

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 17

Lanchester, March 2016

For contact information, see page 2

ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL CELEBRATES READING

March 3rd was a very important day for students at All Saints' School. It was World Book Day and also marked the opening of the school library after its recent refurbishment. The day began with a special assembly for the whole school, when pupils could show off their costumes based on their favourite story book characters, with the teachers joining in the fun as well. Wizards and princesses, elves, Roman soldiers, witches and chimney sweeps all took a bow, with a special appearance of Tweedledum and Tweedledee!



To coincide with World Book Day, all students enjoyed spending time in their refurbished library, bright and attractive, and filled with lots of lovely books.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG?



Spring must be coming soon! Scene from the bypass in early March.

NEWBIGGEN LANE PLANNING INQUIRY BEGINS 12th APRIL
See page 2 for details.

NEW ADVERTISING MANAGER REQUIRED FOR VILLAGE VOICE

There is an opportunity to join a small team of dedicated volunteers who publish the Village Voice. This has come about because John Hurran, our Advertising Manager, has decided to move to Australia to join his family. If you have computer skills and would like to become involved in a community based publication, please email lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk for more information. You must have a good knowledge

of Microsoft Office and Desktop Publishing (the paper uses Pagemaker 7). Your main responsibilities will be:-

1. Maintaining the existing customer base.
2. Developing new business.
3. Designing of adverts.
4. Carrying out the necessary administration required to keep all records up to date.

There will be a handover period where full training will be given. John is leaving us at the end of June so we would like the new appointee to start by the end of April or earlier.

THANKS TO CHRISTINE LEVER

Christine Lever, who has delivered the Village Voice since its inception, has decided to retire. Everybody on the team would like to say a big thank you and I am quite sure that all who have had the Voice delivered by Christine over the years would join me in wishing Christine all the best for the future.

Meanwhile say a big hello to your new deliverer, Sally Laverick, who is to take over from Christine.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for February is 5. The draw was made by Martin Durkin, member of the Gym.

NEWBIGGEN LANE PLANNING APPEAL INQUIRY BEGINS 12th APRIL

The appeal by Story Homes against the decision of Durham County Council to refuse permission for 149 houses on Newbiggen Lane will be held in Lanchester Community Centre starting at 10.00 am on Tuesday 12th April 2016 and is expected to last for 6 days.

This will be the last chance for Story Homes and Durham County Council to put their cases before the planning inspector and it will also be our last chance to contribute our local knowledge and opinions to the proceedings.

The Lanchester Partnership and the Campaign to Protect Rural Lanchester intend to speak in support of Durham County Council's decision to refuse the application and to represent the views of local residents who object to the proposal. However, if any individuals wish to speak as well, they must

attend on the first day or get a message to the Inspector that they wish to speak.

This is the final stage of the planning application process. The inspector will aim to issue a decision within a few weeks of the inquiry, stating whether the appeal has been allowed or not.

We urge as many of you as possible to attend some or all of the sessions. This is our last opportunity to fight this application. We would particularly value your support on the days that local representatives and residents get the opportunity to speak.

It has been two years since the application was submitted and now everything rests on this final appeal. We need to do all we can to make a united show of opposition to the proposal. This is our last chance.

The Lanchester Partnership and Campaign to Protect Rural Lanchester

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise:

Contact John Hurran, Advertising Manager
Telephone: (01207) 520288
Email: villagevoiceadverts@talktalk.net

General and news enquiries:

(01207) 520559

By email:

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

By post:

The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

CORRECTION

We have been informed that there were errors in the article on The Erasmus Programme, printed in our last edition. The article stated that Mr Hurst from the Academy at Stanley spoke. However, Mr Hurst is not from any school, but

from the organisation which led the activities. In fact, it was Mr Reynolds from Conssett Academy who spoke about the importance of good relations with other countries. We apologise for these errors.

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SUCCESS FOR LANCHESTER SINGER



Rebecca Symonds with her trophies

Well done to Rebecca Symonds who performed at the Ryton and District Music Festival on 10th March winning The Stanley Davison Memorial Trophy and the Jean Crawshaw Trophy in the vocal solo sections. She was also awarded the James Nicholson Memorial Award which is presented to the most promising singer. Rebecca is a former pupil of St Bede's and local music tutor Marie Harrison, who has taught and inspired so many Lanchester children. A special thank you to Marie and Rebecca's current music teachers, June and David Gledhill.

GOODBYE FRED AND THANK YOU!

Fred Prophet was so much more than the driver of the Village Link Bus for eleven years; he was a much loved, helpful friend to many people in Lanchester. His contribution to village life has been described as more of a social service than a bus route and Fred's many grateful passengers wanted to send him on his way by throwing a goodbye party in his honour.

The celebration took place in the Black Bull Inn on March 3rd and Fred spoke movingly of his time on the village route. His regular passengers have become his friends;

he has shared their happiness and sadness and the work was obviously a labour of love for him. For personal reasons, he has retired but leaves the village taking many happy memories as well as a host of invitations to meet up with his friends for coffee.

Mike Gladstone, Chair of the Lanchester Partnership, described how some people are so unique that they can be recognised by only a single name and there can only ever be one Fred! Mike said Fred knew exactly what the Partnership wanted, a service especially for

people who were not as young and fit as they once were, to be able to go on living at home independently. A lady had contacted him in memory of her late mother, who had used the bus regularly. Because of the service, she could remain in her own home, keeping her independence and dignity.

Besides cards and gifts, a special certificate of thanks is to be awarded to Fred, from the Lanchester Partnership, and he is also being nominated for the County Council Chairman's Medal, the highest award made by the County Council.



Fred with some of his passengers and friends who helped to celebrate his retirement. Back left, Karin Bravington who does so much to raise funds for the Village Bus.

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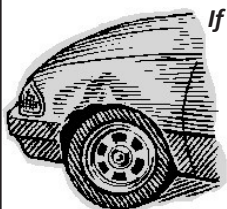
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LANCHESTER WEDDING



Gareth and Laura Tilley (maiden name Metters) married at Lanchester Church on Friday 4th March. Due to Gareth's love of fishing, his friends made an arch (fisherman's guard of honour) of fishing rods!

LANCHESTER AT BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

We can be justly proud of Lanchester Brass Band who, on Saturday March 12th, took part in the North of England Brass Band Championship, held in the Gala Theatre in Durham.

There were eight bands in the section and they all performed with style and competence.

Lanchester Band gave an excellent performance under the baton of Mr Steve Robson, a very gifted musician, who lives in Ireshopeburn. Everyone was delighted when James Draper, a well known young man from our village, received a trophy for the best Euphonium player out of all eight bands.

What an achievement! Well done James! You are a very talented young man and you will be such a miss when you go to university in September/October to study Music. We all wish you a very successful and happy future.

Brenda Craddock



James Draper (centre) with two other band members, Andrew Hedges and Katherine Bradshaw.

POLICE COMMISSIONER VISITS LANCHESTER



Left to right: Paul Hutchinson, Greenhouse Manager, PCSO Mark Rodgers, PCSO Debra Robson, Commissioner Ron Hogg, Roma Watterson, Policy and Delivery Manager.

Police Commissioner, public about the Ron Hogg with his police and the local entourage, was touring community. The nearby villages on the afternoon of Wednesday 9th March arranged through the Area Action Partnership and called at Lanchester Garden Centre to take relevant place in the restaurant between 3.00 pm and questions from the 5.00 pm.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

So the starting gun has been fired and the EU referendum campaign is underway. On 23rd June we get our chance to decide whether we remain in the EU or not. Over the coming months we will hear lots of statistics about the cost of remaining and the cost of leaving. You will not be surprised to find that I am campaigning to remain in the EU but ultimately you will have to make your own mind up. Before you do, can I just set out a few questions that I think we all need to ask ourselves:

*If we don't control our own borders why are 4,000 people living in makeshift camps outside of Calais trying to get into the UK. Surely if we had no control over our borders those camps would be in Kent not Calais.

*If it is so easy to negotiate trade deals with the EU why has it taken Canada 7 years to date and why are Norway and Switzerland paying £ per £ as much as we are to trade with the EU whilst still having to accept EU

regulations including free movement of people. *If the EU, the biggest trading block in the world with a market of 500m people, is so easy to get free trade agreements with, why do thousands of overseas companies base their production that supports millions of UK jobs here in the UK. Could it be that we are a gateway to the EU and we would lose that gateway and possibly those jobs if we left.

*At a time of international terrorism, international crime, migration and war, do you think that you and your children's future security is stronger and safer as part of the EU or outside.

Finally I want to say something about the peace dividend of the EU. Anyone who has ever toured the battlefields of France and Belgium will wonder how we ever allowed millions of our young to die time and again in wars in Western Europe. I understand that the EU is not the only reason that my son is not lying in a cold, unmarked grave outside Ypres or Thiepval like my great

grandfather and his brother, two young men from County Durham aged 25 and 22 who died within 6 weeks of one another, but the EU remains the single most important reason why we now settle our differences on a negotiating table and not on a battlefield. After every war there is a chorus of voices, from the victorious and the vanquished, that cry Never Again. Well, let's make sure it never happens again!

On 8th March, International Women's Day, I joined fellow women Labour MP's to celebrate the work of the EU in promoting the rights of women across Europe. The EU promotes gender equality for women in terms of equal pay, maternity leave and women's rights both in the workplace and elsewhere. The EU also promotes having more women in boardroom positions, where currently there is not parity between men and women in the boardrooms of our businesses. Pat Glass MP

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the meeting held on Tuesday 9th February 2016

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting on 12th January 2016 - approved.

Finance & Development Meeting on 27th January 2016 - approved.

Neighbourhood Warden Report - December - discussed and received.

Correspondence

1. Lanchester Partnership - Village Litter Pick

Permission was given to use the village green for the event.

2. Intergenerational Practitioners' Network meeting

Members to contact the Clerk if they wish to attend.

3. The Clerk Magazine - received.

4. Clerk & Councils Direct Magazine - received.

Area Action Partnership and Parish Council's Committee

Members were informed

that the proposed joint purchase of cameras to address fly tipping was on hold due to limited capacity of the County Council and a current restructure.

Members agreed in principle to support a children's summer activity scheme.

Neighbourhood Plan

Mike Wardle gave an update on progress.

The community is currently being consulted on the draft conservation area appraisal. The consultation period runs until the end of February.

The North of England Civic Trust is supporting the working group to produce a Heritage Audit of the Parish. A long list of Heritage Assets have been identified at a

community mapping session and two volunteer training sessions have taken place. The volunteers are currently undertaking survey work on the identified assets. There is a considerable amount of work involved. It may be that the timescale is extended to enable the volunteer work to be completed.

The second topic based questionnaire was distributed at the beginning of February. Many thanks to the volunteers that helped to distribute questionnaires in the village. The closing date for questionnaire returns is the end of February. An open day session will take place on Saturday 20th February at the

Methodist Church between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon.

Two members of the working group attended a recent seminar which provided information on the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Parking Working Group

Paul Jackson provided members with an update on the work of the group including proposals for time limited parking in the centre of the village. The minutes of the recent meeting are approved.

Pedestrian Crossing on Durham Road by the Village Green which becomes waterlogged during heavy rain

Members considered a response received from the County Council which confirms that they have undertaken a site visit and that the flooding has cleared and

the gullies are running satisfactorily.

Traffic Concerns in the Hollinside Area

Members considered information received from Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary which outlined information from a traffic survey and accident statistics.

It was agreed that a copy of the information is sent to the residents and a request is made to the Police to undertake a speed check of vehicles on a Sunday morning.

Newsletter - considered and approved for distribution.

Financial report - discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment - approved.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.15 pm at Lynwood House.



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Notes from the meeting held on 8th March 2016

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting on 9th February 2016 - approved.
 Planning Meeting on 9th February 2016 - approved.

Neighbourhood Warden Report

- January - discussed and received.

Police Report

- received.

Correspondence

1. Campaign to Protect Rural England - Spring newsletter received.

2. North East Combined Authority - consultation - 20 year transport manifesto. Members discussed and agreed a response to the consultation.

3. Inside Story - newsletter received.

4. Clerk & Councils Direct Magazine - received.

Area Partnership and Parish Council's Committee

Members agreed a contribution of £250.00 per year to support a two year children's summer activity scheme.

Neighbourhood Plan

The minutes of the meeting were approved. Mike Wardle gave an update on progress. Work continues on the Heritage Audit. A group of volunteers supported by the North of England Civic Trust are surveying the identified Heritage Assets. The second topic based questionnaire was administered during February. The returned

questionnaires are currently being inputted for analysis. A number of returns have been received from developers.

Community Emergency Plan

Members were informed that the plan has now been adopted and distributed. Training will shortly take place with the volunteers involved in the telephone tree.

Flooding

Members were informed of information received from the County Council on the proposed flood alleviation scheme. It was agreed that further information is sought on

the scheme and that officers from the County Council are asked to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Risk Assessment Schedule

The Risk Assessment was reviewed and approved.

Internal Audit Arrangements

The Internal Audit arrangements were reviewed and approved.

Schools - Distribution of newsletters

It was agreed that a donation of £75.00 be sent to each of the Primary Schools as a thank you for distributing the Council newsletters.

Grants/Donations

The following donations were agreed:

The Great North Air Ambulance - £100.00.

Lanchester All Saints Monday Club - £200.00.

Lanchester & Burnhope Parochial Church Council - £200.00.

Lanchester Agricultural Society - £200.00.

In addition it was agreed to donate £50.00 to Lanchester Brass Band.

Financial report

- discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment - approved. The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 12th April 2016 at 7.15 pm at Lynwood House.

POLICE REPORT

This month has been busy for us in Lanchester with lots of different incidents and initiatives taking place. A current trend starting to develop is antisocial behaviour during the evening with a new group of teenagers aged 12-15 years causing minor issues for the community. As a result, some individuals have received a home visit with more planned in the near future. We are also beginning to collate evidence for regular offenders to be placed on Acceptable Behaviour

Contracts which will include a curfew.

Good news stories this month include a male receiving a Community Protection Notice for causing and allowing antisocial behaviour at his address. If he breaches this notice he could receive a fine up to £2500. A male from Lanchester has also been sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment and 2 year driving disqualification after being found guilty of Causing Serious Injury by Dangerous Driving and finally, another male has

this month received a police caution after he was found in possession of 100g of cannabis.

Allotment Watch is being introduced across the area with the intention of getting allotment owners enrolled to receive regular information of crime trends and security risks. Once enrolled we will also distribute posters in the area to hopefully deter travelling criminals. If you are interested in getting signed up, please contact PCSO Lisa Jackson on 01207 520475. Parking continues to be a hot topic across the

county, especially outside schools, with similar issues being seen across all our schools in Lanchester and Burnhope. We are currently engaging with all head teachers to address these matters and will be patrolling the schools

during peak times to deter unacceptable parking. PCSO Lisa Jackson will be attending the next Lanchester Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 12th April, so if you have any concerns for our attention, please come along. PCSO 6780 Lisa Jackson

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A VIKING EPIC!

A full house at the Community Centre enjoyed the annual visit of North Country Theatre on 12th March and we were treated to a Scandinavian tale delivered in their inimitable style. 'Egil Skallagrimsson Keeps His Head' is based on the 10th Century 'Egil Sagas' which told, in poetry, of the lawless, bloodthirsty adventures of the Vikings. The Sagas blur myth and history, but our 'hero', Egil, did exist, though nowadays he would be called a psychopath, having dispatched a school mate with an axe to the head at the age of seven! The play centres around Egil's visit to York and confrontation with arch-enemies Erik Bloodaxe and Queen Gunnhild. Facing certain and immediate death, Egil composes a poem praising

King Erik's greatness and, in Arabian Nights' style, the King relents and allows Egil to return home. Nobby Dimon has done a great job adapting the Sagas into this play and the injection of his characteristic humour prevented it from becoming a depressing Scandinavian Noir. As always, with North Country Theatre, it is the inventiveness of the props which is so entertaining and this play did not disappoint, with Viking extras made from poles, coathangers, sweaters and helmets joining in the action scenes. Particularly memorable was the long-boat being rowed by two men and four 'extras' in perfect synchronisation. The play had only four actors, Nobby, Thomas Frere, Mark Cronfield and Susan Jinks. Mark was



Nobby Dimon, writer, director and actor of North Country Theatre

great as the bloodthirsty Egil, but special credit is due to Susan, who gave a flawless performance despite being a last-minute replacement for Vivienne Garnett.

There was musical interest too, as Mark played the Nordic Harp - a hand-held 6 string instrument - which perfectly accompanied the spoken words.

After refreshments, a Q&A/discussion session rounded off an enjoyable evening's entertainment and we look forward to their return in the Autumn. Neville Hartley

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LOCAL MUSICIAN RELEASES

5th ALBUM

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With over 35 years' playing experience he has appeared at numerous festivals including Edinburgh Festival, Cheltenham Jazz Festival and clubs such as The Mean Fiddler and Ronnie Scott's in London with appearances in New York and Dublin. He supported the legendary Jools Holland 2012 at various dates around the UK. An accomplished guitarist, songwriter and



Steven Sproat

ukulele exponent, Steven is the author of several best selling tutorial books around the world. His 5th Album is called 'Fruit for the Soul' and is available from 18th March.

'WRECKREATION' LAUNCHED

A talented fashion designer from Lanchester, Sally Smallwood, has swapped the Manhattan skyline for the landscape of North West Durham to launch her own label - and hopefully to create local jobs. Sally spent some time working in the US fashion hotbed of New York after graduating in Fashion Design from Northumbria University but she returned home to launch her label, Wreckreation, from a studio at Greencroft Industrial Estate. The fashion label creates men's and women's sport-luxe and everything is designed and produced in-house, often with the help of students from Northumbria University. Sally's clientele includes

musicians from around the world and she has recently been accepted to sell in a London store. She said: "The bright, optimistic and contrasting colours with bold graphics are inspired by high energy, loud music and fast cars. We are driven by a desire of social change. The word Wreckreation itself means to wreck outdated doctrines and to create your own world for yourself. As well as allowing full creative control, the aim of staying local is to create jobs, especially for those with skills from the garment factories which have closed. Our success so far, proves you don't have to be in London to succeed in the fashion industry."

Sally has borrowed from her New York experience to launch a promotional video with a gritty, urban backdrop which could easily have been filmed in the notorious Bronx district of New York. Instead it was set in an Annfield Plain scrapyard! Sally believes it is important to give back to the community and is involved with local schools. She has done talks at St Bede's and is in contact with Mrs Davis of the EP School, as some of her pupils will be featuring in her fashion film when her kids' wear line is launched. Local students interested in design and fashion often call in to the studios to see what it's like and to ask questions.




Sally's collection, filmed in a scrap yard in Annfield Plain (much better in colour). Photograph by Chris Ord-min.




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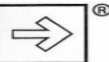
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NATIONAL BOOK WEEK



Mary Poppins with lots of children

The week beginning Monday February 29th was National Book Week and this was significantly celebrated in the EP School. Reading has always been given a high priority in the National Curriculum and the joy of reading and the knowledge it imparts is of great importance in all schools.

There were many 'visitors' to the school on Thursday, March 3rd: Mary Poppins, Snow White, Cinderella, the Princess of The Princess

and the Pea story, Fame, Dennis the Menace, A Cat in a Hat, Star Wars characters, Captain America, Flash, Goldilocks and The Three Bears, Witches and Munchkins from Wizard of Oz and many more. All these visitors, brought by the pupils, were such fun to meet. Not to be outdone, the staff had entered into the spirit of the day and were dressed up as story book characters. As befitted 'Book Week' there were books in view

everywhere and outfits characters of Frozen, were matched with the relevant book and were being read with added enthusiasm. No doubt this would be followed up with an abundance of creative writing and imaginative discussion. The whole week was a very valuable learning experience and a gaining confidence and competence one too. No-one was left in any doubt that books are an integral part of learning and of living. Long live books!
Brenda Craddock



Guess Who?

HOSPICE CARE CHANGED GRANDDAUGHTER'S LIFE

The care and kindness shown to her dying grandmother changed Jacki Pigford's life. Eight years ago Christine Pigford from Delves Lane, who was only 58, was coming to the end of her battle with cancer when she spent a week at the Willow Burn Hospice. Members of Christine's family were so grateful for the support provided for her and them that they organised a charity night which raised £3,500. Jacki, who was just 14 at the time of her grandmother's death, said: "She was only there a short time, but the care provided by the staff was so fantastic. We've never forgotten." After school Jacki, who is now 23 and lives in Lanchester, went on to study Occupational Therapy at Teesside University. For work experience during her final year she asked Willow Burn whether she could become a

volunteer in its day hospice and she was there every week for eight months. Towards the end of her work experience Jacki and her family decided to organise a second charity night to raise more money for the hospice and they collected £2,500. Katherine Luke, Willow Burn's Income Generation and Marketing Manager, said: "I was so impressed when I saw Jacki with patients around the hospice as well as the way she approached her fundraising. Luckily I

was looking for a community fundraiser - and the rest is history." Jacki has been in the job for nearly a year and is already helping to plan Willow Burn's first charity ball in partnership with The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, which takes place at the Beamish Hall Hotel on 16th September. "It doesn't seem like a job to me because I am so passionate about it," she said. "I never thought I was going to do this, but now I can't think of anything else I would want to do instead."



Jacki with the Everlasting Leaves on the Memorial Tree at Willow Burn.

SACRED CONTRASTS

Our Roman Catholic Church was the venue for a very memorable concert on the evening of Friday March 11th. It was the first of two concerts given by Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society every year. The title for the concert was the rather intriguing 'Sacred Contrasts' and David Hughes, the conductor and Musical Director of the Society, had chosen some beautiful works from a variety of great composers, namely Purcell, Handel, Mozart, Schubert, Fauré, Puccini, John Rutter and Karl Jenkins. We know we are going to have an excellent evening with David at its helm and he made it very interesting by imparting his knowledge of these great composers

so that we could fully appreciate their greatness, understand the contrasts of their work and the tremendous influence they had on the society of their day. Their great works covered four centuries, 18th to the present day. Whose heart has not quickened at Handel's 'See the conquering Hero comes' and 'Zadok the Priest' or Puccini's 'Gloria'? The singing of these great works was glorious, as indeed was the voice of Susan Jordan who was the guest soprano soloist and who has made many guest appearances with the Society. Her rendition of Mozart's 'Alleluia' was magical. Bill Gray was the accompanist for the evening and his great talent enhanced the

evening as it always does. Canon Bob Spence gave a very warm welcome to everyone at the beginning of the evening and asked the audience to be reflective about the sacred music and meditative with a view to the Easter Festival message of repentance, forgiveness, hope and joy. In his closing thanks to the Society for all the work which had been done to make such a memorable evening he asked the audience to leave the church reverently and reflectively, after the final item by John Rutter, 'The Lord God Bless you and Keep You.' His words were adhered to as people made their way to the Parish Centre for refreshments. Brenda Craddock

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THURSDAY CLUB'S GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE COFFEE MORNING



Scrumptious cakes

What a busy morning we had at our coffee morning on Thursday, March 3rd, in the Dining Room of the Community Centre. We were extremely lucky with the weather and a lot of folks turned out in support.

The room was quickly filled to bursting point, which led to a lively tombola and raffle table. There was a lovely buzz of animated conversation throughout the morning as everyone

enjoyed the chat, coffee/tea and scrumptious cakes on offer. £300+ was made and we thank all who helped in any way towards our efforts of supporting such a worthwhile cause.

THURSDAY CLUB UPDATE

At our last meeting of the Thursday Club in February we enjoyed listening to a talk and slide show given by Judith Lund on the 'Falklands'. Judith's daughter had spent time there when her husband had been stationed on the island. We therefore got a very personal and inside view of island life.

We spent time organising our 2016 outings, the forthcoming coffee morning and our 36th Birthday party. The Thursday Club - the place to be for an enjoyable, relaxing, stress-free evening. Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Main Hall of the Community Centre at 7.30 pm.

VEGETABLE PATCHES AVAILABLE

I have an allotment in Victoria Terrace with 5 vegetable patches. They are too much for me to look after, so there are 3 spare if anyone would like

to use them. First come first served. Tools are available to use as well if needed. Text/call 07929 088694 if interested. Hannah Taylor

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FOOL'S GOLD IN LANCHESTER



'Fools Gold', Steve and Carol Robson, during one of their popular performances.

What better way can there be to celebrate the start of summer than with an enjoyable musical evening out at a popular local venue? Stanley based folk duo Fool's Gold are all set to deliver an evening of songs and their stories at Lanchester Community Centre on Saturday 14th May at 7.30 pm. Tickets are priced at £8 and the event is advertised as 'bring your own bottle'.

The show will build upon the popular presentation the pair have performed at Lanchester Library over recent years and will be a grand opportunity to enjoy the show in an intimate theatre style setting. Steve and Carol Robson make up the duo and recent seasons have seen them performing their 'Stories with Strings' show all over the country to appreciative

audiences. Steve says: "We know that people like the songs, but we've discovered that audiences really like the stories that lie behind them, so we tell those too". The show will be enhanced by the use of images and video that really bring the songs (and stories) to life. Many of the songs have local

themes and some are very well known indeed. Carol, who plays tenor guitar, flute, whistles and bass (as well as being the main vocalist) observed; "it's great fun to sing some of the really local songs and it's surprising how well they're received all over the country". Proceeds from the show will be partly donated to the Community Centre to

help with funding and ensure that this very popular facility can continue to serve the community so well. Tickets are available from the Lanchester Community Centre or by calling 01207 521275. More information can be obtained from Fool's Gold via the website at www.foolsgold.acoustic.co.uk.

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SATLEY WI MARCH REPORT

Our President Lynda Horn welcomed members to our March meeting along with demonstrator Glynis and her daughter Nichola from 'Cakeberry Corner'.

We have had quite a busy March, starting with some members visiting the Archives at County Hall along with members from other WI groups. It proved to be very enlightening and interesting. Records kept are dated from as early as 1122 up to present day and Parish registers until last year. We were taken into the 'strong room' where these are kept after the Archivist had given us insight on how it operated. Visitors are most welcome but by appointment only.

A team was entered into the darts competition; the heats took place at Witton Gilbert on March 10th. The AGM will take place at Bishop Auckland on

April 5th which our President will attend. We have entered the competition there with a limerick, composed by one of our members.

Our demonstration/workshop, 'Easter themed cupcakes' began with Glynis of Cakeberry Corner. She demonstrated decorations of bunnies, chicks etc and then it was over to us! We had a very enjoyable time decorating cupcakes, which Glynis had brought, with shapes we had cut out for the Easter theme of our choice. A very professional looking display was produced. This was followed by tea and biscuits and a social chat.

The raffle was drawn and won by Aldwyn Anderson. The competition, a pretty cake stand was won by Avril Carpenter, Joan Smith came 2nd and 3rd went to Kathleen Snowdon.

LANCHESTER WI 'THE ANTARCTIC'

We welcomed three visitors to our March meeting and we had a lot of business to discuss. Our next Coffee Morning will be held on Thursday, April 7th. Tickets are on sale now but you will be able to pay on entry that morning. This was the final Monday of our trial period of meeting in the large hall and there have been positive comments about our new venue. Further discussions will take place with the Male Voice Choir, who kindly agreed with our request to swap the halls. The Community Centre thanked us for our contribution to their appeal for updating their lighting and President Marie Murphy launched our branch collection for the Association of Country Women of the World which will run over several meetings. Reports were given about recent social events as well as news about our usual clubs and planned cinema and theatre visits. Jean Dougherty offered a very beautiful reading, 'I am Winter' which promised that after the long, cold days we've



Member Hilary Taylor introduced us to one of the inhabitants of Antarctica.

had, Spring will closely follow!

Several members have volunteered for duty as tea hostesses, or providing raffle prizes etc - we thank them for their contributions and welcome more from members. We're having a very busy social calendar recently, so please keep yourself informed! Our raffle prizes were awarded to Jean Dougherty and Barbara Sproat and our competition of 'A Cold Scene' was won by Breda Branscombe and Christine Gibson. We settled to listen to Member Hilary Taylor, who gave us a really informative and exciting

account of her cruise to the Antarctic which was illustrated by some fascinating slides. Her journey started in Buenos Aires which looked beautiful, with impressive architecture and memories of 30s cafe society and Evita Duarte.

We learned about the different penguins and birds inhabiting the Antarctic and how measures are in place to ensure the area is kept as pristine as possible. The region looked wonderful, impressive and breathtaking in its solitude, but Hilary says it's actually impossible to give a true picture of its beauty.



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Fish Chowder

This is a very easy dish to produce; it possibly originated in France, taking its name from the French word chaudière, a cauldron. It was taken to America by European immigrants and became a very popular soup. From traditional peasant food, it has now become a more trendy meal!

You need ... (for 4 servings)

450 g (1 lb) fresh haddock
1 onion, skinned and sliced
2 bacon rashers, rinded and chopped
3 potatoes, peeled and sliced
425 g (15 oz) can tomatoes
600 ml (1 pint) fish stock
Salt and pepper
Bay leaf
2 cloves
1) Skin the haddock and cut it into cubes.

2) Melt the butter and sauté the onion and bacon for 5 minutes. Add the potatoes and the fish.
3) Sieve the tomatoes with their juice and add the purée to the fish stock. Stir into the fish mixture and add the seasoning and flavourings.
4) Cover and simmer for 30 minutes, until the fish is soft but holds its shape. Remove bay leaf and cloves.

LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB

The meeting on Wednesday 24th February was our Annual General Meeting and 17 members attended. The Committee was re-elected. Anne Davison, a long serving Committee Member, resigned and the club would like to thank her most sincerely for all her hard work and commitment to the club over the years. The Summer Outing on 22nd June to Blackwell Grange Hotel for lunch and then a visit to open gardens at Heworth Village was discussed and numbers have been taken. Helen Huitson then gave a very interesting talk on the beginnings of the Body Shop Empire and many ladies bought some of the lovely goods she had on display. A very enjoyable afternoon.

CRICKET NEWS

By the time you read this, the indoor nets will just have finished and we'll be looking forward to getting outdoors. It's been a disappointing month as we lost three out of four weeks of net time as the hall needed repairs, the Tyne and Wear Derby and Easter Sunday all cost us our spot. We've got players' meetings on Thursday 7th April, with the juniors and parents at 6.30 and the seniors at 8 pm. We hope to get all players paying their annual subs at that meeting. If we don't catch them then, we have our Cricket Force Day two days later on Saturday 9th April. On that day we have a concerted effort to prepare the club for the new season. There has been a change to when the under 13s play their games, moving from a Sunday morning to a

Wednesday night. That decision is not without controversy as the seniors regularly play cup ties that night. As a consequence the under 11s have been moved from a Tuesday night to the Sunday morning slot. Due to the changes, the fixtures are not yet out. The under 9s will again compete in the Derwentside competition staged over two Sundays in the season. We have a lot of under 9s so we hope to get them some friendlies to keep them playing as much as possible. Stu McPhail will lead the first team once more, with John Rourke leading the seconds and Neil Graham taking over at the helm of the thirds. There is still room for new players so if anyone is interested, contact Stu on 07929088694.

BEER FESTIVAL 2016

Things are dropping nicely into place with Life at Durham Gate agreeing to sponsor the event for the third year and we are extremely grateful for that support. Locally the Black Bull has agreed to be a sponsor, whilst we have also picked up Oliver's Garden and Tree Services from Langley Park, Express Mini Mix from Esh and Gary Hall Windows and Conservatories to support the event. There is a change in Sunday's music line up as the Four Forty One's now line up between The Castells and The Pretty Weeds. Thanks to modern technology, you can check out all our featured bands on YouTube before you come along. Whilst we have a good number of members to act as volunteers, if anyone

wanted to help out, please contact the club by dropping in and we'll gladly take you up on your offer. The Police have promised to have a presence in Kitswell Road and around the village as people leave the event each day and I urge everyone attending the event to respect our neighbours and not disrupt their weekend. Tickets can be purchased in advance through our lanchesterbeerfestival.com website and buying them now allows you to get them for £5 per day, whilst the price on the day will be £7. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a beer, then please contact us through the Beer Festival website. It is only £125 but it gives you access to all three days, with drinks tokens, programmes and advertising thrown in.

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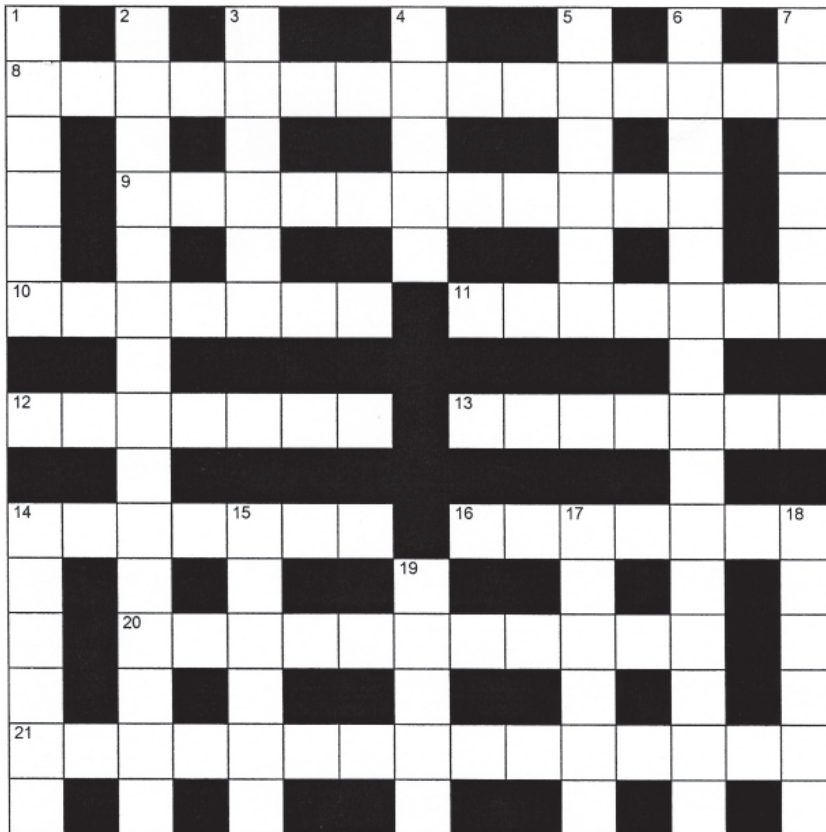
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CROSSWORD 119



ACROSS

8. One's personal criticism from false porn deceit (4-11)
9. Songbird (11)
10. N American square dance (7)
11. Oh dear, what a shame (3,2,2)
12. Counter used to run rings round (7)
13. Satan (7)
14. French composer (7)
16. Cheated (7)
20. Highly influential person (11)
21. Do as promised (7,3,5)

DOWN

1. Old Testament prophet (6)
2. Jane Mansfield, Marilyn Monroe etc. (6,9)
3. To be performed slowly (6)
4. Characteristic behaviour (5)
5. Devastate a grave (6)
6. Variety if Croat is divine (15)
7. Heroin being used (2,4)
14. Ten year span (6)
15. Deprive (6)
17. Employ (6)
18. Contaminate sea bed (6)
19. Nitwit extols inclusion of bird (5)

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.

LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

CROSSWORD 118

There were 18 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Mrs M Boyes of Ridgeway who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 118

ACROSS

1. clamour
5. lumbago
9. Medoc
10. nefarious
11. ebullience
12. idol
14. age of consent
18. Armistice Day
21. talk
22. unfaithful
25. officiate
26. rehab
27. doyenne
28. tidings

DOWN

1. compel
2. ardour
3. oncologist
4. range
5. life cycle
6. mark
7. a good bet
8. obsolete
13. enraptured
15. orientate
16. fast food
17. small fry
19. Afghan
20. alibis
23. adept
24. scan

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.

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



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LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

20 plus members and visitors braved the extreme cold for a night at the March meeting of the History Society. The refreshments were gratefully received as we gathered for the evening. The meeting commenced at 7 pm when the chair updated the audience on the progress of the Village Heritage Audit. Some interesting things have come to light and all is being submitted for the final report. Marian then introduced Denis Jones, the speaker for the night, a conservation architect and Chairman of The Bow Trust, the body which oversees the Durham Museum and Heritage Centre located in the Grade 1 listed building of St Mary Le Bow, Durham. When the Church closed the doors in the 1970s the Bow Trust was set up to secure the building, preventing it from falling into a state of disrepair. Situated in the North Bailey at the top of Bow Lane and at the east end of the Cathedral, the museum was initially named the Heritage Centre. However, in the intervening period, the Durham peninsular attained the honour of World Heritage Site status requiring the provision of a visitor centre. This led to some confusion with terminology as townsfolk often refer to the visitor

centre as the Heritage Centre, thus the Bow Trust renamed St Mary Le Bow as the Durham Museum and Heritage Centre.

The building the trust took over had been stripped of much of the church adornments but still retains some Bishop Cosin's woodwork from his extensive post Civil War refurbishment. Denis then described the continued work seeking grants to maintain and improve the facilities of the centre. They have displays that cover The Durham Story beginning with St Cuthbert, the Castle and stories about different aspects of life across the city over the centuries. They host some interesting exhibits including some significant sculptures by the local artist Fenwick Lawson.

The charity is relatively small and the museum depends on volunteers but is a hands-on museum, so great for taking children or visiting school parties. This is their 40th anniversary and to celebrate they are holding an anniversary event on Saturday 2nd April 11.00-4.00 with Free Entry. Normally there are seasonal limited opening times which can be found at their website www.durhamheritagecentre.org.uk or phone 0191 3845589.

TENNIS CLUB GETS READY FOR 2016 SEASON

The start to the 2016 season for Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club will begin with coaching sessions on the Green School courts located behind the bowling green. The club will hold the following sessions from Monday 4th April: 5 to 8 years old will be 4.30 to 5.30 pm; 9 to 12 year olds will be 5.30 to 6.30 pm. The cost will be £3.00 per session, all equipment provided.

From Monday 9th May, after a break for the Bank Holiday, the coaching will move to the grass courts on Ford Road, adding a third session for the 13 years to adult players.

On Sunday 15th May, the club will hold a Great British Tennis open day.

A full free programme of activities will be available, including a family tournament and refreshments. Watch out for the posters around the village.

Other events throughout the year will include the Strawberry Tea, Barbeque and lots more. All we need is a bit of luck with the all-important weather! The



Dennis Laycock hard at work cutting the grass

photograph shows the groundsman preparing the grass courts in readiness for the new season. So if you are new to the game or, possibly returning to the sport after some time, come and try the game on your local courts at this friendly club.

Please don't hesitate to contact Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278 (email

den.lizjane@gmail.com) with any query about the club.

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WHAT'S ON?

Open House

Join us in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 7th April 11.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Vintage Tractor Club

Meet on Wednesday 6th April at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Social Club.

Country Market

The next market will take place on Saturday 2nd April from 10 am until 12 noon in the Methodist Church.

Library Book Club

On Monday April 25th at 2.30 to 3.30 the group will be discussing 'House of Silk' by Anthony Horowitz his bestselling Sherlock Holmes novel. If you have read this book why don't you come along, or pick up your copy of the novel from the library. We have enjoyed a very varied selection of books chosen by Zena Roddom one of Lanchester's librarians and await her next selection. We look forward to seeing you then.

Local History Society

Subject: Bishops of Durham in Medieval Times

Speaker: John Balmer

Date: April 1st

Time: 7pm

Venue: Lanchester Community Centre

This will be an exciting talk on the varied and colourful history of the Prince Bishops of Durham who were knights, soldiers, king's advisors, collectors of books in a turbulent time in this area. Visitors are always welcome (£2). For more information about the History Society contact marianmorrison@btinternet.com

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be at Hawthorn Dene, on Sunday 17th April. We will meet in the Community Centre car park at 9.30 am.

Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th April at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre Dining Room. The subject will be 'From Hay Time to Nectarworks', flower rich areas of the North Pennines with Ruth Starr-Kedde, Pennine AONB.

Flower Club

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th April at 2 pm in Lanchester Community Centre, everyone welcome. There will be a demonstration by Katie Jane Pridmore whose topic will be 'Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder'.

Sunday Bridge

Are you a Bridge player? If so, why not come along to the Community Centre on 3rd April 2.00 pm for an enjoyable afternoon of Bridge. The entrance fee is £3.00 and all profits to the Community Centre. Please note this is the last afternoon for this winter.

Community Centre Events

Library Theatre Group
Present 'The Kingfisher'
Saturday 9th April at 7.30 pm. Tickets £9.

Crafters Spring Fair

Saturday 30th April 10.00am - 2.00pm free entry. Lots of wonderful stalls plus refreshments and a raffle.

Fool's Gold

Folk Music Night with Fool's Gold on Saturday 14th May, starts 7.30 pm. Tickets £8.

Lanchester Social Club

Friday 1st April
FRIDAY NIGHT 50/50
DANCING

Saturday 2nd April
MARK HODGSON, Great Vocalist

Sunday 3rd April
Sunday Night Buskers

Friday 8th April
FRIDAY NIGHT 50/50
DANCING

Saturday 9th April
NICOLA BROWN, Delightful Young Singer

Sunday 10th April
Sunday Night Buskers

Friday 15th April
FRIDAY NIGHT 50/50
DANCING

Saturday 16th April
STEVE LEE, Fabulous Soul/Motown Singer

Sunday 17th April
Sunday Night Buskers

Friday 22nd April
FRIDAY NIGHT 50/50
DANCING

Saturday 23rd April
MARIE MICHELLE, Star Vocalist

Sunday 24th April
Sunday Night Buskers

Friday 29th April
FRIDAY NIGHT 50/50
DANCING

Saturday 30th April
JOHN MAC, Vocalist

Sunday 1st May
Sunday Night Buskers
Lanchester Library

The library offers Songs and Stories on Thursday afternoons from 2-3 pm. All children under 5 years are welcome.

Beetle Drive Cancelled

Unfortunately the Beetle Drive planned for March 30th has been cancelled. The Lanchester Partnership apologises for this. Perhaps another time?

Lanchester Writers

Lanchester Writers meet in Lanchester Library every Tuesday 2 - 4 pm. during school term time. New members are always welcome.

Short Circuit Walks

Venue: **Seaton Delaval/Seghill Circle**

Date: April 2nd
OS Ref: NZ292766
NE250QG

Miles: 5
Leader: Bill Wright
Phone: 07947043610
Meet at Keel Row in Delaval on the A192, Astley Road/Station Road, which runs NW from the centre.

Venue: **Morpeth to Mitford**

Date: April 16th
OS Ref: NZ196859
NE61 1LT

Miles: 5.6
Leader: Ruth Clough
Phone: 01670735095
Car park in Morpeth next to river and bridge, behind the Leisure Centre, for all day parking.

Venue: **Warkworth and Amble**

Date: April 30th
OS Ref: NU247062
NE650XE

Miles: 5
Leader: Anne Dickinson
Phone: 01670517303
Meet at the 'Stanners' riverside car park on the south side of the river to the west of Town Centre, NW of Dial Place.

Community Centre

Coffee Morning

The Community Centre coffee morning normally held on 14th April has been cancelled due to a Public Inquiry using the Community Centre.

Needlecraft Group

The Needleworkers meets every Wednesday from 1-3 pm. Charge £2. Contact Community Centre on 01207521275 for details.

Lacemaking

The Lacemakers meet on Mondays and Fridays from 7-9 pm. Charge £3 per night.

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club in the Main Hall of the Community Centre at 7.30 pm will be on April 21st. Norman Kirtland will be along to give us a talk on NE England Victorian Customs followed by a quiz.

Bowls Spring Meeting

Lanchester Bowling Club will hold its Spring meeting on Thursday 14th April at 7 pm in the Pavilion. All members and any prospective new members will be very welcome. Help given to new bowlers. Visit our website: bowlingclub.wix.com/lanchester.

Paradiso Social Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday April 10th at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual refreshments, raffle and a film which will start at 7.30 pm. The film we will be screening is the latest much lauded adaptation of Thomas Hardy's literary classic, 'FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD', starring Carey Mulligan, Matthias Schoenaertes, Michael Sheen and Tom Sturridge. Mulligan plays Bathsheba Averdene an independent woman who attracts three different suitors:

All are welcome.
Entry:
£2.50 members
£3.50 occasional visitors
£2 young persons
Entry ticket covers the raffle, refreshments and film.

Mothers Union

At the meeting on Wednesday 13th April at 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, instead of a speaker there will be a scripture market.

Willow Burn Coming Events

I Like Tea Me

7th April at 1.30-3.00pm in the Day Centre at Willow Burn Hospice. An open day to mark the unveiling of patients' artwork, an exhibition and celebration of creativity and life at Willow Burn Hospice. Please join us to support and celebrate the role of creativity in hospice care ... and of course to share a cup of tea.

Good Food, Live Music & Quiz Night

8th April Join us for a night full of good food, live music and a Family Fortunes quiz at The King's Head, Lanchester. The evening will feature Conssett's very own Miranda Newton playing 60s to present day music, followed by a game show style quiz including Family Fortunes, Deal or No Deal, Card Bingo, Heads & Tails, Domino Card and Raffle. Cost: £20 per person (of which £5 per ticket will be donated to Willow Burn Hospice). For more information and to buy tickets phone: 01207 523900 or Will Gardner, 07703807383 or email: fundraising@willowburnhospice.org.uk. Also available from The King's Head.

Spring Fair

Come along on 9th April and enjoy a fun-filled day at our Spring Fair. Hot and Cold Refreshments, Easter Egg Tombola & Raffle, Crafts stalls, Home Made Cakes and much, much more ... a great day for all the family! If you are interested in holding a stall at this fair please contact us for more information as soon as possible to secure your place - space is limited! For more information or to buy raffle tickets contact: Fundraising on 01207 523900 or email: fundraising@willowburnhospice.org.uk.

Make a Will with Willow Burn

Willow Burn Hospice organises a special 'Make a Will' month in March or April with many local participating Solicitors. During the month the Solicitors give their time freely and the customer makes a minimum donation of £70 for a single Will or £95 for a joint Will. Last year many people created a new single or joint Will during March and those fees raised over £5000 which were much needed funds for the Hospice.

Murder Mystery Supper

An evening of fun and detective work at Lanchester Methodist Church on Saturday 23rd April starting at 7.15 pm. The evening will include a 4-course meal and all profits will go towards Cancer Research, The Bible Society's work in Cambodia and ME North East. Tickets minimum of £8 donation per person and are available from Lanchester Methodist Church on Thursday mornings, Lanchester News or call 01207 521458 or 520427. All parts acted by Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society.

Satley WI

The next meeting will be April 11th in the Village Hall at 7.15 pm. Visitors are most welcome. The speaker will be Anya, Satin and Silk, telling us the history of silk, its meaning and its role in fashion today. The competition will be 'a silk item'.

Computers 4 All

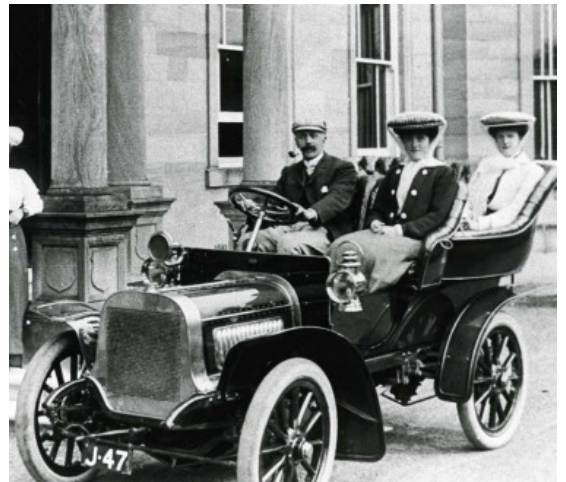
Your Village drop-in facility for help with PCs, Laptops and Tablets. Open between 9.30 and 11.30 am on Mondays and Thursdays in the Community Centre, our small friendly service is here to help, entirely free of charge.

An Evening with Noel & Patricia Richards

The internationally known duo will be commencing their new European tour in Lanchester Methodist Church no less, on Tuesday 12th April. Both are singer/guitarists who, in the past, have played at the Wembley Stadium! Their songs are thoughtful and very well executed. Lancastrians, therefore, can be guaranteed a very good night's entertainment! (CD's will be available)

The concert starts at 7.15 pm (doors open at 6.30 pm). Refreshments will be available. Tickets are £7 from Lanchester News or Di Tute (tel 01207 529286). All proceeds made from the concert will go to the three charities the Lanchester Methodist Church is supporting this year: ME North East (local), Cancer Research UK (national), Bible Society - Cambodia (international).

VINTAGE CAR RECOGNISED



Page 10 of the February Village Voice showed a photograph of car J 47 with the Piercey-Smith family outside Colepike Hall. The car has been identified by one of the UK's leading veteran car

experts as a 1904 12 hp Argyll, a 2-cylinder vehicle made in Scotland that in its day would have been a very prestigious car. Thanks to Chris Lee for this information.



Advertising in the Village Voice

Advertising your business in the Village Voice could not be easier, just give us a ring and we will do the rest. We offer a free design service to prepare a unique advert promoting your business in 2700 homes in and around Lanchester. The cost starts at £15 per month for a credit card size advert.

You can advertise for one month or every month, it's up to you.

Just contact John Hurran and he will do the rest.

Contact details:- Phone 01207 520288 or Mobile 07952836475

Email villagevoiceadverts@talktalk.net

CROFT VIEW HALLS OPEN DAY



Robbie playing Carpet Bowls with Dennis - bends it like Beckham.



Geoff Hockaday and Maurice Ridley enjoy a game of Table Tennis.

After the recent refurbishment of the Sports Hall with a superb wood surface, it was a good time to hold an Open Day to let the general public see exactly what goes on at this venue and

view the sort of facilities available. All the groups who currently use the hall were represented with their own displays. Among those were the following: Badminton Group, Table

Tennis, Carpet Bowls, Activate Theatre, Boys Brigade, Brownies and Guides. There were really interesting displays to look at which included a photographic history of the building, covered by

a very good leaflet for the visitors. Some of those who attended enjoyed having a game of Carpet Bowls and Table Tennis. A group of people who live at Croft

Court met to view the facilities and it is possible that they will decide to have some coffee mornings there which may include some other suitable activities as well.

LANCHESTER COMMUNITY ORCHARD WASSAIL

Once again, the Lanchester Community Orchard came together on a very chilly but sunny January day to celebrate the tradition custom of Wassailing. Wassailing was traditionally seen as a way of waking up the trees from their winter sleep and feeding them with bread and cider to thank them for the previous harvest. The Wassailers also hoped to encourage a bumper crop for the coming year. We duly supplied our trees with their cider and bread and sang traditional Wassailing songs and poems. We were delighted this year to be accompanied on



Community Orchard volunteers celebrate the Wassailing tradition accompanied on the accordion by Noel Jackson from Lanchester Wildlife Group

the accordion by Noel Jackson from the Lanchester Wildlife

group. Noel had also written a Lanchester Wassailing Song which

was sung several times. We are hoping to have another successful fruit

growing year producing a wonderful crop of apples, pears, plums and soft fruit. The Community Orchard is run and maintained by volunteers, we meet regularly to maintain the orchard, and pick and enjoy the fruit. It's a great way to get outside, take some exercise and enjoy some good company. We are always delighted to have new members join the Orchard and there are lots of tasks that children could be involved in too. If you would like to join or find out more, please contact Eleanor Johnson at egram1962@gmail.com.

NEXT DEADLINE

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

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