th April, EDDY, Fabulous Vocalist featuring a tribute to Elvis
Saturday, 23rd April, MARK WILSON, Clubland Award Winner 2007

Saturday, 30th April, HAYLEY MORRISON, Super Young Vocalist

Wildlife Group

The meeting on 10th May has been cancelled, but there will be an outdoor trip on Saturday 7th May. Please telephone 01207 520063 for further information.

Junior Wildlife

On 10th April we will visit Gainford Spa. Meet at 9.30 am in the Community Centre car park.

On 25th April, Easter Monday, there will be the usual Easter activities on Paste Egg hill. Meet at 10 am behind Derwentside College building with an unboiled egg. Eggs will be dyed and then boulded down Paste Egg Bank.

Paradiso Club Social

The next Social will be held on Sunday, April 3rd, at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre.

Refreshments, raffle and a chance to see the film 'ENCHANTED APRIL' on a BIG SCREEN.

The film is a delightful and witty adaptation of Elizabeth Von Arnim's novel, starring Miranda Richardson, Josie Lawrence, Joan Plowright, Alfred Molino and Jim Broadbent.

'A group of women, fed up with grey rainy England (1920's) decide to rent a villa in Italy. They all want to escape from trapped lives and in this paradise, in ways they never imagined possible, that is what they all do.' Anybody is welcome to attend and join the Paradiso Club. Membership is £5 pa and entry to each social is £2.50.

The Big Bible Read

In Lent this year the Church is marking the 400th Anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible.

Locally you are invited to share in two events: the first is on Tuesday 12th April at 10.45 am in Lanchester Methodist Church; the second is on Wednesday 13th April when we will meet at "The Wheel" in Burnhope (weather permitting) and then move on to St John's church in the village to conclude our readings and to share in light refreshments. In both venues the selected readings will be familiar passages from the King James Bible and will last approximately thirty minutes in total. Please come along and celebrate this historic anniversary.

Bosom Buddies



Are holding a Craft Fair & Coffee Day
Saturday 2nd April 2011
At Consett Methodist Church Hall
10am till 3pm. Free Entry.

For more details contact:-
bosombuddiescharity@hotmail.co.uk

All proceeds go to the RVI Breast Cancer charity for research into a cure and the treatment of Breast Cancer

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0191 378 2762 or see website at www.dced.co.uk

Free enrolment on presentation of this advert

Celebrating 10 years Village Bus

The Lanchester Partnership started the Village Bus ten years ago this April. This service has since become valuable and necessary to the people and traders in our Village and both have been generous with their donations, without which it could not continue to run. A big thank you to them.

To mark this Anniversary there will be a celebratory brunch in the Social Club on Thursday 7th April between 11 am and 1 pm. It includes a finger buffet, tea/coffee, a birthday cake and a glass of Bucks Fizz for a toast. Nice prizes can be won in a raffle.

Everyone who uses the bus, supports it or just wants to find out more about it, is invited. Entry is free, but donations would be gratefully accepted. Please come along!

Mothers' Union

The next meeting is on Wednesday 13th April, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, when Margaret Walters will give another of her excellent audio/visual presentations. This one is called "Glorify the Lord with Me".

Flower Club

On 27th April at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, Judith Clancy will give a demonstration entitled 'All Shapes and Sizes'.

PACT Meeting

Police And Communities Together meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Lanchester Community Centre. Time 19.15 hrs. Lasts 1 hour. The next meeting will be on 27th April. All welcome.

Bowls Spring Meeting

Lanchester Bowling Club's spring meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14th April at 7.00 pm in the Pavilion. All current and potential new members are welcome.

Lanchester Tennis Club

Spring coaching will start on Monday 4th April at the hard courts behind the college building.

4.30-5.30pm, Upto 8 years
5.30-6.30pm, 8 to 12 years
Summer coaching will begin in week commencing 2nd May on the grass courts on Ford Road.

(Due to Bank holiday first session will be on Wednesday 4th May)

4.30-5.30pm, Upto 8 years
5.30-6.30pm, 8 to 12 years
6.30-7.30pm, 13+ years

All age groups are flexible so if you have any queries please call the club for details. Senior sessions will be planned at the beginning of the season.

The 2011 grass court playing season will start on Sunday 1st May and the club is holding a series of events this year to celebrate its 100th year in existence. The first will be an Open Day on Saturday May 14th where coaches and equipment will be available for all to try the game of tennis.

If you are interested in taking part in any of the above, please contact Dennis on 01207 520278.

Bikers Day

Lanchester Social Club and the Longovicium Legionnaires (bikers) present on 7th May an afternoon of rock, starting at 12 noon, featuring:

'The Dangerous Nuns', '2nd Day', 'The Me, Me's' and a Rock Disco.

Free entry, Hog roast, Raffle. All proceeds will go to Willow Burn Hospice.

WI

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 4th April in the small hall of the Community Centre at 7.00pm. The speakers will be Viv and Les Howe on the art of silversmithing. This will be a very informative talk and Les has lots of new tales for us. There will also be jewellery for sale and the competition is something silver.

Items for the coffee morning sales table, tombola, and raffle can be brought to this meeting or bring them along on the morning with your produce for the cake stall. If you have been thinking of coming to join us why not come as a visitor, you will be assured of a warm welcome.

WI Coffee Morning

The WI spring coffee morning will take place on Wednesday 6th April in the dining room at the Community Centre from 9.30 until 11.30 am.

Along with our usual cake stall full of lovely homemade goodies, sales table and raffle we are having a "bottle top tombola". Tickets are £1 and coffee is served with a delicious home made scone so do come and join us.

Churches Together

There will be a lecture by Dr David Wilkinson PhD, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, Master of St John's College, Durham, on Thursday May

5th, 7.30pm at the Methodist Church. The subject will be Dawkins, Hawkins and God - Christianity and Contemporary Science. All are warmly welcome.

Durham Dramatic Society

will be performing *Good Morning Bill*, by P G Wodehouse, at the City Theatre, Fowler's Yard, Durham City, between Sunday 10th April and Saturday 16th April.

Good Morning Bill is typical Wodehouse - light as a feather and thoroughly entertaining, with a plot revolving round the complicated love life of Bill Paradine. After many

amusing setbacks and comic complications, Bill finally Gets the Girl.

Performances start at 2.30 pm on Sunday 10th April and at 7.30 pm on Monday 11th April to Saturday 16th April. Tickets cost £6.00. Concessions, available on Sunday and Monday, cost £4.50. Tickets are available from the Tourist Office in Durham.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Lamb Like it Used to Taste

Serves 4

Preparation 25 mins

Cooking 1 hour 15 mins

Ingredients

2 tbsp oil

1 large onion, chopped
1lb 8ozs boneless lamb, cubed

8ozs tomatoes skinned and chopped

½ pint chicken stock

1 tbsp wine vinegar

1 tbsp clear honey

2ozs dried apricots, chopped

2 tbsp chopped mint

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large

pan, then fry the onion until lightly browned.

Add the lamb cubes and stir well. Add the stock, vinegar, honey, apricots and tomatoes. Bring to the boil, then lower the heat, cover and simmer for 1 hour stirring occasionally.

2. Stir in the chopped mint and season with salt and pepper to taste.

Serve with saffron or plain rice or with baby new potatoes and peas.

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STAYING ALIVE



Low Impact Circuits, Salacise and Circuit Training courses are set to continue at the Community Centre despite the withdrawal of government grant. The grant allowed the courses to run five sessions a week at a nominal charge to users of just £1 a session. From next month, under new arrangements supported by Lanchester Community Centre, there will be three sessions a week at a charge of £3 a session. LCC Chairman, Arthur Maughan, said we will monitor the sessions and run them as long as users continue to support them and we will try to find alternative grant funding for this Healthy Living Programme.

Fitness 4 U has put up a new sign (see photo left) to let everyone know where they are, after hearing from some customers that they were originally unaware of where the gym was. Fitness 4 U is based in the Community Centre and is fully equipped with professional equipment.

THE VASELINE DIARIES (part 5)

Twitterentry

7pm Monday 23rd August. Blairgowrie at last. Today was my long dark teatime of the soul. 75mofsoddingrain!! Mmm hot shower.

Journal entry

Don't think I'll ever dry out. So cold. One point I dived into a ramshackle old bus shelter for a complete change, underwear and all. My only diversion was watching a traffic cone on wheels wobble through the rain thanks to Stu wearing his bright yellow rain cape. Hope it's dry tomorrow. We have the Cairngorms to cross!

7am Tuesday 24th August.

Is that a twinge of pain I can feel in my right thigh? Please, no! 67 steep miles today to Tomintoul – highest town in Scotland. 3.30pm Made it, at last to Braemar – the half way point. Well behind schedule. High winds over the Glenshee pass proved a real battle to make it to the ski resort. Leg is really hurting now. Think I've torn a thigh muscle. It's only the cold preventing me from really feeling it. Some serious climbs ahead including the Lecht. If we

hadn't booked the B&B I would be pressing an equally disheartened Stu to agree to stay in Braemar. **Twitterentry** Thank u to the lovely family who stopped at the top of that godforsaken hill and donated £20. Really pushed us on!

NotsurewhatIwouldhave done had that family not been there. Battered by wind, crawling up in real pain, I had resolved to throw my bike off the top and thumb a lift anywhere. Touched, Stu and I took the donation. Pushing on, we swept down another

fantastic 3 mile slope, heartened by the generosity of the anonymous family. "I will do this. No matter how much pain I'm in. I will make it," I silently promised that family as we covered the last 10 miles to Tomintoul.



The Lecht. Dave's painful climb! Can you spot the cyclist?

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Mon-Fri 5-8	Sat&Sun 10-12

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any articles for the next Village Voice by 19th April. The deadline for adverts is 17th April.

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