

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 20

Lanchester, December 2019

For contact information, see page 2



*A Happy Christmas to All  
Our Readers*

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON



*The Switch On of Christmas Lights on the Village Green. From the EP School, Daniel and Louise, and from All Saints' RC School, Ruby and Samuel. Helping the children with this important duty is Mike Wardle, with the Chair of Lanchester Parish Council, Keith Harrison.*



*Lanchester Choral Society 'Singing in the Rain' - that is Christmas carols.*



*We are so lucky in Lanchester to have such a fabulous well lit Village Green at Christmas. Photo by Carol Witty.*





# 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 amend any letter published. Letters must contain your name, address and telephone no, all of which may be withheld at your request.

Dear Village Voice  
I would like to say 'thank you' to friends and family for the support they have shown me due to the loss of my partner, Sean Gardiner.

Sean and I met at a young age and were a big part of each other's lives. He was a very popular lad with many close friends near and far and I am sure that his wit, humour and

generosity will be greatly missed.

Sean and I had so many plans for the future but as his life has been so cruelly cut short, I will endeavour to live life to the full, just as he did and hopefully make him proud.

I, for one, will miss him dearly but he will never be forgotten and will always be in my heart.

*Vanessa Bolton*



*Sean Gardiner with Vanessa*

## THE VILLAGE VOICE

### IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

## MANOR GRANGE PLAY AREA

Many thanks to those residents who completed and returned their survey sheets regarding proposals to deliver an improved play facility at Manor Grange.

Lanchester Parish Council are considering a project to improve the play facilities at Manor Grange Play Area which would include providing a more accessible and improved play facility for children aged under 12.

In order to ascertain the demand for an improved play facility the Parish Council delivered a leaflet/survey sheet to houses in the area surrounding the current play area.

At a recent Parish Council meeting, Councillors were presented with the results of the residents' survey undertaken in September/October on the Manor Grange and Deanery View estates. The survey aimed to ascertain demand for the proposed play area and asked for comments on the proposals.

Forty responses have been received with 5 responses expressing concerns or objections to the proposals. The majority of the responses were positive with many enthusiastic comments for the project. Responses indicated over a hundred children who would use the play area from the 40 responses alone.

The Parish Council considered that the survey had generated a good response with a majority in favour of the project indicating that the play area would be well used. It is however mindful of the concerns raised.

The Parish Council agreed that the project should be developed further and funding for the project should be progressed.

If you would like to register your support for the proposed play area or have any comments to make please contact Sally Laverick, Clerk to Lanchester Parish Council on 01207 520146.

## How to contact the Village Voice

### To advertise, email:

voicadverts@gmail.com or telephone Lynda on 07851 775297. Please do not use this number for matters relating to content.

### General and news enquiries, email:

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

### By post:

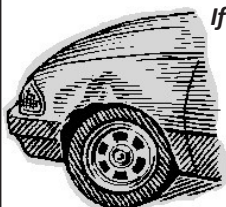
The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

### Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for last month was 5. The draw was made by Rosanna of Flautino.

View the Village Voice online (including past issues) at [www.lanchester-villagevoice.co.uk](http://www.lanchester-villagevoice.co.uk)

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# CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Christmas is approaching and on 23rd November, the ceremony of switching on the lights on the village green took place. Each year more and more people attend this ceremony and it has a firm place on our calendars. The Choral Society and Lanchester Brass Band are always present to accompany the singing of familiar carols, and although it was a very wet evening, it could not diminish the warmth of the fellowship which abounds in the community of Lanchester.

Keith Harrison, Chairman for the Parish Council, introduced the ceremony by welcoming and thanking all the people who were attending. He commented on how great it was to see so many families present, and that it really feels like the start of Christmas, when the lights are switched on. Keith then introduced Mike Wardle a former Parish Councillor who has recently moved to York after living 30 years in Lanchester. Mike spoke of his delight in being asked to switch on the lights. Both he and his

wife Caroline were very involved in the community and worked closely with the Lanchester Partnership and the Parish Council for a number of village projects, the latest being 'The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group'. He showed immense dedication to this project. Every year two pupils are selected from our village schools to help in the great Switch on and this year the chosen pupils were Daniel and Louise from the EP School and Ruby and Samuel from the RC School. Everyone joined in with Keith as he led the countdown and then the moment came when the lights shone out for all to see and received a round of applause. Magic!

After the ceremony a complimentary glass of mulled wine, mince pies, cakes and sweets were available in the gazebo and there was a little present for the children. The Parish Council had arranged all this and it contributed to what was a very enjoyable, well organised occasion. I love tradition!

*Brenda Craddock*  
Photos on front page.



*Lanchester Brass Band play on despite the rain.*

## WIVES AND FRIENDS COFFEE MORNING



*Church Wives and Friends had a lovely Christmas Stall to raise money for their own funds. In the photo are Olna Andrew and Linda Wood with Young Eva and Mum, Sarah Cotton with Margaret Gill and Sue Austin.*

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# LANCHESTER MUSIC GROUP CONCERT

## featuring the EP School Choir

It was a lovely evening of singing at the Parish Church on Thursday December 5th. The Music Group were giving their annual Christmas Concert in aid of charity. Every year different charities are chosen and this year they are 'Teenage Cancer Trust' and 'Downs Syndrome North East'. This year the Music group had asked the choir of the EP school to join them. The children sang beautifully with perfect diction and obvious enjoyment and brought a sense of joy to the

audience, which was very appropriate for Christmas. One of their songs was a rather complicated round but they managed it with perfect ease. Janet Knighton was in charge of the choir and is to be congratulated for their excellent performance. The Music Group also sang beautifully and with empathy for the words they were singing. Mrs Jeanette Bowes accompanied the singing for the music group and Mrs Jane Davis for the school choir. Mr Craig Davies, the church organist and musical director of the Music Group, conducted for them. Craig also invited the audience to join in the singing of some well-known carols. Altogether it was a very pleasurable, festive evening and a good lead into the Christmas season.



*The EP School choir and the Music Group.*

Our new vicar, Reverend Lesley, delighted the audience by singing with the Music Group. She loves singing and has a beautiful singing voice. Several pupils spoke very clearly to give details of

the charities the evening was supporting and asked for donations. Thanks to people's generosity, £582 was raised, which was an excellent result. Reverend Lesley brought

the concert to a close with a blessing for everyone. Refreshments were available in the Chapter House, where everyone agreed it had been a 'super' evening.

*Brenda Craddock*

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## LYNWOOD HOUSE CHRISTMAS FAIR

This was a first Christmas Fair for Lynwood and ideal for residents as they did not have to venture out into the pouring rain. There were mainly Christmas type

stalls with gifts, hats and crafts, jewellery and sweets, which filled the perimeter of the main lounge. Mulled wine, both non alcoholic and

alcoholic was being served with mince pies. The atmosphere was seasonal as people made their purchases and enjoyed being there.



*Laurence and Doris McDermott with friend, Margaret Ellison enjoying the fair.*

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## QUEEN'S BADGES AWARDS

Two young men from the village, Sam Hume and Tom Bartles-Smith, both 17 and who attend St Bede's sixth form were awarded the Queen's Badge at the Boys' Brigade enrolment service at Lanchester Methodist Church on Sunday 24th November. The 14th Lanchester Boys' Brigade celebrated its 90th anniversary at the service, and Sam and Tom have been part of the Boys' Brigade since they joined the Anchor boys section, aged 5.

The Queen's Badge is the highest level badge that can be achieved in BB, and requires 90 hours of voluntary work in the community, developing leadership/responsibility

skills within BB and/or were awarded their badges by Geoff Martin, a previous BB captain with attendance at the 14th Lanchester residential. The boys Boys' Brigade.



Sam Hume and Tom Bartles-Smith with their Queen's Badge certificates.

## AMERICAN CONTRACT FOR LOCAL FASHION DESIGNER

A fashion designer from Lanchester has won a prestigious clothing contract with the makers of the world's most exclusive cars.

Sally Smallwood, 35, dreamed of owning a Mustang since she was a child, but she never imagined that her clothing range would be accepted by Shelby, the makers of the exclusive brand.

Sally, whose studio is based in Greencroft just two miles from her Lanchester home, travelled to the Shelby headquarters in Las Vegas and Los Angeles to show her innovative range of clothing, including tops, jackets and jeans.

Company bosses were blown away by her design - describing them as "revolutionary" - so much so that she is licensed to manufacture a clothing range for Shelby through her own label, Wreckreation.

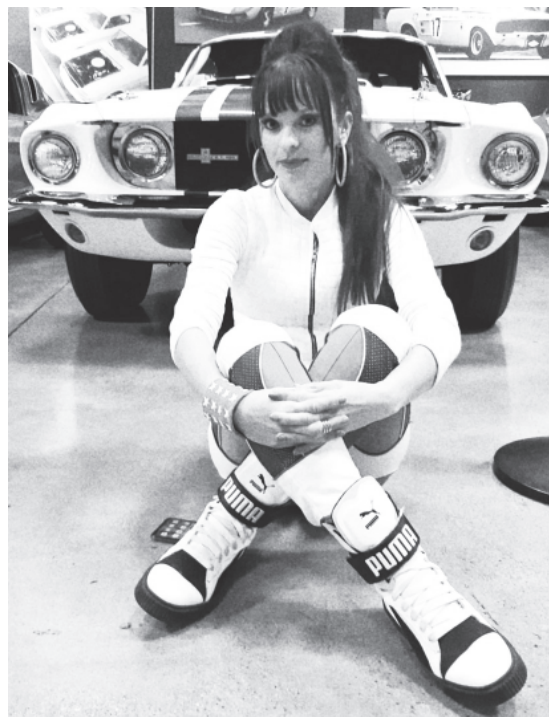
Neil Cummings, Shelby American Licensing Inc

CEO, said of Sally's designs:

"The jeans are like nothing we have ever seen before. The workmanship and attention to detail has been synergistically aligned to the essence of a Shelby car; from the automotive fabrics used in the jeans, to the serial

number that comes with each pair. Even the waistband bears Carroll Shelby's signature, just like the dashboard of a Shelby vehicle. As a Texan, Shelby always wore his blue jeans and these are like the performance version."

Neil McKay



Sally Smallwood, sitting in front of a Shelby Mustang in Las Vegas.



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# COMMUNITY CENTRE LATEST NEWS



**LANCHESTER  
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We have had a very busy year and we are planning that 2020 will be fun, interesting and varied too. Firstly, in January we are holding a

sponsored Triathlon in the gym to raise money for new gym equipment so pick up your sponsor form from the office. Then for February we are planning for the Fell-Foss Theatre to give their performance of 'Crusoe's Island'.

The staff, volunteers and committee have given a lot of time and effort to make your Community Centre something to be

proud of. We are looking forward to next year when fundraising efforts to improve the gym will benefit many people in our community. Together we can make a difference!

As we are busier than we have ever been we are still looking for volunteers to help out with general reception duties, no previous experience necessary. If you can spare a couple

of hours a week it will be really appreciated - chance to help your community and meet new friends.

Your Community Centre Management, Staff and volunteers would like to thank you for your support over the past year. We really can't do it without you and we would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a brilliant 2020.

There is always a lot happening and so many ways you can keep up to date, such as checking our Information Point; follow us on Facebook 'Lanchester Community Centre'; Instagram #lanchester\_community\_centre; check out the website - lanchestercommunity.wix.com/lanchester, or call in and have a chat. You are always welcome.

## CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND

**PLASTIC FREE  
LANCHESTER  
SURFERS AGAINST SEWAGE**

Well Happy, Healthy and hopefully a lot more plastic free New Year! Last year our Plastic Free Lanchester Group had quite a busy time

spreading the word about using less plastic. Many of our local businesses have been very supportive in the quest to minimise the use

of plastic and some earned Plastic Free Champion status. Well done everybody!

Another 'well done' should go to our Parish Council who did their best to minimise plastic use in the 'Christmas Lights Switch On' event. There were reusable cups, no plastic straws and reusable paper bags - hooray -

steps in the right direction!

The Plastic Free Lanchester Group will work with the Council to see if we can offer any more suggestions for Christmas 2020.

Recently I have been doing some 'Christmas' research and found that 'eco' crackers containing no plastic are now available, including some that you can fill yourself! Something to think about for 2020?

Make it your New Year Resolution to really think

about the plastics in your life and how you could reduce or eliminate them. Talk to friends to swap ideas and maybe come along to our next meeting in The Black Bull at 8.00 pm on Thursday 23rd January 2020.

People working together can go a long way to solving even the most enormous problems. We must also make manufacturers and supermarkets aware of our displeasure at their overuse of plastic - no need to be rude - just be insistent!

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# MONDAY ART GROUP AT BEAMISH



The model in his superb hat. In the background are two of our visitors, all the way from Ballarat Australia (of 'Dr Blake' fame). They decided to join in and stayed for a while to try their hand at sketching while chatting to us.

Early in December a few of us from the Monday Art Group went along to Beamish to spend the day in the Band Hall as a group of Victorian artists. A few months earlier we had sent in our measurements so that the costume department could have our outfits ready. Well, not all of us were totally honest and added to that, because of the cold weather we were layered

up to beat anything the weather could throw at us. Eventually, we were all kitted out in sizes we'd prefer not to talk about, but we were all ready to go. Once inside the hall, Jean, who'd obviously been a Girl Guide got the fire going, so we were soon cosy and warm and were able to start painting. We had a lovely, real live model, dressed as a poacher wearing the most glorious headgear, full of feathers. We had a lot of visitors throughout the day, all pleased to stop and have a chat with us while getting themselves warm next to our lovely fire. Our first visitor of the day had been a very bright and cheery robin redbreast, which hopped in and out. At coffee time, Pam had brought along a cake - a Victorian sponge cake, of course it was! During the course of the day we sang carols and Christmas songs ranging from 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear' through to 'Walking in a Winter Wonderland'. Maybe not totally pitch perfect, but definitely sung with 'heart and soul'. We had a picnic lunch, sandwiches, pies, homemade soup, hot chocolate - all most enjoyable. We really did do some painting and we had a really fun day out. Anyone interested in joining our group on Monday mornings should contact John Dixon on 01207 521791.

## PARISH CHURCH FAIR

All Saints C of E Parish Church held their Annual Autumn Fair on November 23rd and as always it was a very happy successful occasion. Almost all the usual stalls were in place. The Mothers' Union cakes disappeared in record time, as did Hazel's Ginger Beer. The men had equal success with their bottle stall and Margaret's lovely handmade items including aprons, pinafores, cosmetic bags, oven-gloves and much more were very popular. No-one could resist Maureen and Barbara's stall of knitted Christmas items. They are so colourful and appealing. Church Wives Stall 'Hook a bag' had everyone hooked and did very well indeed having the addition of tiny knitted stockings, made by one of our members, filled with sweets for the children. The tombola stall did well and Bric-a-Brac items sold. The finale of the morning was the Grand Draw, which always draws a crowd of supporters. Reverend Lesley was a master of the art in drawing raffle tickets. There were numerous excellent prizes and cries of delight echoed round the church as prizes were won. The losers lost gracefully. There is always next year! Refreshments were available in the Chapter House where a sit down and the chance to chat were the order of the day. The amount raised at the fair was £1909.83 which was splendid.

Brenda Craddock



The Mother's Union stall. See also photo on back page.

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## A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

All Saints' Catholic school welcomed the Christmas season with a lovely evening of shopping and celebration. Although the evening of November 29th was cold and frosty, a lot of visitors braved the first real cold of winter to attend the event, hosted by the Friends of All Saints. Everyone was offered delicious chocolates and a glass of Prosecco while touring the stalls and there were many lovely objects to buy.

Beautiful paintings, imaginative crafts, toiletries and sweets, toys and books would all make attractive presents for loved ones, and there was even a stall selling doggie treats which proved an

attraction for our many animal lovers. There was a warm, friendly atmosphere and a chance to spend time

chatting with friends. A lovely preparation for the festive season!

Maisie Raine



Stalls full of beautiful examples of arts and crafts, testament to the skills of our local crafters.

## WILLOW BURN FAIR

The fair was not as big as it has been in the past but the social area of the

hospice was the ideal venue. An attractive entrance featured the

handmade Wreath Stall in place manned by Paul Jackson and Avril Scott (see photo on back page). The café area was full of people with drinks etc being served with a few side stalls in situ. The lounge area had quite a lot of stalls which included raffles, toys, books, gifts - many ideal for Christmas presents. It was a very convivial occasion with people eager to support the hospice. The amount raised was the very good total of £2862.



A happy group chatting away to each other relaxing by their very good stall.

## OPEN THE BOOK



A team of Open the Book storytellers from Lanchester Methodist Church and All Saints' C of E Church have been going into both Lanchester Primary Schools since September telling and acting Bible stories to the pupils. The following are comments from the Head

Teachers of both schools: "The children and staff have responded very favourably to Open the Book. The volunteers are enthusiastic, friendly and respond to the age of the children appropriately. As a school, we are thrilled that the children are being reminded of such important Bible stories. The Open the Book team have been flexible and engaging - it is a pleasure to have them in school each week." All Saints "The staff and children

thoroughly enjoy Open the Book. It's a brilliant way of telling the stories to the children. It brings the Bible alive. It's like stepping back in time and seeing what the world was like in the Old Testament. The children are thoroughly engaged and using some children as actors further enhances the experience." EPSchool More storytellers are always needed. If you would like to know more please contact Ann English on 01207 562 633.



# EP SCHOOL FAIR

The EP School was buzzing with activity in the afternoon of December 6th. It was the annual Christmas School Fair which also marked the end of 'Enterprise Week' at the school. During that week the pupils learn the meaning of that word and are encouraged to show enterprise skills with particular regard to the Christmas Fair. That is why the stalls are all varied and manned by the pupils whose aim is to show how enterprising

they can be. This will be reflected in the amount of money each stall can raise. Many of the items for sale were hand made by the pupils and this gave them added value. It is always confidence boosting to sell something that you have made. The tree decorations were particularly nice. The bundles of home made fudge, chocolates and cookies were very appealing and other attractions were tombola stalls, hook a bag, bottle

stall, big hamper raffle, cup cakes, guess a name/place games, an eco friendly table and face painting. Refreshments were also available in one of the classrooms and altogether it was a very successful afternoon. So much work is always behind events like this and it was obvious that everyone had worked together as a team for the good of all. It was a splendid Christmas Fair. Well done everyone!

*Brenda Craddock*



*Almost sold out of tree decorations.*

# THEATRE IN SCHOOL

The West Midland Children's Theatre Company visited the EP School on Wednesday November 27th and gave a very impressive performance of a story

based on searching for the 'Bluebird of Happiness'. The story was set in Russian folklore and had three main characters, Prince Ivan, The Scarlett Queen and

Boris, the comedy character. He captured the children's imagination from his first appearance and was skilful in his use of words and actions to gain the attention of his audience, who reacted to his character with enthusiasm. The Prince and Scarlett Queen were equally effective, both also taking on other characters to make the story flow, and this was very cleverly done with excellent props and stage effects to make the story realistic.

Despite a long and adventurous journey Prince Ivan could not find the Bluebird of Happiness

but came to realise true happiness cannot be bought but is found in the heart of every person. How we respond and treat others and what we do to help and love our fellowman as we journey through life, determines our happiness. When Prince Ivan realised this, he returned home and was crowned King or Tsar and

the story ended with a resounding 'Long Live the Tsar' from the audience made up of year 1 to year 6 pupils. They had really enjoyed their theatre afternoon and heartily applauded the cast as they took their final bow. It was an inspiring performance which was well received by the pupils. *Brenda Craddock*



*The three main characters.*

# MEL'S LUNCH

The Methodist Church was filled to capacity on December 6th for one of Mel's very popular charity lunches. It is always a full house because there is always a warm welcome, delicious food and great fellowship.

Mel and his team of helpers from the Methodist Church work very hard to make the event successful and it is much appreciated by all those who attend. The menu is always different and a vegetarian option is always available. Delicious desserts follow the main meal, after which mints, tea and coffee are served.

The charities benefiting from this lunch are 'Mercy Ships', 'St John's House Bulgaria' (Jim Thompson's Boxes for Bulgaria) and Lanchester Methodist Church Charities. Mel thanked his team and all those who attended for their generosity and support and we thank you Mel and your team for this very worthwhile work. £245 was sent to each of the three charities. Long may your lunches continue Mel, and a very Happy Christmas to you all.

*Brenda Craddock*

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# WELCOMING LANCHESTER'S LONELINESS PROJECT



Nancye Carr, Chair, Patient Group (second from left), Gillian Webster, Practice Manager (second from right) and other Patient Group members with the Welcoming Lanchester Guide.

At their recent AGM, the Patient Participation Group of the Lanchester Medical Centre received the 'Welcoming Lanchester' Guide. Nancye Carr, Chair of the Group, commented, "In late 2016, the Patient

Participation Group (PPG) highlighted the subject of patients being 'alone and vulnerable' and agreed to the formation of a Working Group to explore Lanchester's Loneliness. The Welcoming

Lanchester Guide is the result of this important work and it has now been published and distributed". She added, "The guide addresses issues around loneliness. It provides information and aims to engage everybody in the community. We hope to encourage everyone to make a difference by starting conversations and to attempt to tackle Lanchester's loneliness". The Guide is online and can be viewed on various websites including those of the Medical Centre, Parish Council and Lanchester Partnership. If you have particular concerns about loneliness, then visit the Lanchester Medical Centre or your own GP.

With seasonal festivities quickly approaching, we shall shortly all be thinking about our New Year resolutions, too.

Why not commit 'to make a difference by starting conversations' to tackle Lanchester's loneliness. Better still, why wait until the New Year?

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## MEMORY LOSS? SOME USEFUL ADVICE

It's really great to discover the help available to people experiencing memory loss or a dementia diagnosis. In Lanchester, we are working to make our village a Dementia Friendly community, and this month, we welcomed

Fay Loraine, working with the Alzheimer's Society and offering another source of help and support. Memory conditions and dementia diagnosis rates are ever increasing, and doctors are able to identify the symptoms quicker. Fay is

available to give support and advice and recommends anyone wanting help or information regarding themselves or someone they care for to contact the Dementia Adviser Service, at the Alzheimer's Society, 0191 3890400.

Support is available on a county wide basis, at durhamandchester@alzheimers.org.uk and Fay herself can be reached at fay.loraine@alzheimers.org.uk. Many years ago, stigma was attached to people with memory loss. Now in a more open society, it is much better understood. Fay will be happy to talk with anyone who needs help; she offers one to one contact in your home or in a private area in the community. A warm, knowledgeable and helpful person, she can support those with memory loss and their families. *Maisie Raine*



Fay Loraine.

*Alexander*  
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# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM LANCHESTER WI

The WI ladies love to join together to celebrate Christmas, and on December 2nd we met in friendship to share our lovely festive evening. President Marie Murphy welcomed everyone, directing our attention to the collection of name badges on display, with an invitation for everyone to take a badge and personalise it with their name. Our branch has recently grown in number, and a member thought it was a good idea to wear our names during meetings so we could easily learn who everyone is! Marie had found out about courses available at Delves Lane. If you'd like to be more involved with your WI, there is a rota for members to bring

raffle prizes, give readings or offer the vote of thanks to our monthly speaker. The current WI Life features the 5 resolutions that have been put forward for 2020. Voting slips need to be submitted to WI House by February 14th 2020.

As we faced a full evening, we settled to enjoy a Christmas quiz, and one of our famous Chinese Raffles, a mysterious game with arcane rules, but enjoyed by everyone.

Our tables were all decorated with Christmas crackers and chocolates for everyone, so we were all in an excellent mood to enjoy a really lovely buffet, with a wide selection of savoury and

sweet foods, and a glass of wine or a non-alcoholic drink. We were then joined by the Male Voice choir, who sang some beautiful traditional carols, perfect for this lovely Christmas celebration. They were warmly thanked on our behalf by Ann Carr.

Members are kindly reminded that subscriptions are due in January, with cheques made out to 'Lanchester WI'.

The WI ladies would like to offer good wishes to all our families and friends, and hope for a peaceful and pleasant New Year for everyone. Thank you all for your support throughout the year!

# SATLEY WI DECEMBER REPORT

Our President Linda welcomed 13 members and 4 guests to our December meeting. We began by holding a minute's silence to reminisce about Freda Scott who had sadly died a few days before. Freda had been a member of our WI for over 60 years and she will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by all of her many friends both in and out of the WI. Members were informed that 5 speakers have been booked for next year and the full programme will be available shortly. We will be having our post Christmas meal on a date to be selected at our next meeting and further trips to the cinema are also planned. We then moved onto our craft session

during which Linda displayed a selection of items she had made out of paper: roses, Christmas gift bags, a kitten, a rabbit and a gladioli stem. It was then time for everyone to have a go at making the roses.

Once the tables had been cleared we enjoyed the lovely broth that Carol had made. We were also treated to a piece of Joan's birthday cake which went down very nicely with a cup of tea. The raffle was won by Carolyn. Our competition for a homemade Christmas card was won by Sarah, runner up was Linda and Carol was third. Linda ended the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## THURSDAY CLUB UPDATE

At the last meeting of the Thursday Club in November we welcomed Noel Adamson and Dave Peacock MBE to give a slide show and tell us all about Whickham's hidden gem.

So there we were, all set, only to be presented with the wrong pictures - someone had packed the bag for a different talk altogether!

It seemed like it might be panic stations - but only for a second. Dave Peacock was amazing. "Well, I guess it's down to me then" he said and preceded to chat away for at least 3/4 of an hour. We were most impressed! Whickham's hidden gem

is a community garden in the Hermitage grounds in central Whickham. We heard all about the volunteers, the battles with Gateshead Council, the lovely tea room and Dave's trip to London to see Prince Charles to be presented with his well deserved 'MBE'.

We enjoyed a most interesting and entertaining afternoon which ended with tea/coffee and biscuits as we made lists of members going on the various outings next year.

As we look forward to our 40th anniversary year in 2020, we would like to wish all Village Voice readers a Happy New Year.



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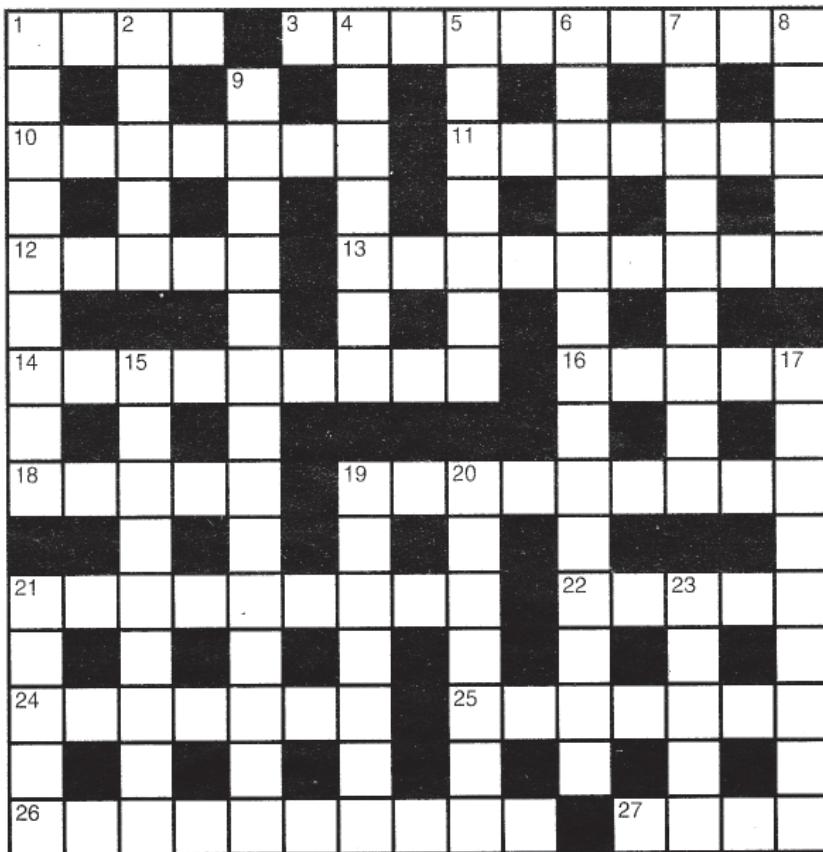
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# CROSSWORD 164



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.

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## ACROSS

1. Flow (4)
3. Disconcerting (3-7)
10. Inflammation with love (7)
11. Resentment (7)
12. Melodic sounds! (5)
13. Without smell (9)
14. Silent sleeper? (3-6)
16. Decline (5)
18. Animate (5)
19. Inherit (7,2)
21. Visual tiredness (9)
22. Avoid answering (5)
24. Allure (7)
25. Helps (7)
26. Those with the best view at the circus? (10)
27. Body parts (4)

## DOWN

1. Lung infection (9)
2. Mountains that separate Asia from Europe (5)
4. Passion (7)
5. Sitting room (7)
6. Spa town in Kent (9,5)
7. No! I wonder succinctly (2,3,4)
8. Bacteria (5)
9. Not open to question (3-11)
15. The result of too many decibels? (5,4)
17. Prepares (9)
19. Marked badly (7)
20. Line on map showing equal heights (7)
21. Composer of the Enigma Variations (5)
23. Temper (5)

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 163

### ACROSS

1. facile
5. half mile
9. diffuse ray
10. Nile
11. seen a lot
12. senile
13. acrid
15. traducing
18. immediacy
19. of use
21. futile
23. nerve gas
25. bile
26. an incident
27. imbecile
28. simile

### DOWN

2. agile
3. infantile
4. ensile
5. hard to reconcile
6. lay aside
7. Menin
8. la la lands
14. communism
16. cofferdam
17. literati
20. fracas
22. Irene
24. annul

## CROSSWORD 163

There were 13 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Jo Kelly who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

## 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.

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



# WHY IS COLD WEATHER A PROBLEM?



## Lanchester Medical Centre

Lanchester Patient Participation Group

When the temperature drops to below 8C, some people can be at increased risk of a stroke or heart attack, pneumonia and flu, falling and hypothermia. Plus the cold weather and lack of sunlight can make us feel depressed.

Very cold weather can affect anyone, but the most vulnerable are the very young, over 65s, having an existing long-term health condition, pregnant ladies and those on a low income who can't afford heating.

### Beprepared

The MetOffice provides weather forecasts on radio, TV and on your phone, listen to these bulletins regularly. Make sure your

food cupboard is stocked and you have a supply of your regular medication plus cough and cold remedies.

If you're not very mobile, over 65, or have a health condition, heat your home to at least 18C (65F). Keep your bedroom at 18C all night if you can - and keep the bedroom window closed during the day. You may prefer your living room to be slightly warmer. Draw your curtains at dusk and keep doors closed.

To reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), babies should sleep in rooms heated to between 16C and 20C.

For healthy and active folk, you can safely have your home cooler than 18C. Remember to have your heating system checked regularly by a qualified professional.

You may be able to claim financial and practical help with heating your

home. Grants available include the Winter Fuel Payment and the Cold Weather Payment.

Start to feel unwell? Don't wait until it becomes serious; seek advice from your pharmacist. Check on vulnerable neighbours and relatives to make sure they are safe and well. If you're concerned that the person may be suffering from hypothermia, contact NHS 111.

### Tips on keeping well in the cold:

- \* Get the flu jab.
- \* Wear layers of clothes.
- \* Have at least one hot meal a day and regular hot drinks.
- \* Keep your bed aired and warm; use an electric blanket.
- \* Indoors - try not to sit still for more than an hour - get up, stretch your legs.
- \* Outdoors - wear hat and wrap a scarf loosely around your mouth. Wear sturdy shoes/boots with good grips.

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# Talking Heads

## Merry Christmas

*and a Happy New Year to all our clients from Jenni and Shannon*

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## LADIES WHO LUNCH

We stayed close to home last month and just went as far as Knitsley Mill. We've been there a lot over the years and it is always lovely. Friendly, attentive staff, super food and a gorgeous warming fire roaring away in the bar area which is where we opted to sit in such cold weather. They have a lunch menu of 2 courses for £10.95 and an extensive à la carte and daily specials. All in all you can be spoilt for choice.

But, we did make a choice and starters were Thai spiced fishcakes with sweet chilli dip and a chive sour sauce, Prawn cocktail and Marie Rose sauce and Creamy garlic mushrooms on toasted baguette with a dressed salad. Mains were Traditional fish and chips with mushy peas and homemade tartare sauce, Stilton, beetroot and crispy bacon salad with new pots, croutons and a honey and mustard dressing, Breaded Whitby scampi, hand cut chips, garden peas and tartare sauce, Black and blue Stilton cheese burger with a balsamic glaze and caramelised red onion and Roast of the day with mash, veg and Yorkshire pud. Puds were Meringue and strawberry cream, Rice pudding and Homemade sticky toffee pudding.

So, once again, we were well fed with good food and good company. We don't have to say we'll back to Knitsley Mill - it's a given.

**The Gourmet Girls**

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# WHAT'S ON?

## Cuppa and Chat

Every Tuesday during term time, 9-11.30. Come and join other parents, carers, and meet childminders. Toys and crafts for under 5s, refreshments, cakes, scones all available. We look forward to seeing you soon. No charge but donations always welcome. Queries Andrea Stoddart 01207520291.

## Lanchester Flower Club

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd January at 2 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. We are to enjoy a belated Christmas buffet and a social afternoon. If anyone would like any information on Lanchester Flower Club please contact Mrs Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 or Mrs Lestrine Kelly on 01027521494. We extend Season's Greetings to all for a Happy and Peaceful 2020.

## Crafty Coffee Morning

Join us at Lanchester Methodist Church at 10 am to 12 every second and fourth Tuesday. For more information please contact Jennifer Nairns on 01207520515.

## Local History Society

Subject: Show and Tell  
Date: Friday January 3rd  
Time: 7pm  
Venue: Lanchester Community Centre.  
Always an interesting evening with members and visitors bringing along vintage/antique finds and collectables. Everyone welcome, come along if you have some treasures. Visitors £3.  
For more information contact the History Society at marian.morrison@btinternet.com.  
The Village Voice Page 14

## Library Book Club

On Monday January 27th from 2.30-3.30pm, the group will be discussing 'Absolution' by Patrick Flanery. If you have read this book, come along and join the discussion.

**On Thursday** January 16th from 5.30-6.30pm, the discussion will be on 'Mice', a short thriller by Gordon Reece. If you would like to join this group, pick up the book from the library and enjoy the discussion.

### Chatterbooks

Will be held on Monday January 13th from 3.45-4.30pm.

Children aged 5-11 years old have the opportunity to read and take part in activities relating to the book of the month. Other dates this term are 10.2.20, 9.3.20 and 13.4.20. Please contact Zena or another librarian at the library for a place for your child, or contact 03000269514.

**Toddler Time Sessions** for Under Fives, every Thursday between 2 and 3pm. Come along to this social time for you and your child to enjoy music, songs and rhymes.

## Family History

**FREE Family History Support Sessions.**  
New for 2020 starting Monday 20th January at Lanchester Library using library PC and Ancestry website.  
Time slots between 2.30 and 5.30 pm.  
Contact library to book limited places.  
(Every third Monday of the month)

## Sunday Bridge

Come and join us in the Community Centre on 12th January at 2.00 pm. The entrance fee is £3 and all profits to the Community Centre.

## Lanchester WI

### In January

We next meet on January 6th and this will be a 'Pie and Pea Supper'. Subscriptions are due in January, cheques to be made payable to 'Lanchester WI' and can be posted, in a box on the Treasury table. Remember to wear your name badge so we can identify everyone. Please read our 5 Resolutions that have been put forward for 2020, they can be seen in WI Life for November/December. The theme for January's meeting is 'How well do you know your Village?' and the competition is a photo of your favourite place. Why not become more involved with your WI - by volunteering raffle prizes, giving readings or a vote of thanks! Your help will be greatly appreciated, and many thanks to members who have been involved last year! Looking forward to another great year together!

## Thursday Club

We are going to start off our 40th anniversary year with a New Year party at Ravellos on January 16th, meeting at 12.30 pm. Look forward to seeing you all there.  
Olive

## Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 14th January with Matt Barnes MCS, whose subject will be 'Threats to North East Seas - Turning the tide on marine litter'. Meet at 7.30 pm in Community Centre dining room.

## Satley WI

Our next meeting is on January 13th in Satley Parish Hall at 7.15pm. Our guest speaker is John Hopper who will be giving a talk on Guide dogs for the Blind. Please feel free to join us.

## Paradiso Social Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday 12th January at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre with the usual raffle, refreshments. Screening at 7.30 pm. The film we are showing is 'Green Book'. Ticket entry: £2.50 members, £3.50 occasional visitors £2 young persons. Ticket covers entry to raffle, refreshments and film. All are welcome.

## Community Centre

**The Tea Dance** will be held on Thursday 30th January from 1 pm - 3 pm. £4 including tea/coffee and cake.

**'Keep Moving'** every Monday 12.30 to 1.30 pm.

**Sewing Bee** Mondays - 7 pm till 9 pm.

## TAP DANCING

### The Missing Tel No.

In last month's Village Voice we published a short article by Jean Dougherty asking if there were any older persons interested in taking up Tap Dancing.

Jean did provide a contact telephone number which was inadvertently left off. The number is 01207 521977. Leave a message if Jean is out.

## LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB

### 'Scents of Christmas'

We held the second of our Open Evening meetings on Friday 29th November in Lanchester Community Centre. The demonstrator was the very well known Val Guest who has visited us in Lanchester many times and always wows us with her designs. This year was no exception, her arrangements and designs were beautiful and original and were raffled to the delight of the winners.

The attendance for the event was more than our usual numbers, it was lovely so many people turned up. Everyone enjoyed a lite bite supper. All in all a lovely evening. A big thank you to Gillian Harrison and Jane Pegram who once again manned their home produce stall. We extend Season's Greetings to all for a Happy and Peaceful 2020.

**Photo on back page.**



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# STEVEN WHITE'S WORLD CYCLE CHALLENGE

Section 4, Thailand to Shanghai - Encore Japan. From Thailand I travelled up through Laos, Vietnam and headed over the border into China.

China was amazing and once I left Shenzhen/Hong Kong, I had a red-carpet road through rural China all the way to Shanghai. I would do this road again and I'll definitely be back one day to explore other provinces.

I arrived in Shanghai a week earlier than planned which meant I had more time to spend in Japan; Japan was always the place I was most excited about exploring.

Osaka was unbelievable, a perfect sized city and it's the first time in a long time, in all of Asia, that I didn't feel like I was going to get knocked off my bike! It's a very safe place for a cyclist and one of the best ways to see a city in Japan.

Kyoto was the next port of call (famous for its temples) and since the cities Osaka, Nara and Kyoto are so well connected I found cheap hostels all the way

through these sections. So, after visiting several temples I planned to leave the tourist spots behind and head for the mountains, the Japanese Alps, not knowing what to expect.

On entering these beautiful mountain landscapes I found myself climbing for evermore, meeting countless cyclists enjoying some summer touring.

Sadly, a typhoon from China was hitting the West Coast of Japan, which meant heavy rain and thick fog over Fuji. Consequently, this has to be one of the most atmospheric climbs I've ever done.

If you don't have it already, make sure you have Japan on your bucket

list. It is one of the most incredible places I've ever visited! Yes, it's expensive so bring a tent or stay in posh disabled toilets like me. They are amazingly clean and roomy!

Japan's toilets certainly set the bar high! Try them out for yourself.

*Steven White*  
Meanwhile closer to home, family members, friends and well-wishers raised more than £600 from a meal at Amins Spice in Langley Park on November 20th.

The restaurant donated 20 per cent from each meal bought, and a raffle also helped to boost the coffers.

Steven has so far raised almost £8,000 for Mind through his epic journey.



*Steven's mother, with Mohammed Amin from Amin Spice. See also photo on back page.*

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Winter Vegetable Soup

A creamy vegetable soup, economical, warming, and good for you!

Serves 6

You need:

Butter, 25g, (1 oz)

Leek, 1, trimmed and sliced

Onion, 1, chopped finely

Courgette, 1, chopped

Turnip, 225g, (8 oz) diced

Carrot, 1 large, diced

Potato, 1, medium, diced

Vegetable stock cubes, 2 dissolved in 900ml hot water

Cornflour, 3 level tablespoons

Milk, 600ml (1 pint)

Sweetcorn, 75g (3 oz)

Single cream, 2-3 tablespoons

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Chopped fresh herbs

**METHOD**

1) Melt the butter in a large saucepan and sauté the leek, onion and courgette over a medium heat for 3-4 minutes, until softened.

2) Add the turnip, carrot and potato. Cook, stirring often, for another 2-3 minutes.

3) Pour in the vegetable stock and increase the heat until just simmering. Cook gently, with the lid

on, for about 15-20 minutes, until vegetables are tender.

4) Blend the cornflour to a smooth paste with 3-4 tablespoons of milk. Add the remaining milk to the saucepan with the sweetcorn and single cream, then stir in the blended cornflour. Heat gently, stirring constantly until the soup thickens and just begins to boil. Cook for another 1-2 minutes over a very low heat.

5) Season to taste, then serve, garnished with chopped fresh herbs.

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## BOWLS CLUB PRESENTATIONS



Lanchester Bowling Club members enjoyed their annual presentation evening at Ravellos. Trophy winners, left to right, Adrian Evans, Stan Easten, Mike Stoddart, Jeff Hockaday, Keith Brown, David Friesner, Joe Newton and Nigel Page with Jim Ruddick who presented the prizes.

## STEVEN WHITE TOUR



Made it to Shanghai.  
See report page 15.

## ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH FAIR



Church Wives Hook a bag stall. See article page 7.

## WILLOW BURN FAIR



The Chairman's stall. Avril Scott holding a wreath made by volunteers including the Chair, which are displayed in the foyer of the hospice. See page 8 for report.

## LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB



Our demonstrator was the very well known Val Guest who always wows us with her beautiful designs. Report on page 14.

## NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 21st January.  
The deadline for **adverts** is Friday 17th January.

The Village Voice Page 16

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