

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 14

Lanchester, March 2013

For contact information, see page 2

## LIONS ROAR NO MORE



Mike Stoddart presented cheques for £500 each to: Canon Robert Spence, All Saints RC Church; Rev Rupert Kalus, All Saints Parish Church and David Hughes, Methodist Church. Mike explained the reasons why Lanchester Lions Club was closing down and how assets were being distributed.

Canon Robert Spence responded with an off the cuff, warm, reminiscent speech in which he paid tribute to Lions past and present for their service work over the last 46 years.

The EP School, All Saints Primary School and St Bede's School also each received a cheque for £500.

*Left to right: Alan Kelly (Lions), Martin Durkin (Lions), Canon Robert Spence, Rev Rupert Kalus, David Hughes, Mike Stoddart (Lions).*

## NEW BEAT OFFICERS



*PC Ian Bradley*



*PCSO Lisa Jackson*

Since the beginning of February 2013 we have had a change to the beat officers covering Lanchester and Burnhope. Your local officers are now PC 2416 Ian Bradley and PCSO 6780 Lisa Jackson. Between the two of us we have approximately 10 years' experience working for Consett Neighbourhood Policing Team therefore we are bringing an extensive amount of knowledge and experience resolving community related issues such as anti-social behaviour to the area. Our main priority at this time is increasing our knowledge of the area

and getting to know our targets of crime and disorder. We are keen to take on board any concerns or problems any of our community members have, therefore you can contact us by telephoning 101 or emailing [ian.bradley@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ian.bradley@durham.pnn.police.uk) or [lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk). Alternatively you can talk to us at the Lanchester PACT meeting which takes place on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7.15 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th April.

## BURNHOPE MINERS' BANNER GROUP PRESENTATION

Burnhope Miners' Banner Group have presented celebration mugs to all of the children at Burnhope Primary School to commemorate the blessing of their new banner. The banner was blessed by the Bishop

of Durham in Durham cathedral at last year's Miners' Gala. As the Bishop is now the new Archbishop of Canterbury he has also been sent a commemorative mug as a memento of his time serving in Durham. The

new banner design incorporates symbols and sentiments taken from old photographs of previous Burnhope banners, and it is hoped to display the banner in the school when it is not being used for village events and exhibitions.



*Chairman of the Group, Harry Baron and Secretary of the Group, Ossie Johnson, presenting commemorative mugs to pupils Michelle Brooks, Daniel Madden, Melissa Walker and John Usher.*



# Dear Village....

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

## THANKS, LIONS

What a marvellous group of people have belonged to the Lions over the years! They have worked tirelessly for the residents of Lanchester and beyond.

When we look back, nearly all of the happiest social events, eg tramps' night, medieval banquets, discos, etc were organised by the Lions and their marvellous ladies.

As recently as December, the lunchtime party for pensioners was a lovely occasion and a symbol of their generous kindness. It is a sadness to hear that the Lanchester Lions are

disbanding - a sign of the times - but we would like to thank them all, past and present, on behalf of thousands of people like us who have benefited from their hard work and community spirit, and had loads of fun too.

Jill and Mike Gladstone

Dear Village Voice

Thank you to all friends and neighbours in Lanchester who have offered me so much help and support over the past weeks since my operation in January. It seems to have been very successful and I hope to be resuming most of my usual activities in the near future. I don't know how I would have coped without you all.

Anne McKenzie

Dear Village Voice

The Allen family would like to thank John White of the Prison Service Charity Fund for the recent £1000 donation to Alby Allen's tribute fund for the Stroke Association, and for the previous donations given by the PSCF over the past 2 years.

Regards

Tony Allen

Dear Village Voice

I would like to thank those who have been involved in the drainage improvements to the south of the village. During the heavy rains in our so called summer I noticed that large volumes of water running in off the fields were ending up running down Ford Crescent making a flooding risk. On investigation I realised the drains were blocked outside of the village.

For a member of the public it can be quite difficult to understand where the responsibility lies for such problems. At first I contacted the Environment Agency who directed me to the Highways Department. They recorded my call but did not rectify the problem so I contacted Councillor Johnson. I am pleased to say the main drain was then cleared very quickly and I now find improvement work has been conducted which will hopefully alleviate future flood risks.

My thanks to Counsellor Johnson, Lanchester Partnership and anyone else involved.

Paul Monaghan

## THE VILLAGE VOICE

### IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

## TRADCRAFT COFFEE MORNING

The Traidcraft 'Big Brew Coffee Morning' was Olga Walker's first event since taking over office from Brian Masterman. It was very well supported with the Chapter House busy for the full period of time. Helpers were certainly kept on their toes making and serving coffees and teas for so many supporters of this excellent cause.

A lively Eric Gaskill, who amused everyone, organised the raffle. With cake stall and donations

included, this resulted in £297 being made. In addition attendees spent £143 on Traidcraft produce which made a massive total of £440.

The 'Mug Hug' competition was won by Carol Thompson with second place achieved by Linda Geer. Vicar, Rev Rupert Kalus presented the prizes. Olga was really pleased with the convivial atmosphere and would like to thank everyone for their generous support.



Left to right: Carol Thompson (Mug Hug first), Linda Geer, second place, Rev Rupert Kalus and organiser, Olga Walker.

## COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for February 2013 is 73. The draw was made by Mr M Greenwood of the Gym.

## How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise:

Contact John Hurran, Advertising Manager Telephone: (01207) 520288

Email: villagevoice adverts@talktalk.net General and news enquiries: (01207) 520559

By email:

lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line).

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## CRUFTS 2013

Thursday 7th March once again found my friend Georgina and I, with my Norwegian Elkhound Freya of course, waiting to be picked up by a coach at 2am at Durham Services. When we arrived at the NEC there was some delay getting to Hall 5 but after a much needed coffee it was off to the Ladies (actually marked 'Loos') for a wash and brush up; I only had to change from comfortable shoes to smarter boots for the ring. Some exhibitors change into very smart outfits before going in the ring and certain breeds of dogs require a lot of grooming beforehand, but Freya just needed a final brushing.

Ten o'clock and our judging began, but Freya was in the last two classes.

She has had an up and down year but had at last gained a Challenge Certificate. I wasn't very confident as a lot of high-profile, younger bitches, all champions, were in her Open class, even one who had actually come from Norway. Much to my surprise and delight she was third. Then she won, for the fourth year in succession, the show class for bitches with an obedience award.

Then we looked round the hundreds of stalls, managing to almost get lost when somehow straying as far as Hall 2 - it is so easy to lose one's sense of direction there. After that a long wait until the return of the coach at five o'clock, but the time was spent enjoyably with friends we meet at Championship.



Freya with her rosette and certificate



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## MARCH WEDDING



The marriage of Mr Jonathan Sinclair and Miss Karen Shaw took place at All Saints Parish Church on Saturday February 16th. Left to right: Ann Sinclair, mother of the Groom; Jonathan and Karen, and Rev Peter Sinclair, the Groom's father, who conducted the service.

The coach was delayed outside the venue due to an accident and didn't return until eight, so it was after midnight when we got home. Needless to say, we were all tired, but had had a lovely day and hope we can keep going for a year or two yet.

### All Saints Catholic Church Parish Centre

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# RETIREMENT OF COMMUNITY CENTRE SECRETARY

Chairman of the Community Association, Arthur Maughan MBE, presents a gift to Harry Taylor, Secretary, on his retirement after 18 years. The AGM held on 20th March was Harry's last meeting as Secretary. Dr Ian Brunt, President, looks on. A full report of the AGM will be printed in next month's Village Voice.





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Park, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.



## A VISIT TO TANZANIA

The 'GreenSchool', off the bypass, has since September 2012, been home to pupils from years 10 and 11 in comprehensive schools, who are not fitting into mainstream education because of their behaviour. They all travel there by mini-bus, from a very wide catchment area of Co Durham. At this school,

firm discipline is essential and observing the pupils during school hours it is obvious that the headmistress, Mrs Helen Johnson and her staff are dedicated to educating these young people, not only intellectually, but socially and emotionally so that they can take responsibility for their own behaviour and become responsible, fully acceptable members of mainstream education. In order to widen their experience and learning Mrs Gail Kirby, who is on the staff of a similar school, Elemore Hall School in the Easington district of Co Durham, visited the school on March 21st to show a video and give information about her numerous visits to Tanzania in Africa, where

she has helped set up a number of projects in schools. In 2008 Mrs Kirby took two pupils from her school with her and they benefited greatly from the experience. They were the only white faces in the school and they learned to respect and work amicably alongside their African classmates. Mrs Catherine Forster, who teaches humanities at the school is planning to take two pupils with her when she goes to Tanzania very soon. The video which the pupils watched was made by Mrs Kirby and was very informative for the pupils. Fund raising has taken place to fund the Tanzanian visit and we wish them all well as they make their preparations. Brenda Craddock



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Mrs Gail Kirby with her map of Tanzania

# CAR PARKING IN LANCHESTER

An email has been leaked to a member of The Village Voice pertaining to the future of car parking in Lanchester. A number of residents have expressed their desire over the years to increase facilities for parking their cars. If the village does expand as expected, the situation will become more acute. We cannot disclose who sent the email as we always protect our

sources but it does suggest that the Queen's Head and the Lanchester Arms may be demolished and replaced by car parks. Men with theodolites have been seen in the grounds of the latter recently. These areas would provide space for over 100 cars. There is a rapidly expanding car park entrepreneur in the north of England who has seen a gap in the

market and has been buying up redundant churches and pubs then turning them into car parks. This company is nowhere near the size of NCP but is heading that way. A spokesman for the company, Ivor Clamp, has admitted there is an interest in this potentially very profitable project and expects to be given the go ahead by April 2014.



*The Lanchester Arms - a blight on the village and has been for a long time. What is the future here?*



*The now derelict Queen's Head where there has been a fire and floods. What is the future for this fine building?*

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# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

## Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Park House, on Tuesday 12th March

### Minutes

Ordinary meeting held on 12th February 2013 - approved.

Planning Committee Meeting held on 12th February 2013 - approved

**Police Report** - for the period 23rd January - 27th February was discussed (see separate article)

The Neighbourhood Warden report for January was also discussed.

### Correspondence

(1) Lanchester Cricket

Club - Bonfire Night - permission was given for use of Kitswell Park for this event subject to the usual insurance, safety and maintenance conditions. A decision on financial support for the event would be made following elections in May.

(2) Durham County Council - survey - information received.

(3) Lanchester Community Association - Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony - letter received.

(4) Lanchester Adult Football Team - request to use the football pitch at Kitswell Park for

2013/14 season - permission was given subject to the usual conditions.

(5) Dog Fouling Kitswell Park - letter from resident - agreed that additional signage be erected to try to address the problem.

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

**Lynwood Community Interest Company (CIC)**

Members received an update on the Lynwood CIC and were informed that the CIC had withdrawn from the Lynwood project in terms of managing the community space. The CIC had suggested that in order to retain a community element that the Parish Council could consider managing this facility and correspondence from Derwentside Homes to this effect has been received. Members agreed in principle to consider managing the community space in the Lynwood development and a final decision will be taken by the Parish Council following elections in May and once all the details are received.

**Kitswell Park** - tree report and survey It was agreed that the recommended tree works be undertaken.

**Action for Market Towns (AMT)** - seminar A Councillor presented his report following his

attendance at the seminar. It was agreed that this could be discussed further at a future Parish Council meeting.

### Tree Planting - Village Green

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Lanchester Partnership for the recent tree planting on the Village Green.

### Policies

The following policies were reviewed and approved; Risk Assessment Schedule, Internal Audit Arrangements, Financial Regulations, Equal Opportunities Policy, Health & Safety Policy

Schools - Distribution of newsletters

It was agreed that a donation of £75 be sent to each of the Primary Schools as a thank you for distributing the Council newsletters.

### Grants/Donations

The following donations were agreed: Great North Air Ambulance - £110.

Lanchester Parochial Church Council - Maintenance of Tower Clock - £200.

Butterwick Children's Hospice - £110.

**Financial report** - discussed and received.

**Accounts for Payment** - approved.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 9th April 2013 following the Annual Meeting of the Parish which will commence at 7.15 pm.

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## POLICE REPORT

**Reporting period:** 23rd January to 27th February  
**Number of calls for the area:** 67

**Number of community related calls:** 9

Alcohol seizures 0, Dwelling burglaries 0, Other burglaries 1 (an unsecured garage had been broken into and items stolen), Bogus callers 0, Anti-social behaviour 9 (including 4 reports from the Indian Chef - as no reports have been received regarding Lee Hill Court or the Valley Walk recently, the PACT priority has been redirected to the Indian

Chef), Vehicle nuisance 0, Criminal damage 1 (animal bedding on a trailer was set alight at Malton Works - forensic investigations are continuing), Thefts 2 (an iPod was stolen at St Bede's - a 14 year old pupil was arrested; an iPad was stolen at a party in Lee Hill Court - investigations are ongoing).

**Current community operations:** there has been an increase in the number of poaching incidents across the area. Extra attention will be given to the rural area and

anyone with information is asked to telephone the Police on 101. Over the next few weeks arrangements will be made for all current Farmwatch members to be visited by the new beat officers PC Bradley and PCSO Jackson.

On Tuesday 19th February a Farmwatch Operation was held across the North East region. In total approximately 200 officers and farm volunteers took part in County Durham. During the operation it was a cold and extremely foggy evening which meant suspicious activity was very low.

## ARTISTS, KEEN MAKERS/CRAFTERS AND VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!

LionMouth Rural Centre, based in Esh Winning, is a non-profit, community organisation which aims to offer a range of meaningful activities to support vulnerable people suffering emotional and mental ill health. We are looking for volunteers to help us create the vision. If you can spare 2 hours per week and are interested in volunteering, please contact the centre on 0191 373 5531.

We have a beautiful art studio and also offer creative workshops to the community and schools. We are always on the look-out for local artists, artisans and keen makers who are interested in facilitating workshops to teach others to improve their skills. If you're interested, please email 3 images of your work, along with a brief description, to paula-lionmouth@outlook.com or contact 0191 373 5531 to discuss further.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

Many of you will have read the recent reports of the trials and jailing of 60 members of an organised crime family operating in Derwentside and centred on Burnhope. Operation 'Nacho' has been running for 3 years, it has involved Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council, the Environment Agency working together to break a multi-million pound 'crash for cash' scam which has cost every motorist living in Derwentside £100 extra on their car insurance. The methods used in this case are now being classified as 'outstanding practice' and shared across the country with other Police Forces and Councils. This family have not only been involved in widespread criminality they have also terrorised a community until that community started to fight back. I and my fellow MP, Kevan Jones, have been part of the 'Gold Command', using local information to co-ordinate the fight back against this family. Even as the MP I have had to have police alarms and CCTV in my office and in my home and yet I was at far less risk than many of the brave local people who have come forward with information at considerable risk to themselves and their families and I want to thank them for it. I now want to pursue the insurance companies that let these criminals get away with this for so long. Derwentside is not a high risk area for accidents so why didn't insurance companies question and properly investigate these fraudulent accidents? The insurance companies have questions to ask and we want our money back. I will be meeting with the Association of British Insurers in April to put these questions to them. Each of us also needs to ask the same questions of our insurance company. If you need help or would like a standard letter to use in questioning your insurance company please get in touch with my office. Pat Glass MP  
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# Spring Craft Fair

At Lanchester Community Centre



## Saturday 20th April



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## Gardening in April

If you stand still on a calm April morning you can almost hear things growing. It is an exciting month in the garden with April showers bringing your dormant plants (and, unfortunately, weeds) into their new life.

### In the Borders

Jobs in your borders include dividing primroses after they have finished flowering and continuing to plant herbaceous perennials. If any of your perennials will need supporting this year, put the supports in now so that the plants grow up through them. Honeysuckle and Clematis will now be putting on growth and the new stems will need, and benefit from, tying in so that the plant grows along its supports. Prune Forsythia as soon as it has finished flowering as blooms appear on last year's growth. Deadhead daffodils and tulips as they finish flowering but leave the leaves intact to help feed the bulbs for next year's flowers. This month you can sow hardy annuals outside in pots.

### In the Vegetable Plot

Plant your chitted potatoes in their

positions outside or in potato grow bags or containers. Prepare vegetable seed beds by removing weeds and forking-in compost. Once this is done cover the beds with black plastic sheets to warm the soil and keep it dryer. Many crops can be sown directly into the ground this month including parsnips, cabbages and radish. If you started broad beans in rootainers you can transplant them this month.

### General

Other jobs include applying a high-nitrogen fertiliser to your lawn to provide it with a start-of-the-year boost and now is a good time to apply lawn weed killers where moss and weeds are a problem. I find Lawn Sand a viable and relatively cheap answer where moss is a problem. Start mowing your lawn this month on a high setting to begin with and gradually lower towards the end of the month. You might also check your compost bin(s) to see if any of the material is ready and can be used on your beds and borders.

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# LIFE AT MARGERY FLATTS ALLOTMENTS AND ORCHARD



*The allotments at Margery Flatts*

Margery Flatts allotments have developed well in 2012 despite the awful weather. Several plots produced an excellent crop particularly those that were well mulched or had slightly raised beds. Allotmentees who put in the time were rewarded well for their efforts. Inevitably the wettest year in recent history caused a high water table and some water logging. Strawberries were scarce and largely unripe and several types of vegetables failed to fully ripen. Surprisingly potatoes often did well and parsnips are still coming out of our ears! The plots and orchard are managed using organic means ... so methods of beating the pests are being developed such as barrier methods, careful selection of disease resistant varieties and using varieties of plants that put off pests as well as plants that attract beneficial insect species. The site now has facilities including a tool store, compost toilet, and a new shed that can provide shelter as well as storage of site maintenance tools. The allotments are surrounded by a newly planted orchard which also extends into the centre of the site using an impressive 'espalier frame' put up by Freddie Emerson. The orchard is a Lanchester Partnership project and the site development works are being funded by a grant from the County Durham Community Foundation. The site will be awash with blossom and fruit in the coming years and should be a wonderful place for exercise and quiet contemplation and 'good crack' ... as well as providing delicious fresh organic produce. Now is the time for spring preparation for the year ahead. There is still just time to take on a plot and have a full crop. Several full and half plots are available. The cost of taking on a plot is £1 per week and £10 a year for the committee site costs, whilst to be involved with the orchard, you can join in for £10 a year per household with a commitment to help with the maintenance in return for a share of what we grow. If you are interested in taking on a plot or would like to look around please contact Bob Russell on 01207 521335 or for membership of the orchard contact Kate Wicks on 01207 520258.

## FENCE RENOVATORS



*On a glorious 5th March, Mark Rothery, County Ranger for Lanchester, (left); Kevin Stock, volunteer from Sherburn (centre); and Geoff Peacock, Brook View, another volunteer, repair the fence near the Station House.*

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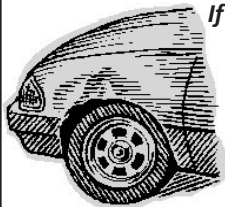
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## WI NEWS

President Jennifer MacDonald welcomed everyone to our March meeting before Pauline Griggs gave the reading. Last month members enjoyed two visits to the Theatre Royal and wine tasting at Lanchester Wines.

Lists are out for the Thursford Christmas Spectacular, Summer trip and Pitman Painters.

The darts are going very well but scorers are needed, no need to throw a dart just able to add, subtract and record quickly and accurately. If you can help please see Angela.

Our speaker this evening was David Peacock MBE from the Wickham

Hermitage Community Garden. What an inspiration David is for others to make something wonderful out of something completely neglected. In 2002 David discovered an old Victorian Garden in Wickham and after a public meeting gained planning permission and funding to restore the garden and saved the site from becoming a car park. From 2004 together with volunteers old and young, private funding, grants and fund raising events he has created as we saw on a DVD something really special which the whole community can help in and enjoy, a garden which provides a centre

for all generations and groups in Wickham especially the schools. In 2009 David was awarded an MBE for his work and commitment in restoring the garden to its former glory, an honour well deserved. If you would like to visit or find out more about the gardens, information can be found at [www.wickhamhermitagegarden.co.uk](http://www.wickhamhermitagegarden.co.uk). Sarah Wright won the raffle and the competition winners were Ann Smith and Maureen Barker. Jennifer gave the vote of thanks and the evening ended with refreshments. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our Coffee Morning such a successful event.



Heather Muir,  
Jean Forster  
and June  
Wallis  
buttering  
scones in the  
Community  
Centre kitchen  
for the WI  
coffee morning

## LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB

The Flower Club held their 40th AGM on 27th February 2013. The committee members will be as previous years albeit one member has decided to retire. Thanks was given to Jean Johnson for all her support and hard work over the years as a committee member. The AGM was followed by a demonstration from Ann Holmes from Slaley on the delights of sugarcraft and the beautiful decorations which can be made. It was enjoyed by all.

The club has a full year ahead with some lovely afternoon flower demonstrations along with our usual summer outing in July. The club will be celebrating 40 years this year so we intend having many celebrations as this is some achievement. Details were discussed regarding an outing to Chapters Restaurant at Derwentside College on 22nd May to celebrate our 40th anniversary and we hope all members will attend.

# LANCHESTER BRIDAL OPENS

A dream came true for Lynn Hunter when she opened her Bridal Shop in Front Street, Lanchester on 16th February. The shop was a hive of activity as women of all ages browsed an extensive display of bride's, bridesmaid's and prom dresses on display. The shop is well appointed and all renovations have been completed by local tradesmen and shops. Lynn's philosophy is to give every bride a magical

experience, offering a carefully selected choice of dresses in beautiful surroundings. Dresses have been sourced from well known designers at competitive prices. These may well appeal to you whatever your budget. There are accessories to go with them and gifts for that special bridesmaid, mum, or for the bride herself. Do come along and see for yourself the extensive ranges on offer - it could be the beginning of your

quest or the end of a long journey. Visit the website [www.lanchesterbridal.co.uk](http://www.lanchesterbridal.co.uk) or phone 01207 437241 or 07783689371 if you would like an appointment. Otherwise please call in between 10 am - 4 pm on Mondays/Tuesdays/Fridays, Thursdays 12 - 7 pm and Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. Appointments may be arranged on Tuesdays 4 - 6 pm and Saturdays 2 - 5 pm. The shop is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.



Lynn Hunter at the opening of Lanchester Bridal surrounded by dresses

## LADIES WHO LUNCH

Last year, travelling through Sunnyside I'm sure many of you watched the transformation of the old Rose Shamrock and Thistle pub into the very welcome looking Italian restaurant 'Sorello Sorello'. Over Christmas, with its outside lights and twinkly lit trees either side of the entrance, it just looked so inviting and we all thought - 'must go there soon' - so we did. Of course, the lighting wasn't just for Christmas, it's there all the time and continually inviting. Once inside you're in a light, airy spacious environment, decor with a difference (a 60's scooter stands just inside ready to transport you back to wherever you'd like to go, and in the recessed large area at the back different

shapes and sizes of mirrors line the ceiling), quick attentive service and a wide variety of food and choice of menu types. They had an a la carte, a set menu at £8.95 + a specials menu and we tried bits from them all. We were most impressed. Eventually, having settled on our choices, we sampled penne contadina (chicken in a cream and tomato sauce), pan fried scallops on a butternut squash puree, smoked haddock pate, chicken and mushroom risotto, roast lemon and thyme chicken breast with smoked pancetta, roast new potatoes and pomodoro sauce, lasagne with garlic bread, lemon chicken risotto and duck and black pudding. Everything was delicious -

and then came the puds!! Not the usual Italian offerings - these were all made by Chef, beautifully presented, and 'to die for'. Dark chocolate and orange mousse served with marinated strawberries, a caramelised banana and toffee Eton mess, elderflower and limoncello truffles with black cherries and sweet ricotta and pistachio, vanilla and chocolate ice cream. We had Chef come out so that we could congratulate him ourselves on his outstanding creations - we were once again - 'most impressed'. What a lovely lunch, we thoroughly recommend you calling in yourselves and enjoying a meal, we shall certainly be back.

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# A CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC

On Friday March 1st, the Roman Catholic Church was the venue for a very special concert. It was one of many events celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Ordination of Canon Robert Spence. The Lanchester and District Choral and Amateur Operatic Society, who were performing the sacred music, said in their programme 'We are honoured to offer this concert of Sacred Music in gratitude for Canon Spence's priestly ministry in the community of Lanchester, across the North East and far beyond. In the name of all those whose lives he has touched, we hope you enjoy and are inspired by our performance'. We were asked to 'enjoy and be inspired'. There was no doubt about that,

with David Hughes as the Producer and Musical Director, and Lilian Dixon, and Bill Gray as accompanists and a member, Richard Woods as one of the soloists. Lanchester seems to lead the way with its abundance of musical talent! There was a buzz of anticipation as the audience gathered and filled the church, but a hush fell as the performers took their places to begin their performance. There were four soloists: Elizabeth Woods - Soprano, Kathleen Ireland - Mezzo Soprano, Ian Gray - Bass and Richard Woods - Tenor, all of whom were outstanding. From the very first moment the audience were enthralled by the excellence of the performance. It seemed to speak to everyone, not least to Canon Spence who had referred in his welcoming words, to his great love of music.

He had also commented as to how much the society had brought to the community over many years, their first performance being in 1972. They always sing to a very appreciative audience. In this case the words of Haydn's 'Creation'; 'O Rest in the Lord' from Mendelssohn's 'Elijah'; Faure's 'Requiem'; 'The Armed Man' by Karl Jenkins, and Vivaldi's glorious 'Gloria' were all sung very skilfully and movingly in Latin but translations of the words had been made and were given to the audience on arrival. Before the final item, Vivaldi's 'Gloria', Canon Spence led prayers for peace in various parts of the world, praying that peace will fill our hearts, the world and the universe. The concert ended and deservedly received tumultuous applause. It had been a very memorable evening.



*The end of a splendid performance*



*Canon Spence with David Hughes and members of the Society*

## GOLDEN HARMONIES

Despite the threat of heavy snow storms, what a wonderful evening of good music, delicious food and excellent company was had by all in the company of Canon Spence.

A full house enjoyed the music of Ray and Terry who had us smiling, singing along and dancing to a broad repertoire of popular songs from the 50s onwards. So many thanks are due to them for this.

Thanks must also go to Paul and Fiona of 'Crinnions' who supplied us with fresh and tasty pies, served with peas and gravy - just hitting the spot on a cold wet evening.

Of course the Committee and Trish and Richard gave us their usual full and much appreciated cooperation.

Canon Spence was delighted to be in the company of so many

friends (all music and pie aficionados!) - friends from the whole village community but also from as far as Darlington.

Why not join the crowds at the Gala Theatre 24th April for the next musical event celebrating Canon Spence's Golden Jubilee of Ordination:

'An Evening with Vin Garbutt and Friends', Tickets £10 (conc £9) Box Office 0191 3324041.



*Ray and Terry sing one of their repertoire of popular songs from the 50s onwards to a full house at the Social Club*

## EROSION - VISIONS OF SCARBOROUGH?



*There seems to be serious erosion, due to constant flooding, on the bank of Smallhope Burn near Fenhall Park Estate.*



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*"My Best Book!"-youngsters tell class teacher Mrs Udell about their favourite book*

World Book Day has become an important annual event for schools, as a time when all aspects of reading can be celebrated, and the pleasures of a good book recognised. This year, a wide range of activities took place at All Saints' Catholic Primary School, with all the children participating. Pupils in the Reception Class shared their favourite books with their classmates, and discussed why they liked them. Other youngsters studied the work of illustrators, the artists who make books attractive and inviting to a child. Some students were involved in designing a book-themed book mark. This is an annual competition, organised by World Book Day Ltd and Book Tokens Ltd, and it has become a firm favourite in schools across the country. The prizes are National Book Tokens for the winning school, the child whose design is chosen, and tokens are also awarded to their teacher. Mrs Conlin's class investigated one of the most famous books in the

world - the Lindisfarne Gospels. This richly illuminated manuscript was created in a monastery on Lindisfarne, off the coast of Northumberland, in the early Eighth Century. The Lindisfarne Gospels Project is Heritage Lottery funded, and Mrs Conlin, artist Vicky Holbrough and Mrs Meggeson, Primary Links Teacher from St Bede's presented the topic to the pupils. Three students from St Bede's were also on hand to support the work which involved the children embossing patterns of the sun and stars onto small metal squares. The completed work will be displayed at St Bede's school, and the Project has also included outreach workshops for the pupils of All Saints' School, delivered by John Roxbrough of Durham University. The work with our young people to inform them about the significance of the Lindisfarne Gospel will be part of the celebrations across the North East when the manuscript makes its return home later this year.

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# WORLD BOOK DAY AT THE EP SCHOOL

They did it in style! Teachers and pupils arrived at the school yard in the morning all wearing costumes depicting characters from books. During the day older children sat in reception classes to read stories to the younger ones. It was a lovely atmosphere in the classrooms.



Two Year 6 pupils read to reception children

No one was left out. There were no inhibitions, all staff in the office and Head teacher, Jane Davis, joined in as well, as Cleopatra.



Staff and children in super costumes gather together for World Book Day

On to assembly and there was a mass of colour, so different from the usual blue uniforms. The Head Teacher asked children to stand as she named various characters from books, too numerous to mention. The children did so, very proudly and they all looked fabulous as their various characters. Staff too announced which characters they were representing, all in good humour, and seemed to

enjoy the moment as much as the children. During the afternoon parents were invited for coffee and a book fair was held and well supported.

It really was a thoroughly enjoyable day for everyone involved and brought attention to the value of books in education and leisure.

## KIDS' CLUB

Kids' Club was held once again during the half term holiday at the Community Centre. On the Monday there was a viewing of the film 'Laura' which was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience. On the Friday it was 'Crafternoon'. With help of Community Centre staff and other helpers including some mums, the children spent their time making Mothering Sunday Cards, appropriately labelled boxes filled with love, as well as some tissue roses. The two

functions were an excellent way for children to occupy their time during the holiday with others of similar ages, whilst the mums

seemed to enjoy the social side of the afternoon. The Community Centre made an excellent total of £132.25 from both events.



Children with mums and helpers making Mothering Sunday Cards

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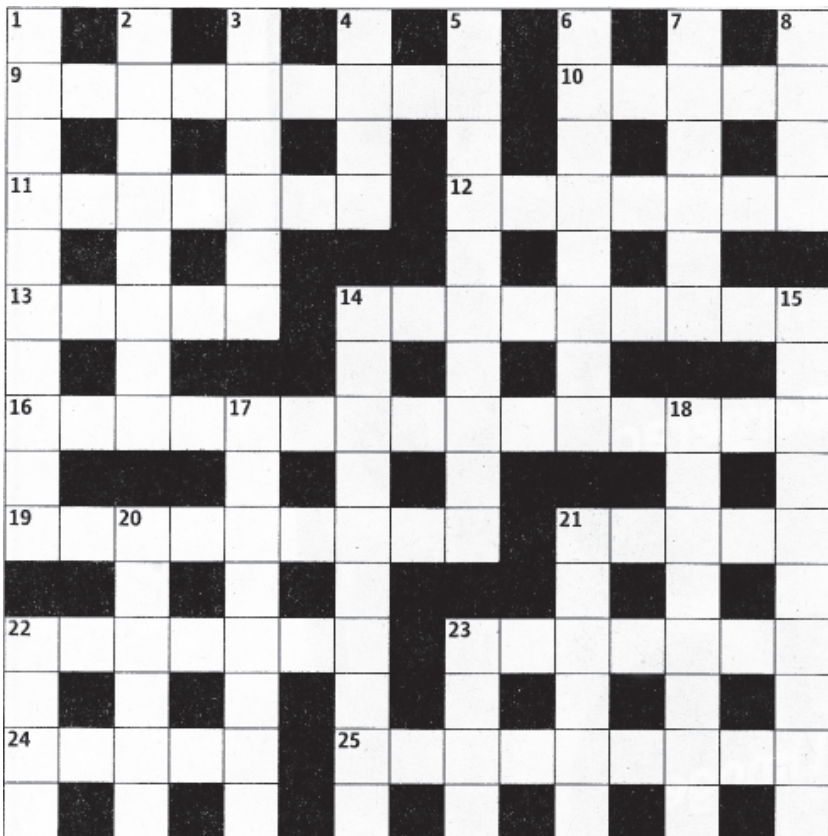
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# CROSSWORD 83



## ACROSS

9. Scottish bonnet (9)
10. Cosmetic (5)
11. Whizz kid (7)
12. Impose (7)
13. Hangman's halter (5)
14. Bold action from DDR region (7-2)
16. Symbolic tools? (6,3,6)
19. Showy display (9)
21. Put through these as a test (5)
22. Chip material (7)
23. Sharp (7)
24. Foreign (5)
25. Her crèche is refined (9)

## DOWN

1. Gus, a Pathan produces flower (10)
2. Bottle from bare mojo (8)
3. Catch fire (6)
4. Wear away (4)
5. NEicon (4,6)
6. Unwanted murals (8)
7. Nomads from Timbuktu are goatherds (6)
8. Present (4)
14. Eden traced into graveyard? (4,6)
15. Something well known but shouldn't be (4,6)
17. Attractive (8)
18. Irregular payment (8)
20. Claire makes a cake (6)
21. Favour (6)
22. Swindle (4)
23. Head in car chase (4)

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 82

### ACROSS

1. remedial
5. theses
9. archives
10. inbred
12. erect
13. facsimile
14. court martial
18. sound tuneful
21. hyperbola
23. drawl
24. whinge
25. go to seed
26. rankle
27. atomiser

### DOWN

1. reaper
- 2,19. mickey takers
3. driftwood
4. Alex Ferguson
6. Hindi
7. Sardinia
8. suddenly
11. scamper about
15. roundworm
16. eschewer
17. gumption
19. see 2
20. glider
22. regal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

## CROSSWORD 82

There were 17 entries in last month's crossword competition though not all were correct. Congratulations to Sylvia Cliff of Humberhill Drive who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.



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## SUDOKU

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

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



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# ST BEDE'S ROWING CHALLENGE

Students from St Bede's Catholic School have raised £1,200 for one of the region's best loved charities. They took part in a sponsored rowing machine challenge to raise money for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

The former England and Newcastle manager's widow, Lady Elsie Robson, visited the school on Friday March 8th to receive the cheque on behalf of the cancer charity. Lady Elsie said: "It was a great pleasure. The

students and staff were most welcoming and I enjoyed hearing about their great efforts raising money to help fight cancer. They have worked extremely hard for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and we're very grateful."



Students and staff at St Bede's presenting their cheque to Lady Elsie Robson

## STRICTLY ...

This was the second outing for 'Strictly' at St Bede's and this year, according to the judges, the standard was much higher than last! The dancers would not have looked out of place in the real show - not an Ann Widdecombe or John Sergeant among them. The event was held to raise money for our charities:

Willow Burn Hospice, Cancer Research, Joe Plumb's Mission in Peru and CAFOD. Staff had worked hard to perfect their routines and judges found it difficult to make their final decisions. A different couple took the trophy at the end of each evening: Tuesday: Mr Bunting and Mrs Rath;

Thursday: Mr Henderson and Miss Lyne; Friday: Mr Larkin and Miss Roscoe. Well done to the team, the judges, the students who did the catering, and Lanchester Wines whose generous support over the week was very much appreciated. Thank you to all who supported this wonderful event.



Two of the winning dancers, Mr Henderson and Miss Lyne

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## ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

# WHAT'S ON?

## Family Wildlife

On Easter Monday, 1st April, there will be the usual Paste Egg event. Meet behind the Green school at 10 am and bring a raw egg to dye in the traditional way.

## Open House

The next Open House will be on Thursday 4th April, from 11.30 am - 1.00 pm when a light lunch will be served.

## Kids' Club

Friday 5th April, Craig's Coaching. Children's Sports Activities, £3.00. Pre-book at the Community Centre, 01207521275.

Monday 8th April, Film 'Ice Age 4', 2-4 pm.

## History Society

Friday 5th April at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. Georgina Plowright, recently retired Curator of the four museums on Hadrian's Wall, will give a talk on Roman Temples and the religion of the Romans in the area of the Wall. All welcome.

## Country Market

On Saturday 6th April, 10 am - 12 noon, come along to the Country Market in the Community Centre for all your fresh produce.

## Short Circuit Walks

6th April, 10.30 am, Druridge Bay, 5 miles. Meet at Low Hauxley car park, NU286033.

20th April, 10.30 am, Edmondbyers, 5 miles. Meet to south of The Punch Bowl in village, NZ017501.

## Sunday Bridge

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon playing Bridge in the Community Centre on April 7th from 2.00 pm. Only £3. All welcome.

## SoSAD Easter Fair

Our Easter Fair is on Saturday 6th April 11.30 am till 3 pm at Meadowfield Club and Institute, Frederick St South, DH7 8LZ.

There will be lots for all the family to do! Kids can re-home a cuddly toy if they don't feel up to rehoming a dog yet. There will be lots of home-made refreshments on sale as well as raffles, doggy tombola and much, much more with all proceeds going to Supporters of Stray and Abandoned Dogs (SoSAD) Charity No 1128800.

So far we've helped Deerness Kennels Rescue Centre save over 4000 dogs, from across County Durham & Darlington, from having to be put to sleep. With your help we can save even more. Why not come and see us. You'd be barking mad not to! Check out our new website [sosad.co.uk](http://sosad.co.uk).

## Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 9th April at 7.30 pm in the small hall of Lanchester Community Centre, David Williams will show Wildlife Photography from New Zealand to The Dales.

## Mothers' Union

The speaker at the meeting on Wednesday 10th April at 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, is Mrs Ann Shaw from Food4U, the Consett Food Bank.

## Bowling Club Spring Meeting

Lanchester Bowling Club will hold its Spring Meeting on Thursday 18th April at 7.00 pm in the Pavilion. All members and prospective new members are welcome.

## Paradiso Club

The next Social be held on Sunday April 7th, 7.00 pm - 9.15 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be a Raffle, Refreshments and the opportunity to see the film 'My Week with Marilyn', starring Michelle Williams, Kenneth Branagh, Eddie Redmayne, Emma Watson and Judi Dench.

The story of a week in the life of Marilyn Monroe when her then husband, Arthur Miller, leaves England and the coast is clear for a lowly assistant on the set of The Prince and the Showgirl to introduce her to some of the pleasures of British life; an idyllic week in which he escorted a Monroe desperate to get away from her retinue of Hollywood hangers on and the pressure of work. All welcome. Entry £2.50 members, £3.50 occasional visitors, £2 for young persons. The entry covers the raffle, refreshments and the film.

## WI

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 8th April (second Monday) in the small hall of the Community Centre starting at 7 pm.

Our speaker will be Dave English on the Art of Detergent Science and the competition your own advert for a washing powder.

Visitors are always very welcome.

Our Summer outing to Helmsley, Nunnington Hall and Northallerton will be on Wednesday 26th June. Cost to National Trust Members will be £13.75 and if you are not a National Trust member the cost is £20. Could members please pay as soon as possible (cheques if possible, made payable to Lanchester WI) with payment in named envelope, thank you.

## Spring Fair

On Saturday 20th April at the Community Centre, from 10 am - 2 pm, a variety of local arts and crafts, including Cards, Jewellery, Soaps, Teddies, Knitting, Quilting, Breads, Cakes, Jams, Chutneys, Cheeses, Ice Creams and much more.

## Whist Drive

The Whist Drive has recommenced in Lanchester Community Centre on a Wednesday afternoon from 2 pm - until 4 pm.

Why not come along and join us for a relaxing game? We would love to welcome new members. Do not worry if you have never played before - we are a very friendly bunch of people and only too happy and willing to show you the 'ropes'. Only £2 per session. For further information please contact Jean 07757942191.

## Thursday Club

By the time you read this we shall have celebrated our 33rd birthday with gorgeous cakes and a talk 'Curiously Wicked' - a chocoholics delight. In April, as well as our meeting on the 18th with Watt Stelling giving us a talk on 'The Listed buildings in Derwentside', we shall be holding a coffee morning on Thursday April 11th in the Community Centre Dining Room. Do come along for a delicious slice of cake/scone with coffee/tea and support our really worthy cause - which is the Great North Air Ambulance. £1 for your ticket to a great morning out - we look forward to seeing you there.

## Craft and Chat

On Monday 22nd April, from 7.00 until 9.00 pm in the Community Centre. £10.00 includes wine, nibbles and all materials. Pre-book at the Community Centre, 01207 521275.

## Flower Club

On Wednesday 24th April at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, there will be a demonstration 'Celebration' by Pamela Alexander of Pegswood.

## PACT Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th April at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

## Durham Dramatic Society

The next production is House Guest, by Francis Durbridge, between Sunday, 21st April and Saturday, 27th April, in the City Theatre, Fowlers Yard, Durham City. In this exciting thriller, Robert and Stella learn that their son has been kidnapped - not for a ransom but to force them to allow one of the kidnappers to stay in their house. Soon the police arrive and tell them that one of the kidnappers has been murdered. The plot thickens in a nail-biting production, which should not be missed. The performances start at 2.30 pm on Sunday and at 7.30 pm on Monday to Saturday. Tickets cost £6.50. Concessions at £5.00 are available on Sunday and Monday only. Tickets may be obtained from the Gala Box Office, Millennium Place, Durham; Tel: 0191 332 4041.

## Willow Burn What's On

**'Reflections' a new** while you're walking. Fundraising packs and application forms from Saturday 13th April; 2-5pm (not suitable for children under 12 years) Cost: £10 registration fee and a minimum sponsorship target of £30 per person. A lovely way to remember a loved one by walking through the beautiful countryside surrounding the hospice. Meet at the Three Horse Shoes at Maiden Law, for a 3-4 mile circular walk then walk or drive down to the hospice to leave a message on our Memory Wall and have tea and cake. Entry fee includes a Willow Burn T-Shirt, a goody bag and if wanted, an In Memory of .... badge to wear

**'Everlasting Leaves'** Following on from the above fundraiser, participants are invited to attend the unveiling of Willow Burn's new Everlasting Leaves project and memory tree in the hospice garden. The project involves purchasing an inscribed memorial stainless steel leaf which is then hung on the tree for one year, at the end of which time the subscription can be renewed, or the hospice will return the leaf to its owner. For more information visit [www.willow-burn.co.uk](http://www.willow-burn.co.uk)

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Portuguese Braised Steak and Onions

Serves 4  
(cook two and half hours)  
2 tbsp olive oil  
4 braising steaks  
4 tbsp red wine vinegar  
3 onions, finely sliced  
3 garlic cloves, finely chopped (optional)  
½ tsp paprika  
100ml/3-4 fl oz red wine  
400g can chopped tomatoes  
1 tsp tomato puree  
2 bay leaves  
Heat oven to 140C/120Cfan/gas 1. Heat half the oil in a shallow casserole pan. Brown the steaks well on each side, then remove from the pan. Splash the vinegar into the pan and let it bubble and almost evaporate. Add the rest of the olive oil and the onion, and gently fry on medium heat for 10-15 mins until softened and starting to colour. Once the onion has softened, stir in the garlic and paprika. Cook for 1 min more, tip in the red wine and chopped tomatoes, then stir through the tomato puree and bay leaves. Season, pop the steaks back into the pan, then cover and place in the oven for 2 hrs, stirring halfway through and adding a splash of water if needed. Cook until the meat is very tender. (Can also be cooled and then frozen for up to 3 months.)

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# CALLING ALL BABY BOOMERS

Are you a baby boomer? That is someone born soon after the second world war when couples decided it was a good time to start a family. If so, you will be recently retired or looking forward to retirement. Now is the time to take up Bowling. You may think you are too young to play an 'old folks' game but believe me you are not. If you want a recreation that

you will enjoy for many years to come, now is the time to start. You will make new friends and develop skills so you can be a top player in a few years' time. Lanchester Bowling Club is targeting baby boomers in the hope they will swell their ranks of players. Of course we welcome players of any age but being realistic lawn bowling is a sport that is particularly good

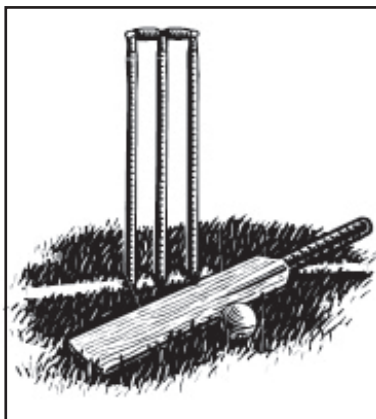
for retired people, both men and women. Recently one of the bowling clubs in the area has had to fold because of falling membership. Fortunately our club is far from that position but we recognise we must not become complacent. Bowling is great fun and highly sociable; it is a flexible sport that can take as much or as little of your time as you wish

and compared to other sports it is quite inexpensive. We are currently working on strategies to welcome new members and get them up and running as quickly as possible. A good starting point would be to come along to our spring meeting at 7 pm on Thursday 18th April in the pavilion. If you cannot make the meeting, contact the



club secretary Ken Raper on 01207 521673 or email lanchesterbowlingclub@yahoo.co.uk

## LATEST FROM THE CRICKET CLUB



The cricket season must be getting near ... because it snowed again!! It is getting to

the stage where we would hope to be outdoors practising but certainly can't until it gets a bit warmer. By the time you read this the winter nets will be over and we will be champing at the bit to get onto the grass. The season is likely to start, weather

permitting, on 20th April. As always we are looking for new players of all ages. We would especially welcome any new girls to the club as there is a superb opportunity for them to progress to the highest level. We have two level 2 coaches to work with the young people of the club and currently have a third going through his course. If anyone is interested in getting their coaching qualification we can help guide them

through and courses are available for people aged over 16 to level 1 and level 2. The coaches are currently delivering sessions at Lanchester All Saints Primary School during PE lessons and will continue to do so after Easter. Anyone wishing to bring their son or daughter along should contact our Child Welfare officer and junior coordinator Bob Gardiner on 07980238187.

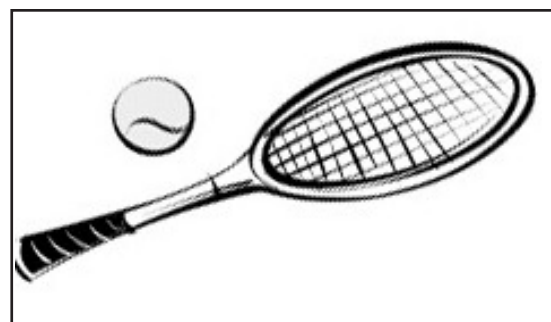
Anyone over the age of 18 who wishes to play for the club, would be gratefully received. We can certainly never have too many players. Just pop into the club for details of when practice is on and get signed up to play. The club is available free of charge for events and you can contact either Jim Potts on 07973249760 or Neil Graham on 07717516759 to book the use of the facilities.

## NEWS AT THE NET!

Following a busy winter coaching programme in the Community Centre and the continued success of the 'touch tennis' club held in St Bede's School, Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club now turns its attention to the coming 2013 season. After the Easter holidays, the coaching will re-commence on Monday 15th April at the Green School courts. Up to 8 years old will be 4.30 to 5.30 pm 8 to 10 year olds will be 5.30 to 6.30 pm Following consultation with the school, we hope to have facilities

available to make life a little more comfortable for those attending the coaching sessions there. During 2013, the club is hoping to pilot a new tennis initiative called 'Tennis Xpress'. This will target the older generation of player who perhaps has not participated in the game for some time and would like to return to tennis. Watch this space for more details! The social committee have met and a full programme of events has been planned. This will, of course, include the BBQ, Strawberry Tea, Tennis Fun Day and lots more. All we need is a bit of luck

with the all-important weather. Attention dog walkers!! Have you ever wondered what happens to used tennis balls? Well, the tennis club has lots and lots and if your dog is partial to chasing tennis balls, and losing them at the same time, the club can help. For a donation of only £1 you can be supplied with a dozen



tennis balls to keep your best friend happy for hours! For details about this or any other information, please contact Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278.

### NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any articles for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 16th April The deadline for adverts is 14th April.

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