

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 4 Volume 14

Lanchester, April 2013

For contact information, see page 2

EASTER IN LANCHESTER

SOLEMNITY TO EASTER JOY



*Children waving palm crosses to commemorate Palm Sunday at a special Easter Service at the Parish Church
See page 3 for story.*

WHY A CROSS ON A HOT CROSS BUN?



*David Hughes gives free Hot Cross Buns to left: Pam Bygate and Angela Breeze on Easter Saturday
See article on page 4.*

EASTER MONDAY EGG BOULING



At the Egg Bowling event on Easter Monday, Noel Jackson plays some lovely music on his Boyd English Concertina. The Bell and Kelly families look on and listen. See pages 6 and 7 for story and more pictures.



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, You will have noted that after nominations closed there were sixteen candidates for the fifteen Lanchester parish council seats. After some thought, I felt that it was counter productive for £4000 of the parish precept to be spent on an election to eliminate one candidate. Lanchester Parish Council commendably works across the political divide for the good of the village, with excellent sub-committee chairmen that are members of different political parties. I have therefore decided to withdraw as a candidate

to ensure the cost of an election is spared and the money saved. This is entirely my own decision. I feel strongly that the £4000 is better spent on projects within the parish ahead of any wish I personally have of continuing as a parish councillor. Similar gestures by members of Burnhope Parish Council and in Framwellgate Moor have ensured that in these three areas a total of over £13,000 of election costs have been saved. This is a sensible and practical decision that I hope you understand. I would like to thank everyone for their support since I was elected and I wish the parish council, especially the new council members, good luck for their upcoming term of office.

Yours faithfully,
Malcolm Clarke

Community Draw

The winning number for March 2013 is 68. The draw was made by Ted Spears of the Thursday Art Group.

Dear Village Voice My name is Sara Spry, my husband Lee and I were married in Lanchester All Saints Catholic Church on 27th April 2012 and we are therefore nearing our first wedding anniversary. I would like to enquire if it is possible to put a small picture and message in the Village Voice as the first anniversary is 'paper' and I would very much like to have such a fond keepsake.

Thank you
Sara
Congratulations to Lee and Sara Spry (pictured right) who celebrate their first wedding anniversary on 27th April. 'True Love is Eternal'



Thank you, Lanchester

On behalf of the British Heart Foundation, I should like to thank the customers of the Post Office and the Pharmacy who donated £104.91 for the heart badges and diaries I left there in aid of the charity.
Jill Ramsay

Found

A camera was found at Church View on 24th February. Please contact mobile 07939 576709 for details.
A distinctive key (probably a house key) was found on the Village Green on 14th April. Please contact 07960 494442 if it might be yours.

Red Cross thanks

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning in March, it was a great success and raised £245, which included the tombola, cake stall and £40 donations on the day. The next coffee morning will be held on Thursday 27th June in the Methodist Church Hall.

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SOLEMNITY TO EASTER JOY

We have just celebrated the Easter Festival in the Christian calendar and the EP School has, for a number of years, held a special Easter service in the Parish Church. For the second time in a few weeks I have reported on churches full to capacity, namely the sacred music concert for Canon Spence in the Catholic Church and now a service in the Parish Church attended by the whole school. It is a double joy!

The service begins with a large wooden cross in position at the front of church. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and this year

every pupil was given a palm cross from the church, which they waved enthusiastically, while singing a Palm Sunday hymn. It was then time for the pupils to bring to the cross, various symbols which are part of Holy week, eg a crown of thorns, hammer and nails, a whip, and all of these were laid beside the cross or near it. As the pupils brought the items up to the cross all the other pupils sang various Easter songs appropriate for the symbols. This was all done in a very organised and reverend way.

The taking up of the elements of Bread and

Wine to symbolise 'The Last Supper' marked the end of the first half of the service. The cross became an empty cross again but not for long. It was time for the Easter Joy. Jesus died on a cross but three days later he rose from the dead. Each pupil brought a daffodil to the cross and with the help of the staff transformed the stark wooden cross. It became a thing of beauty. Parents and friends were also invited to place a daffodil on the cross. When all the daffodils were in place Reverend Rupert Kalus said a few words about the meaning of Easter and



Making the cross

closed the service with a prayer and blessing. Everyone once again had shared a lovely afternoon. Thank you school! Brenda Craddock

GOOD FRIDAY



People gather on the Village Green for the Good Friday morning service led by Rev Rupert Kalus, organized by Churches Together.

On a bitterly cold Good Friday morning (29th March) a group of at least 50 people gathered on the village green for a short time of worship, to remember the death of Jesus Christ, who died nailed to a wooden cross. There were people from each of our three churches and they stood near the three wooden crosses which had been placed on our village green. The Reverend Rupert Kalus conducted the service.

There were two hymns and a bible reading and then Rev Kalus reminded us of the significance of the cross and the terrible

death which Jesus had. It was a selfless death and Jesus died for us in order that we may be forgiven our sin and be given a place in God's Eternal Kingdom.

After several prayers the people dispersed to their various churches, for another time of worship. It was a solemn occasion but three days later on Easter Sunday solemnity gave way to joy because Jesus had risen from the dead.


The service on the green was planned by the 'Churches Together' committee. It is wonderful that all our churches respect one another's

beliefs and ways of worship, and come together at the most significant festivals of the Christian Calendar. Brenda Craddock

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WHY A CROSS ON A HOT CROSS BUN?

Easter Saturday followed Good Friday and 'Churches Together' had arranged another event at the Methodist church. This is the third year they have done this and it is an excellent Christian witness for our village. One of the crosses from the green was carried to the Methodist church with a procession, led by Reverend Gavin Hume. Harry Carr, well known for his musical skills, had gathered musicians together to accompany the hymn singing. There were instrumentalists, who included several members of Lanchester

Brass Band, and vocalists from all three churches. There were Bible Readings and other appropriate readings read by various members of our churches, which had been prepared by our clergy and Ray and Val Hill. All of this took place in the grounds of the Methodist Church with the cross in a prominent position. It was very cold, with a bitter wind and even flurries of snow but nothing could diminish the worship and spirit of stalwart Lanchester people. During the singing, Bible readings, reflective words and prayers, members of

the Churches Together Committee served coffee and hot cross buns in the church and some of them took Hot Cross Buns, wrapped in a serviette, onto Front Street where they gave them out to our retailers and shoppers. Every serviette bore a question written in bold black writing. It said: 'Why a cross on a Hot Cross Bun?' Do you know the answer? If you don't why not come to a service in one or all three of our churches. You would receive such a warm welcome. Lanchester people are very good at this! Brenda Craddock



Carrying the cross from the Village Green to the Methodist Church



Service at the Methodist Church on Easter Saturday, by Churches Together



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COMMUNITY CENTRE AGM

The 45th Annual General Meeting of the Community Centre took place on Wednesday 20th March. Dr Ian Brunt, President, opened proceedings before handing over to Chairman, Arthur Maughan MBE who spoke about his sadness at the closure of various clubs in the village including Amigos 12 years and Lions Club after 46 years, who are to hand over their Charter Certificate to be placed in the Community Centre. Arthur introduced newly appointed Treasurer, Carol Graham, before presenting the financial report. He also thanked Robin Gates for the substantial work that he has contributed. The Community Centre is in a healthy situation but needs to raise £10,000 per year to secure the current success.

Arthur expressed his concern over severe competition to the very successful gym during the coming year. He thanked all the staff by name for their initiative and enthusiasm in coming up with many money raising ideas, putting many hours of extra work to bring the right results. Manager, John Wilson, in his report, endorsed the words of the Chairman. Olive Simpkins spoke of her sadness at the closure of Amigos, John Wills offered his thanks on behalf of the Male Voice Choir and Liz Smith spoke optimistically for the future of the Playgroup. President, Chairman, and Committee were all re-elected. Retiring Secretary, Harry Taylor, is to be succeeded by Bob Gibbon, (currently on holiday). Harry was

presented with a gift by Arthur Maughan for his 18 years of service. Harry made an appropriate reply including thanks to Marlene Cairns who has

retired as Trustee after 26 years. Harry was then elected a Trustee. A reminiscent President, Dr Ian Brunt, closed the meeting with some

sincere words about his fondness of Lanchester, people and organisations, with the Community Centre being 'a jewel in the crown'.



The committee of the Community Centre: Carol Graham, Treasurer; Arthur Maughan MBE, Chairman; Dr Ian Brunt, President, Harry Taylor; Retiring Secretary.

WHAT'S NOT ON - THE ANNUAL LITTER PICK

As you probably know, the annual village litter pick planned by the Lanchester Partnership could not be held on March 23rd because snow was covering the litter. The Partnership has now decided not to have a village litter pick at all this year, partly because of some practical difficulties and partly because there does not seem to be as

much litter as usual. So congratulations to the County and Parish Councils and all others who have contributed to keeping the place pretty clean. Having said which, there is still of course some litter, and if anyone would like to borrow a litter-picker and bag-hoop and put in an hour or two please ring Jill Gladstone on 528 114.



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EGG BOULING (BOOLING) (BOWLING) AT PACE EGG (PASTE EGG)

What's in a name? Pace Egg as it was known historically, Paste Egg as it is known now. Does it matter?

The important thing is that through the kindness of Dr Ian Brunt it is available, in the right condition for Easter Monday, a traditional

event for the last 18 years, and for sledging as well. On a very cold morning a record 85 or so children and adults arrived. There was an enormous queue for the onion skins peeled by Burt Hunter (expert on country crafts), Shirley Mair and Richard Downs. Burt gave the instructions

for wrapping the eggs with only cow parsley being available this year due to continuous horrendous weather. Soon families were off gathering this while Noel Jackson played folk music on his Boyd English Concertina as they returned.

When eggs were suitably wrapped and labelled they were inserted into the boiling pans whilst everyone climbed the bank looking for markers around the perimeter which entitled the finders to a chocolate egg. This exciting interlude was organised by Elaine Williams who always contributes to the day. Then it was back to the yard for the traditional Pace (Paste) Egging Song, 'There's 1/2/3 Jolly Boys'. Noel and Burt are the regulars for this and recruited Rev Rupert Kalus to make a trio. They all sang with much enthusiasm, gusto and tunefully, creating terrific enjoyment to an already great convivial atmosphere. Potential X-Factor winners perhaps - not quite! Then it was time for the judging. Everything was explained about each egg, both gentle criticisms and praise. The winner was 5 year old Katherine Bell,

second Eva Caden aged 9 and third James Mitchell, 3.

With winners judged it was back up Paste Egg and the bouling began. It was very competitive but fun, with adults joining in.

The winner was Jack Hardy aged 7 with a superb long boule with Laura Hunter aged 9 a very close second.

As we left the field after an 'eggcellent' morning the sun finally came out for about five minutes.

Burt, Noel and Elaine would like to thank all those children and adults who came and took part in the event. The tremendous support you gave made it all worthwhile.

Thank you also to Dr Brunt for the use of Paste Egg Bank, the Headteacher of The Green School for access to their car park, Rupert the third voice, and last, but by no means least, the Onion Peelers.



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Longest boule with a perfect egg, Jack Hardy aged 7, 1st ; Laura Hunter, 2nd.

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MORE EGG BOULING PICTURES



Burt Hunter explains how to wrap the eggs



Jolly Boys at the back: Rev Rupert Kalus, Noel Jackson and Burt Hunter. Dyed Egg Competition winners left to right: Eva Caden 2nd; Catherine Bell 1st; End: James Mitchell. Others: Mae Deaville and Anna Vasey with children back right.



Chasing after the eggs having just bouled them

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 9th April 2013

Minutes

Ordinary meeting held on 12th March 2013 - approved.

Police Report - for the period 27th February - 27th March (see separate article) was discussed.

On Thursday 13th June a large scale live event will take place in Lanchester involving representatives from the emergency services, voluntary groups, North East Air Ambulance and RAF.

The Neighbourhood Warden report for February was also discussed.

Correspondence

(1) **Lanchester Allotments Association** - the minutes of their AGM were received.

(2) **Letters of thanks** - received from Lanchester All Saints Catholic School, Great North Air Ambulance and Butterwick House Children's Hospice for grants received from the Parish Council.

Area Action Partnership & Parish Councils Committee - Members received an update on recent meetings.

Maintenance Progress Report - Members

considered the report which outlined the maintenance work undertaken over the last 3 months. Members thanked David Maddox for all his work.

Hanging Baskets

Members agreed to accept the price and to order the hanging baskets for this year.

Policies

The following policies were reviewed and approved: Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults, Public Participation Policy, Training - Statement of Intent, Publication Scheme, Grants Policy and Community

Engagement - Statement of Intent

Annual Training Plan 2012/13 and 2013/14

The completed training plan for 2012/13 was received and the training plan for the current year is to be progressed.

9Month Bond

Members were informed that the current bond is due to mature in April. It was agreed that a bond of similar size and time scale be sought.

Financial Year 2012/13 - Final Budget Position

The report was received.

Financial Year 2012/13 - End of Year Accounts

The Council accepted the financial position for the

end of year and accepted for certification the Annual Return - Accounting Statement and Annual Governance Statement.

Financial report - discussed and received. **Accounts for Payment** - approved.

As this was the last full Council meeting before the elections the Chair thanked all Members for their contributions over the last 6 years.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 20th May 2013 following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which will commence at 7.15 pm.

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POLICE REPORT

Reporting Period: 27th February - 27th March 2013

Number of calls for the area: 46

Number of community related calls: 10

Alcohol Seizures 1 (youths congregating near garages in Deanery View); Burglaries 0; Bogus Callers 0; Anti-Social Behaviour 10 (locations - rear of the Indian Chef, in Deanery View and The Garths); Vehicle Nuisance 0; Criminal Damage 1 (abin was removed from the Green School and set alight. Extra attention was given to the school grounds, the bins were moved to a more secure location and extra

cameras have been installed to the grounds.); Thefts 1 (4 aluminium tables and chairs have been removed from an insecure rear yard at Ricardo's. All lines of enquiries have been investigated with negative result. It is suspected that the items have been removed by scrap men.)

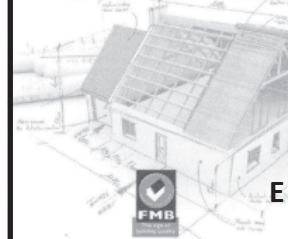
PACT Priority Update

The priority has been anti-social behaviour at the Indian Chef. Over the past month officers have regularly patrolled the area and there have only been two incidents reported from the property. Staff have agreed to install CCTV to the premises.

Positive Policing Results

It was eventually released to the local and national press regarding Police involvement in the Crash for Cash scheme. The scheme was a four year investigation targeting an organised crime group led by many members of the Wright family from Burnhope. In total 60 males and females were either found or pleaded guilty with many of those people receiving prison sentences and Alan Wright receiving the longest term of 4 years in prison. Investigations are still on-going regarding this family and their associates relating to other criminal offences.

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IMPORTANT EVENT IN LANCHESTER

Date: Thursday 13th June 2013. **Venue:** Various places in the village.

A large scale live event. An outline of the event was given at the PACT Meeting held on 27th March by Police Operations Planning Officer Steve Holden and Graham Lynn, Contingency Officer, Durham County Council. At present the event is very much in the initial planning stage, with Steve stressing that they would like the whole community to be involved. The emergency services, the North East Air Ambulance and the RAF, together with the volunteer sector, will be present. A grant of £5,000 has been received and Lanchester has been chosen to hold the event because of the impressive way in which all the residents work together to help each other in an emergency such as flooding. Indeed a resident present at the meeting paid tribute to those people who had done so much during last year's flooding and suggested that they repeat this. Another suggestion was a simulated accident, such as a crashed aeroplane in the beck. The event is to cover action necessary during and after ANY disruption in the village, particularly with regard to communication. The schools have been approached and it is hoped that as many Groups and organisations as possible will take part and offer suggestions as to the format of the event. Further meetings will be organised with details and progress being published in the Village Voice.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

I have spent much of my time recently as a member of the Children & Families Bill Committee. The normal passage of a Bill into law takes the form of - 1st Reading (chamber debate), 2nd Reading (chamber debate), Committee Stage (where the Bill is gone through line by line by a much smaller committee); Report Stage (chamber debate) and Final Reading (chamber debate). The Committee stage of the C&FB involves 2 sessions a week - Tuesday and Thursday from 8.55 am up to the adjournment of business (usually 7.00 pm). However we have already been warned that if we do not go fast enough the government Whips can insist upon us 'sitting' until 10.00 pm.

The C&FB has many good clauses, including clauses to speed up adoption. However I am most concerned about that section of the Bill that deals with special educational needs (SEN). The Bill extends the current legislation to academies and free schools and that is a good thing. However, in my view, it is far from clear what schools and providers will be required to offer locally eg in respite support, health provision and paramedic provision such as speech therapy and physiotherapy, and lack of clarity is fatal in legislation. My biggest worry is that whilst this Bill seeks to improve provision for children with SEN, disabled children and their parents, cuts to local authority budgets may mean that some children and their parents will see their provision and support reduced not improved. In scrutinising this Bill, word by word, line by line, I will do my very best to make sure that does not happen. If you would like to contact me, please write to me at Pat Glass MP, Gledstone House, 26 Newmarket Street, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5LQ, email me at p.a.t.g.l.a.s.s.m.p@parliament.uk or telephone my office on 01207501782.

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It makes 8 runs a day. 6 of these are funded by voluntary contributions and commissioned by the Lanchester Partnership. 2 are funded and commissioned by the County Council. All are operated by Prophet Private Hire.

Route

Kitswell Road (Cemetery), Newbiggen Lane, Mount Park Drive, Alderside Crescent, Mount Park Drive, Newbiggen Lane, Front Street, Station Road, Ford Road, West Drive, Humberhill Drive, Watling Way, West Drive, Ford Road, Station Road, Durham Road, Manor Grange, Burnhopeside Avenue, Peth Bank, Deneside, Manor Grange, Durham Road, Valley Grove, Durham Road, Front Street, Kitswell Road.



Timetable

The basic fare is 60p, but usual concessions apply

Kitswell Road (Cemetery) Depart	09:40	10:10	10:40	11:10	11:40	12:10	12:40	13:10
Newbiggin Lane (Library)	09:43	10:13	10:43	11:13	11:43	12:13	12:43	13:13
Alderside Crescent	09:45	10:15	10:45	11:15	11:45	12:15	12:45	13:15
Front Street (Green)	09:48	10:18	10:48	11:18	11:48	12:18	12:48	13:18
Humberhill Drive	09:51	10:21	10:51	11:21	11:51	12:21	12:51	13:21
Station Road	09:55	10:25	10:55	11:25	11:55	12:25	12:55	13:25
Burnhopeside Avenue	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	13:00	13:30
Valley Grove	10:03	10:33	11:03	11:33	12:03	12:33	13:03	13:33
Front Street (Green)	10:05	10:35	11:05	11:35	12:05	12:35	13:05	13:35
Kitswell Road (Cemetery) Arrive	10:08	10:38	11:08	11:38	12:08	12:38	13:08	13:38

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SAMBA DRUMMING



Young Samba Drummers at All Saints Primary School at the end of term

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It was literally a rousing time at the end of term at All Saints RC Primary School with a wonderful performance of Samba Drumming by children from years 3/4 and 4/5. Shaun Abbott, of Durham Music Service,

has been teaching these groups after school since January with great success. Both sets performed two pieces using Shakers, Tamborims, Surou Drums and Agogo Bells. The enthusiasm was tremendous and the playing unbelievably good, with fine rhythm

and terrific sound. The parents enjoyed it, so did the young musicians, and by the sight of Shaun leading them with his whistle, whilst playing his Caixa Drum, pounding his left leg at furious speed, he did too. It was a big 'well done' to everyone.



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EASTER EGGS GALORE AT THE EP SCHOOL



One of the many super displays of decorated Easter Eggs by pupils from the EP School. On show were hundreds of Easter Eggs. These were brilliantly decorated in so many themes, far too many to describe. (See back page for the EP School's Easter bonnet display)

Gardening in May

You do not need me to tell you how cold it's been for the last ever so long and such sub-zero temperatures have been accompanied by concerns about damage to gardens. However, it's not all bad. There is a positive side associated with the low temperatures. One benefit is that some plants thrive on a cold, dormant period to ensure that flowering and seed production take place during the warmth of spring and summer. A second benefit is that cold weather helps to control pests and disease. May is probably the busiest month in the garden.

In the Borders

May is the perfect time of year to tidy your borders. Lightly fork over the soil and remove any weeds. This month is the latest that Perennials can be planted as the weather is still mild and wet which will give the plants a good start. Also, there is still time to lift and divide any

perennials that are too large.

May is the time to plant-up your hanging baskets. This involves:

1. Putting your basket in a large pot or bucket to provide some stability for the work. Place your liner in position so that it fills the basket. Trim off any excess which comes over the top.

2. Using scissors or a sharp knife, cut 4cm (1.5 inch) holes in the side of the liner. There can be two layers of slits if the basket is deep enough.

3. Mix your compost with water retaining granules to help your basket from drying out too quickly and half fill the basket with the mixture.

4. Take hold of your plant and wrap some paper or plastic around it (especially the root ball). This helps to protect the plant. Then push it leaf-first through the holes in the liner with the root ball resting on the compost.

5. Once the leaves are on

the outside and the root-ball on the inside, remove the paper or plastic and gently spread out the roots. Add more compost and work it around the roots. Plant up the remainder of the basket using the same procedure as above.

6. Smooth out the surface of the compost and, if necessary, put more plants on the surface. Finally water the plants and keep the basket in a frost-free environment until any danger of frost is passed.

In the Vegetable Plot

Sow outside French beans, beetroot, sprouting broccoli, Brussels, cabbage, lettuce, peas, radish, spinach, swede and turnip.

General

Don't be persuaded to dead-head your spring flowering bulbs. Leave the foliage to die back so that the goodness goes back into the bulbs to provide for next year's flowers.

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LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB MEETING



Kathleen Gibson from Blaydon, the demonstrator for the evening, poses for a photograph with some of her flower arrangements which were raffled at the end of the evening making six members very happy with their winnings.

aura

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Chairperson Helen Tomlinson welcomed

members and friends to last month's meeting along with Kathleen Gibson from Blaydon, our demonstrator. Her theme was 'Let's Celebrate'. All the arrangements were raffled. This year the club will be celebrating its Ruby anniversary will be including all Members are to celebrate at Chapters Restaurant in the Derwentside College on 22nd May enjoying a lovely lunch. We will also have further celebrations at our Open Evening on Friday 28th June - the demonstrator will be Kathleen Marlor. Her theme will be entitled 'Celebrations' and we look forward to a really enjoyable evening.

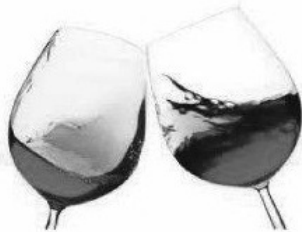
Lancastrian Suite Dunston. The speaker for the morning session will be Christine McKenna followed by lunch then the afternoon session is a demonstration by James Burnside, tickets £28.

This year there is to be a special event at Durham Cathedral - a spectacular festival of flowers. A celebration of innovation in N E England: inspired by the Anglo Saxon Lindisfarne Gospels and subsequent periods of creativity. Designers Pauline Lund and Judith Clancy, working with members of Flower Clubs in the local area of NAFAS will fill the Cathedral with some stunning arrangements. Our club's reps are Helen Tomlinson and Kathy Smith. This event will be from 30th August to 4th September.

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Tracy Dobson, Marie Murphy, Heather Muir, Betty Walton, Marian Williams, Barbara Sproat, Angela Velleman and Carol Troy preparing for the WI darts semi finals at Witton Gilbert.

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President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed everyone to our March meeting before reading a poem.

Last month members enjoyed a behind the scenes visit to the Theatre Royal followed by lunch at Fenwicks.

The semi finals of the WI darts competition were held at Witton Gilbert. We had not entered before but had two teams who did very well, one team going in the finals and the other awarded the booby prize; everyone was a winner.

We will be voting next month on whether we want 'How to tackle the decline of our high streets' to be this year's resolution, all details are in WILife so could you please read them and we will vote at the next meeting.

Our speaker this evening was Dave English from Proctor and Gamble. Mr Proctor and Mr Gamble sailed to America, married

two sisters and started by selling soap. The company now employs over 138,000 people in 80 countries and is the largest company in the world making over 300 brands.

Dave is a trainer and goes out to firms who sell 'white goods' so that when we buy a machine we will be given advice on the best way to use it. Dave then gave a slide show and talk on how to get the best from our washing machines using the correct detergents. I found that even after 41 years of washing I could do better. We were each given a book full of helpful advice and Ariel stain remover which ended a very helpful and informative talk.

Marie Murphy won the raffle and the competition winners were Angela Velleman and Ann Smith. Ann gave the vote of thanks and the evening ended with refreshments.



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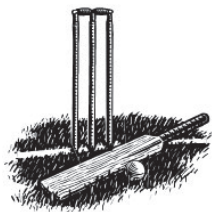
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CRICKET CLUB NEWS



Fingers crossed that by now the sun is shining, the grass is green and it is warm enough to have played cricket. As I write this, it is still only a handful of degrees and not easy

to get excited at the prospect of playing. April 6th was Cricket Force Day and a number of the squad turned up at the ground to start the seasonal preparation. Everything was given a new lick of paint and a tidy round to get us in a position to start when the sun shines. The opening fixtures set for the 20th April are tough, as our first two teams play Annfield Plain who have strengthened their side this year, whilst we have concerns about our numbers. We've lost Graham Brinton and Greg Patterson at first team

level and are still hoping to bring in new players to replace them. We do have 20 year old Michael Lukic who is a left arm bowler from Tasmania. Michael has a good record at state level and hopes to make an impact in his first year overseas as he broadens his horizons. The third team also start against Annfield Plain but a week later and will be hoping to build on last season's work of introducing the juniors to senior cricket. The under 15s kick off on the 22nd away at Ryton, whilst the following night the 18s host Blaydon with

the 11s travelling in the opposite direction. The 13s follow on the 28th home to Shotley. Anyone interested in playing can contact First team captain Stu McPhail or chairman Neil Graham on 07717516759. If anyone would like to sponsor a game or even just a match ball, then please get in touch, we would be most grateful. Finally, we would just like to offer our thanks to the former Lions for the help they provided to the club over the years. Their absence will be felt by the community they served.

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NEWS AT THE NET



Spring! What spring? With fingers firmly crossed and hoping for some good weather, the Tennis Club is about to commence coaching and play at their grass courts on Ford Road. After a successful couple of weeks coaching at the Green school, it is now time to move to the more natural playing surface, and the committee and ground staff have worked hard to prepare the courts for the opening day on **Saturday 4th May**.

The coaching sessions on a Monday evening are as follows;

Up to 8 years old

4.30 to 5.30 pm

8 to 12 year olds

5.30 to 6.30 pm

13 year olds to adult

6.30 to 7.30 pm

Equipment is available for use and the first session on the grass will be **Monday 13th May**.

A full programme of social events is also planned for 2013 and these will include;

Saturday 11th May

Tennis Fun day

Thursday 23rd May

'Tasty Tennis' Evening

Saturday 22nd June

BBQ

Sunday 14th July

Strawberry tea

So now, all we need is a bit of luck with the all-important weather, and the 2013 season could be one of the best ever. Or is that just wishful thinking on your correspondent's part. We shall see! Please contact Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278 for full details.

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THURSDAY CLUB UPDATE

The recent Coffee Morning held in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance was a really busy and very enjoyable event which raised £280 (and counting) for this worthy cause - we would like to thank

everyone who came along or who contributed in any way to helping us reach such a grand total. In May the Thursday Club will be off on a day's outing to Beningborough Hall in North Yorkshire.

LANCHESTER BOWLING CLUB REPORT



The green will be open from Friday 26th April with the first match on the evening of 1st May up at White-le-Head (better take a few woolly jumpers). This year we are honoured that our secretary, Ken Raper, is

President of Bowls Durham and we will be hosting the Men's County Championships in July.

We have been working on strategies as an organisation to be as welcoming as possible to new members. For example we are offering new members a reduced membership of only £10 for a full season of bowling. Also we are holding a 'Getting started' session on Saturday 27th

April at 2.00 pm to show first time bowlers the basics. Attending the session is free, please bring flat shoes. Our website has been updated with information for prospective new members; see www.communigate.co.uk/ne/lanchesterbowlingclub or if that's too long, just Google Lanchester Bowling Club.

Make friends, have fun, get competitive, play bowls.

LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Following the Society's outdoor visit to two Roman Temples last June, Georgina Plowright, who had led the outing and who is a member of the Society, gave a talk on the religion of the Romans in the area of Hadrian's Wall at the meeting on 5th April. Georgina has recently retired from her position of curator of the four museums on the Wall, and certainly knows her subject. She gave a fascinating talk, illustrated with slides of temples, altars, various articles used in the worship of the gods and

described how their worship was influenced by the area, other nationalities (such as the Greeks) and what was used during worship. This included candles, gold plate, music, incense and sacrifice. After answering questions, Georgina was thanked by Chairman John Thompson who also informed members of this year's

outing, which is a visit to the Oriental Museum and the Botanic Gardens in Durham. Further details will be given next month. The speaker on Friday, May 3rd, is Julian Harrop from Beamish Museum, on 'Weird and Wonderful'. This sounds very interesting and everyone is welcome to come and see exactly what it will be about.



Georgina Plowright with Chairman John Thompson

LADIES WHO LUNCH

For our last lunch out we returned to the Beamish Park Hotel just outside Stanley on the way to Newcastle. It is a favourite haunt of ours, providing a guaranteed good lunch every time, and this time was no exception. The conservatory with its floor to ceiling windows has a gorgeous outlook, often with red kites flying overhead - although not on this occasion. It was still very cold, but the Beamish Park is a cosily warm environment - we

love the ambience of the place, it makes us feel very comfortable. We sampled for a starter duck parfait with Autumn chutney and doorstop toast. Mains were braised brisket of beef with mustard mash, roasted root vegs and gorgeous gravy, breast of chicken in a green pepper sauce with baked potatoes, button mushrooms and broccoli. For puddings we had Belgian chocolate and cherry torte with white chocolate sorbet,

cappuccino crème brûlée, vanilla ice cream with fruit and nut biscotte, lemon posset with blood oranges and almond wafers. One of us had an avocado and prawn sandwich with tortilla chips. It was all quite delicious. Another lovely aspect of the hotel is the beautiful fresh flower arrangements, always just that little bit different. We look forward to going again - soon.
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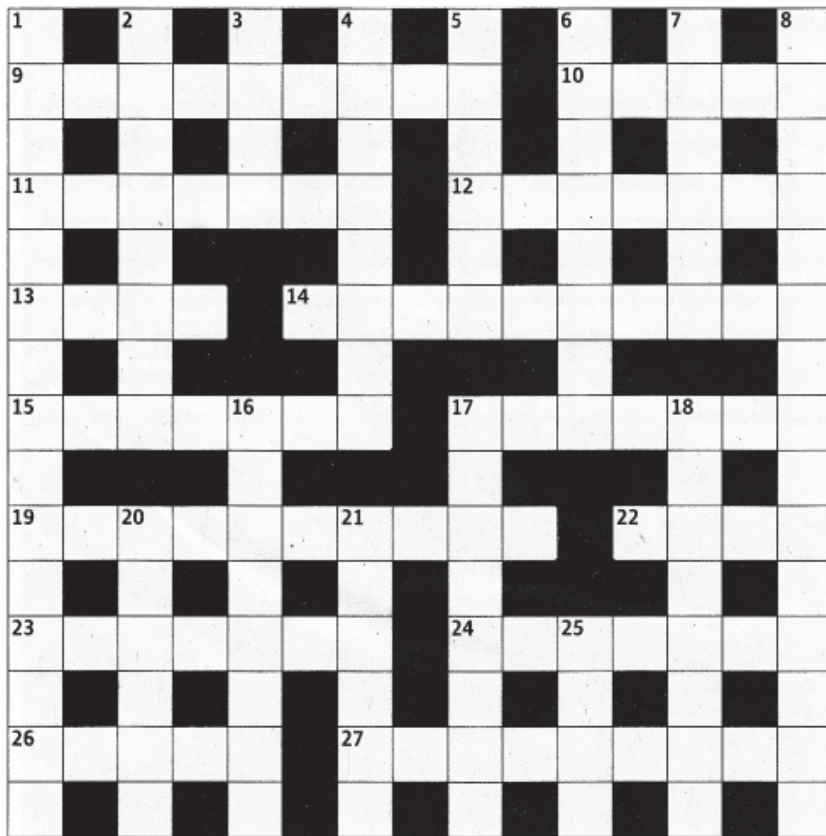


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CROSSWORD 84



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CROSSWORD 83

There were 17 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to Jim Rafferty of Greenwell Park who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

ACROSS

9. Able to remember rite event (9)
10. See 11
- 11,10. Tangerine for example (7,5)
12. Where movie actors work (4,3)
13. Apache produces pain (4)
14. Blow desire to expurgate (10)
15. Lean cut of meat (7)
17. Leaves (4,3)
19. Fool (10)
22. A b o m i n a b l e snowman (4)
23. A cat cot composition (7)
24. China clay (7)
26. Fisheating mammal (5)
27. Bad Lent mince (9)

DOWN

1. Delay (15)
2. Incriminate it in putsch changes (6-2)
3. Open (4)
4. Sharpener is Lot One (8)
5. Turned pages (6)
6. Waste liquid (8)
7. Breakfast cereal (6)
8. 1886 gift to USA by France (6,2,7)
16. Worship of craven images (8)
17. Penalty (4,4)
18. Witty remark (3-5)
20. S u b t l e distinction (6)
21. Peaceful (6)
25. Sign (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 83

ACROSS

9. Glengarry
10. rouge
11. prodigy
12. enforce
13. noose
14. derring-do
16. hammer and sickle
19. spectacle
21. paces
22. silicon
23. acerbic
24. alien
25. recherché

DOWN

1. agapanthus
2. jeroboam
3. ignite
4. fray
5. Tyne Bridge
6. graffiti
7. Tuareg
8. here
14. dead centre
15. open secret
17. enticing
18. kickback
20. eclair
21. prefer
22. scam
23. arch

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.

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

HENRY'S MUM WRITES BOOK TO RAISE MONEY FOR KIDS WITH CANCER

348 Days, a book written by local resident Jane Natrass has just been published. It's the story of Henry Dancer and his battle with cancer and it is being sold to raise funds for the charity in his name. Lanchester News is the only outlet. This heart warming story uses the diaries his Mum kept throughout his illness and the emails sent to family and friends as his condition led to his death in November 2010. 348 Days outlines the closeness and love of a

mother and son and the tragic loss of a young man who gave so much to everyone who knew him. It describes their life in hospital and some of the wonderful people they met there. Whilst it is a tragic tale, there are moments of true joy and friendship. Responses so far include: "I read it in one sitting - Powerful is an understatement!" K Ledger. "I've finished 348 Days within 2 days. All I can say is that it was an enthralling read.

Touched me very deeply." Brian, Sacriston. With HUGE thanks to Tony and Gillian at Lanchester News and Post Office for selling on our behalf. They've always been so kind in helping us out and have raised so much for us for other kids in the same situation. Copies can be bought at Lanchester News for £9.99 and all proceeds go to the charity - Henry Dancer 348 Days. You can also order a copy at henrydancerdays@aol.com (£2 P&P).



Henry with his Mum, Jane Natrass

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Malvern Pudding

This delicious, quickly made pudding comes from Worcestershire, a good fruit growing-county.

For 4 portions

BASE

1lb cooking apples
1oz butter
1oz granulated sugar
Grated rind of 1 small lemon

SAUCE

1 standard egg
1oz butter
1oz plain flour
¾ pint milk
1oz granulated sugar

TOPPING

2ozs demerara sugar

½ level teaspoon cinnamon
½oz butter
1. Peel, core and slice the apples. Place 1oz butter in a medium sized saucepan and heat until melted. Add apples and 1oz granulated sugar. Cover and cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, until soft and thick. Remove from heat and stir in lemon rind; spread in a one and a half pint ovenproof dish.
2. Beat egg. Melt 1oz butter in a medium-sized saucepan; stir in flour and cook gently for about 2 minutes, without

browning. Add milk, bring to boil, stirring, and simmer for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in 1oz granulated sugar. Beat in egg, a little at a time. Return to heat and cook for one minute, stirring.
3. Pour sauce over apple mixture. Prepare a moderate grill.
4. Mix demerara sugar and cinnamon together in a small basin; sprinkle on top of sauce and dot with ½oz butter. Place dish under grill and heat until sugar has caramelized. Remove from grill and serve hot or cold.

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

WHAT'S ON?

Exercise Valencia!

On Thursday 13th June we will have fire engines, police vehicles, ambulances and a helicopter in our village! This is because the Government is giving out 4 grants to be spent on 'flood simulation exercises', and our county's Local Resilience Forum (a partnership of emergency services) succeed in getting one of the grants and it also decided that its exercise should take place in Lanchester!

The Police Force, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, County Council Contingencies Unit, the Environment Agency, voluntary organisations, community groups and schools will all be involved in a very exciting day.

Put the date in your diary and look out for lots more information in next month's Village Voice.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 1st May at 1.30pm in the Community Centre there will be a workshop with Margaret Earl of Winlaton.

The 40th Anniversary Lunch will be held at Chapters Restaurant, Derwentside College, on Wednesday 22nd May.

Open House

Light Lunch at the Open House, in the Chapter House of the Parish Church welcomes everyone. May 2nd, 11.30am to 1.00pm.

History Society

Friday, 3rd May, 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. Julian Harrop, from Beamish Museum, will give a talk entitled 'Weird and Wonderful'. Everyone welcome to come and find out what it's all about.

Swishing Evening

Ladies: let's 'swish' for Christian Aid on Thursday 2nd May from 7.30 pm at Lanchester Methodist Church.

The idea is to bring along at least one item of good quality clothing, shoes or accessories to 'swish' - ie to swap, or simply donate, to raise funds for Christian Aid. We aim to cater for most sizes and styles!

Ladies who do not wish to participate in 'swish' are welcome to come along too, to enjoy the fellowship and, most importantly, to support Christian Aid.

Admission to this fab event, to include coffee and cake, as well as the opportunity to take home 'new' additions for your wardrobe, is £5. Proceeds will go to Christian Aid projects in the developing world. Any items 'unswished' at the end of the evening can be donated to the village Red Cross shop. This is eco recycling at its best!

It would be most helpful if items could be brought to church on Thursday 2nd May, prior to 7.30 pm. Church will be open between 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm, otherwise bring along on the night! If you need to have items collected please contact Dianne Emerson on 520817.

All donations should be in good, clean condition, with items of clothing ironed, and on individual hangers with sizes clearly marked. Browsing, however, will not start before 7.30 pm! There will be a communal changing room so you can 'try before you buy'. Looking forward to seeing you on 2nd May - happy 'swishing'!

Country Market

On Saturday 4th May, 10am-12.00, come along to the Country Market in the Community Centre for your fresh produce, cakes, pies, jams, chutneys, eggs, plants, etc.

Short Circuit Walks

May 4th, Bamburgh, 5 miles. Meet in the car park to the south east of the Castle, NU180349.

May 18th, Angel of the North, 5 miles. Meet in the car park on the north bound lane of the A167 from Eighton roundabout, NZ264578.

Both walks start at 10.30am.

Family Disco

On Saturday 4th May from 3 pm - 6 pm (and 7.30 - 10.30 pm for 11-16 year olds) in Lanchester Social Club. Tickets are £3 and should be bought at local retailers beforehand. All proceed will go to the Fraja Ellie appeal. She has neuroblastoma and may need treatment abroad. Contact Annemarie Warner on 07702 422140 for more information.

Paradiso Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday May 5th from 7.00 pm - 9.15 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. This will be the final Social in this run; we will hope to resume in October.

There will be the usual Raffle and Refreshments as well as the opportunity to see the film 'UNTOUCHABLE' on the big screen.

This is described as a charming and uplifting French comedy and won the Academy award for the best foreign language film topping the French charts. It is about a friendship that develops between a wealthy quadriplegic, Philippe and his carer, an ex convict, each has his

own disadvantage - one physical, following a paragliding accident, the other socio economic. Based on a true story and told with truth, integrity and humour towards the ignorance that those who live with paralysis face each and every day. Well worth seeing, do come! Entry £2.50 members. £3.50 occasional visitors, £2 for young people. The entry covers the raffle, refreshments and film.

Red Cross Open Evening

The Red Cross shop is holding an open evening on Tuesday 7th May as part of Red Cross week. We will be open until 7.00pm. Refreshments will be provided.

Mothers' Union

Bishop Mark is the speaker at the meeting on Wednesday 8th May, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House.

Ghost Hunt

On Saturday May 11th from 9 pm - 3 am in the Community Centre, join the Haunting Evidence team to investigate the various stories associated with the building. Tickets £19.99 are strictly limited and are available on eBay - search for Ghost Hunt Lanchester Old School. Refreshments and buffet included in ticket price.

Junior/Family Wildlife

On Sunday 12th May, meet at 9.30 am in the Community Centre car park. Visit/venue to be confirmed on the morning.

Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 14th May at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, there will be a talk by Dave Wainwright, Butterfly Conservation Officer.

Wet Nose Day

This year's Wet Nose Day 5 mile sponsored dog walk is on Sunday 12th May in aid of Supporters of Stray and Abandoned Dogs (SoSAD). Last year we managed to raise over £2800 to help pay for the vet bills for the many stray and abandoned dogs that come into Deerness Kennels Rescue Centre. Sponsorship forms are available from Deerness Kennels or you can come on the day and make a donation. Registration normally takes place from around 12.30 pm with the walk starting around 2pm. There will be lots to do for all the family, refreshments will be available and, once walkers return, we'll also have our annual Dog Show. with categories including Handsomest Dog, Waggiest Tail, Dog Most Like Owner, Cleverest Trick, Cutest Pup, Prettiest Pooch and last but not least Best Rescue Dog! We'll also have Doggy Tombola and raffle with lots of prizes for both you and your dog.

We look forward to seeing you there. You'd be barking mad to miss it!

WI

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 13th May (second Monday) in the small hall of the Community Centre starting at 7 pm.

Our speaker will be Maria Bailey on Education for Deaf People and the competition a lady's corsage. Visitors are always very welcome.

June Wallis is holding a Garden Party for WI members on Wednesday 12th June. Tickets will be available from the next meeting at £3 each, which includes tea and raffle with the proceeds going to Willow Burn. The theme is pink!!!

Derwentside Byways and Bridleways

Walks on alternate Tuesday evenings, starting at 7.00 pm.

14th May: meet at the car park, Colliery School, Dipton, on A692.

28th May: meet at the 'Shepherd and Shepherdess' next to the entrance to Beamish Museum.

Show Time

Lanchester Male Voice Choir with Jane Westwater present 'Show Time' on Friday 17th May at 7 pm in Lanchester Methodist Church in aid of the Village Bus. Tickets £7 from choir members or Mike Gladstone, 01207 528114.

Transport

If anybody would like to go to the Male Voice Choir evening on 17th May, in aid of the Village Bus and would like transport, please phone Karin Bravington on 520784. If there is enough interest, we will arrange for the bus to get people there and back home. Please come along! It promises to be a lovely evening and you are supporting a good cause.

Go Green

for Willow Burn in May. This fun event may involve anyone. Go Green by having a Willow Burn collection box on your counter or in your office; Go Green by painting yourself green and donating a fiver; Go Green by baking goopy green cakes and selling them; Go Green by wearing green for work or school and making a donation or collecting sponsorship; Go Green by being environmentally friendly and sending the savings to the hospice; Go Green by planting flowers or vegetables or selling seedlings or plants - anyone can Go Green and raise money for Willow Burn! For more details contact Danielle Horsley on (01207) 529224.

Coffee Morning

On Saturday, 25th May, between 10 am and 12 noon in the Methodist Chapel in aid of the North Durham National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society Group, in order to raise funds for research into methods of alleviating suffering in rheumatoid arthritis patients. Coffee, with biscuits, scones and cakes will be on sale, together with a jewellery and bric-a-brac stall. All welcome.

Calendar Girls

Chester le Street Theatre Group are performing the popular box office hit Calendar Girls on Wednesday 29th May to Saturday 1st June at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre, Chester le Street. For tickets (£7/£6) ring Jean Martin on 0191 388 3778. Any profits will go to Leukaemia Research and Willow Burn Hospice.

Kids' Club

On Thursday 30th May at 2 pm in the Community Centre, the film 'Rise of the Guardians' will be shown in aid of Fraja Ellie Simpson. Only £2 per person. All welcome.

Brass Band

Lanchester Brass Band practises every Sunday afternoon 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm and Wednesday 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm in the upper room of Croft View. New members are always welcome. Tuition and instrument provided.

Red Cross Lunch

The Red Cross is organising a Ladies Luncheon on Thursday 23rd May, at Finbarrs in Durham, cost £21. This includes a two course lunch with coffee, the speaker will be Catherine Hart giving a talk entitled Hats for All. If you would like to attend please call into the shop for more details.

Breathe Easy Group

We are a friendly, informal support group for anyone affected by lung disease; carers and relatives of the person who has a lung condition are very welcome to come along too.

We meet in Lanchester Community Centre on the second Thursday of each month (although not usually in August). We meet in the large hall from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm for a cup of tea and a chat and often we invite a speaker with knowledge of lung disease and other medical conditions. Sometimes we have a quiz, beetle game etc or easy exercises.

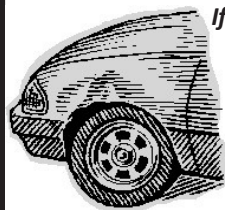
We also go on outings and every month - normally on a Monday - go out for lunch, trying out different pubs in the area.

Our next meeting will be on May 9th and the topic will be 'Care Connect'. All are welcome. For further information please phone Jill Gladstone on 01207 528 114 or Betty Welch on 01207 563 117.

PACT Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd May at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

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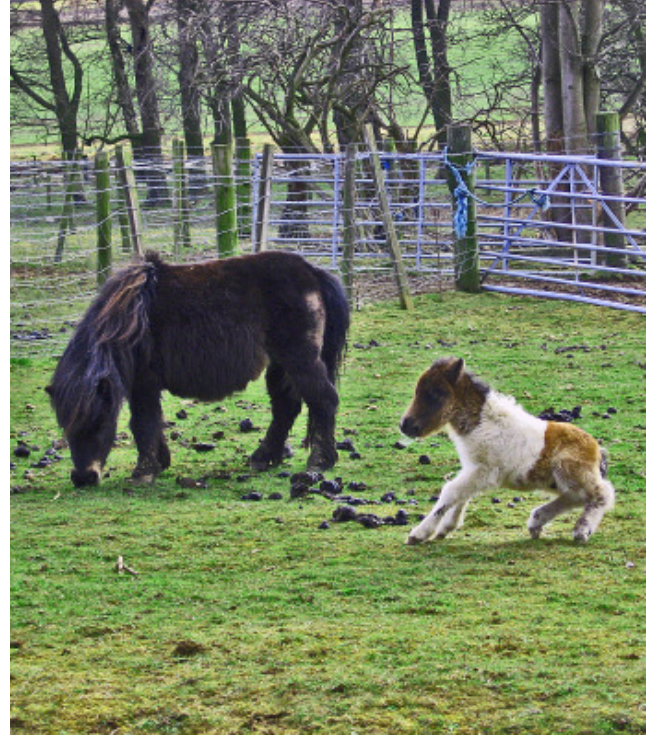
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01207 520331

EASTER CROCUS



Some lovely purple, yellow and white coloured crocuses seen on the by-pass near the Bowling Green. Does this mean that Spring has arrived at last?

EASTER BIRTH



A moving sight as the foal struggles to its feet. This was in a field between Oakwood and Malton where the Shetland ponies are currently grazing.

EASTER BONNETS AT THE EP SCHOOL



A lovely Easter Bonnet Parade by the Nursery School children

Pupils at the EP School ended the term with a Coffee Afternoon for parents and on show were hundreds of Easter Eggs. These were brilliantly decorated in so many themes, far too many to describe. A lovely bonus for the afternoon was a parade of Easter Bonnets by the Nursery School Children. Despite the cold weather the function was well attended and the eggs much admired. (Picture of eggs on page 11.)

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 21st May The deadline for **adverts** is 19th May.

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