

the Village Voice

Issue No 12, Volume 22

Lanchester, December 2022



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SEASON'S GREETINGS
from
THE VILLAGE VOICE



Children in Need Dance-on-the-Spot-Athon (page 10)



Advent Fair (page 4)

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Christmas Light Switch On *(pictures on the front cover)*

Saturday 26 November saw the annual Christmas Light Switch On, a much loved community event. Following restrictions in recent years, the event was back to full capacity and hundreds of families gathered on the village green.

Lanchester Brass Band and Lanchester Choral Society attended the event and provided a great selection of Christmas carols.

A team of volunteers served complimentary mulled wine, mince pies, cakes and sweets. There was also a small gift for all the children. Many thanks to the volunteers who kindly gave up their time to help out.

The Parish Council were delighted that Councillor Ossie Johnson agreed to switch on the lights this year. Ossie Johnson has been a Lanchester Parish Councillor for over 40 years. In addition he was a Derwentside District Councillor until 2009 and became a Durham County Councillor in 2009 up until 2021. This is an incredible length of service and we thank

him for his dedication, work and commitment.

Councillor Ossie Johnson was accompanied in the switch on by James and Iona from Lanchester EP Primary School and Max and Esme from Lanchester RC Primary School.

The event was live streamed free for those who wanted to watch from home. The Parish Council would wish to thank Lanchester Partnership for organising this virtual element of the event.

Following a short speech from Councillor Keith Harrison, the Chair of Lanchester Parish Council, the countdown commenced and the lights were switched on to the delight of everyone there.

The Christmas lights will shine bright this year bringing joy and happiness to all. We hope you all enjoy them.

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lanchester Scottish Dance Group

We began meeting over 50 years ago as soon as the Lanchester Community Association took over the running of the former primary school. At the 50th Golden Jubilee of the Association events, we were delighted to give a display of Scottish dancing for everyone.

The photographs below show a typical evening dance.

We have links with the Royal Scottish Country Dance society which means we can go to Highland Balls and other gatherings all over the North East. Beginners are welcome to come and join in; tuition, if necessary, is given freely.

We meet in the small hall every Friday night at 7:30pm and depart at 9:30pm.

Do come and join us and ring Vivien Welsh 01388 528529 for further information.



Constabulary Choir Concert in All Saints Parish Church

The Durham Constabulary Male Voice Choir gave a concert in All Saints' Parish church on Saturday November 12th. The concert was organised by the Social and Fundraising Committee, and it was a very enjoyable evening. The programme was varied to include hymns, folk and local songs, and songs from a variety of well known musical shows. Solo items were also included. They were ably led by an enthusiastic conductor who of course was very pleased when the audience showed their appreciation of this male voice choir with good applause.

A glass of wine was served to the audience at the interval, while the choir had a cup of tea or coffee in the Chapter House, although glasses of wine could be found there too!! It is after all good for the vocal cords! Altogether a very enjoyable, relaxed evening. Well done choir. Thank you.

Brenda Craddock.



Christmas shopping trip to York

Everyone enjoyed the Christmas shopping trip to York on Saturday 3rd December. The streets were very, very, busy but did not deter our intrepid shoppers. We will be back for more next year.

***Happy Christmas!
Brenda Craddock***

*Right: Enjoying a meal before our journey home.
Left: The busy streets of York: Betty's Corner.*

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Ged's new Christmas Shop

As we all try to prepare for the festive season and think of more pleasant times when, hopefully, the gloom of the country subsidies, we have a new shop in Lanchester.

Yes, it's a Christmas shop. Paul Jackson helped Ged to cut the ribbon to officially open the new shop. We all wish him the best of luck, well done Ged!

Paul Jackson



The Lanchester Partnership Christmas Trail - Free fun for all of the family

Santa's Elves have been super busy around the village! Have you spotted the clues that they have left behind?

There are 33 clues around the village shop windows; you can follow and complete the trail in any order until Dec 31st.

The answer to each clue will give you a letter which when compiled make up a message. Once you crack the message take your answer sheets to The Kings Head to collect your free prize!

Pick up an answer sheet from Lanchester News or The Kings Head to complete the trail.

Thanks to the businesses who are supporting the trail:

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Musical Memories - Going from strength to strength

In November we hosted our second session since returning from COVID. We were so excited to welcome ten new members including Frank and Mary, pre-COVID regulars. New members commented on the warm, friendly atmosphere.

Our November session was dedicated to Remembrance - gratitude for those who gave their lives and those currently living with conflict. We enjoyed classic songs from the two World Wars, such as the White Cliffs of Dover, It's a Long Way to Tipperary and Pack Up Your Troubles and music from Glenn Miller and the Andrews Sisters. We listened to the beautiful Agnus Dei from Karl Jenkins "The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace" and took a few minutes to reflect on current conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, and Ukraine.

Betty, seen here on the left with Christine, one of our volunteers, shared news about an honour recently bestowed on her brother by a town in Italy. As well as singing and movement we enjoyed musical bingo listening to lovely theme tunes and matching them to their war related film or TV programmes including Dad's Army, MASH, Bridge over the River Kwai and the Great Escape. And of course, we enjoyed a nice cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. Our next session is on 4th January at 2pm where we will be thinking of new beginnings as we start the New Year. Do you know someone who might enjoy Musical Memories but needs some help to attend?

Could you provide transport or possibly accompany someone who doesn't want to attend alone? If you would like to find out more email lanchesterdfc@gmail.com.



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wonderful holiday season
 and a great New Year.



Advent Fair

Sunday November 27th is called Advent Sunday in the Anglican Church and marks the beginning of Advent, which is the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day which this year of course is also on a Sunday. It is also the beginning of a new church year and is an important time when Christians prepare for the great festival of Christmas. Advent means the coming of something and in this case, it is the coming to earth of God's very own Son Jesus Christ. A wonderful Christmas gift for us all.

That is why the Parish Church Christmas Fair, held this year on Saturday 26th of November, had the rather special title of 'Advent Fair'. It opened at 9.30am and there was a steady stream of shoppers for most of the morning. There was a variety of good stalls with tempting goods, ranging from delicious cakes and scones to bottles of excellent homemade ginger wine, for which Hazel Gaskill is becoming famous! Also available were beautiful hand sewn items, such as aprons, pinafores, mobile phone cases, and peg bags, all very useful and practical. Margaret's home-made jams and chutneys were also on sale.

The 'hook a bag' stall did brisk business as did the tombola and sitting in splendour was the first prize turkey, and the second prize hamper, containing all sorts of goodies. Busy shoppers and browsers were serenaded with Christmas music inside the church by a wonderfully talented trio William, Julie and Rob whilst outside stood a large Dutch organ playing a different kind of music. Mr Stuart Wright, funeral director, is an accomplished pianist and organist and the Dutch organ is one of his collection of organs. It looked very impressive.

The Advent Fair raised £1,875 which was a very pleasing total and money is still being added.

Brenda Craddock.



Thursday Club Update

At our last meeting in November Jean Hodgson came along and gave us a very personal and emotional talk and slide show about the restoration of Brancepeth Church after the fire. It was on 15th September 1998 at 10pm that the fire started.

Dark November nights meant that nothing was noticed until a passing police patrol at 4.00 in the morning saw the blaze.

Jean's husband is the church warden, so he was the person the police notified by phone and Jean took the call. To this day, the devastation can still be heard in Jean's voice as she relates the tale and of course, it was utter devastation that greeted them when they got to the church.

Well, 'out of the ashes', as the saying goes, has risen an amazing transformation and in 2005 the congregation returned to the rebuilt church. It was 7 years of enormous effort and hard work by the parishioners, but the final result was so worth it.

One weekend after the talk a few of us went along to Brancepeth to see the church for ourselves. On the outside it is a beautiful mediaeval church set in the grounds next to Brancepeth Castle, both looking timeless. But once through the door the interior is just lovely - light, open, airy spaces invite you in and eventually lead up to the 'Paradise window' over the altar - which is breathtaking. A guide book is there to take the visitor around and explain all the individual and unique features which make up St. Brandon's.

Well worth a visit, maybe in the spring, a lovely day out and only 20 minutes from Lanchester.

Jean was warmly thanked for her talk and our meeting closed with the usual scrumptious biscuits, coffee/tea and endless chat.

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Tree planted to commemorate 40 years in business!

Olivers Tree Services recently celebrated their 40th anniversary of being in business. To mark this occasion, they donated a horse chestnut tree to Lanchester Parish Council which was planted on the edge of the village green.

The business was formed by David Oliver back in 1982, from his mother's garden in Hollinside. The company then grew from a one-man business to what it is today one of the largest tree care organisations in the North East; it has become an established part of the community with a reputation to be proud of. Olivers moved to Langley Park in early 2000 to bigger premises but still has strong links with the village where it has given employment to many local people. David recently retired and the business passed on to Andy Thompson and Steve Keene. On planting the tree in the village green David had this to say:

"I had no idea that I would be standing here one day, planting a tree commemorating 40 years of a company. Quite a few people have worked for Olivers in that time, and what has

given me most satisfaction is to see those people develop and progress. They were given support with education and training, and many are still working in the industry that stretches throughout England to as far away as Norway and Australia.

Andy and Steve are two examples of this, having been with Olivers for many years and progressed through the company. 40 years is the blink of an eye for this tree, and I hope it will flourish and grow along with Olivers over the next 40 years and beyond." Andy the current director followed up with – "It's a great honour to donate this tree to the people of Lanchester. Due to the nature of our line of work we do tend to remove a lot of trees for various reasons so it's nice to give something back, something that hopefully will be around for many years to come. I'd also like to thank

David for all his hard work and dedication to the tree care industry over the last 40 years and if Steve and I can be half as successful as he was then we will both be happy and proud. I hope this tree brings enjoyment to Lanchester."

L to R: Steve Keene, Keith Harrison (Chair of the Parish Council), David Oliver and Andy Thompson.



Community Centre News

Here is the latest news from your Community Centre.

A very happy and healthy 2023 to you all from the staff and volunteers of your Community Centre. Please make 2023 the year where you try to support your local Community Centre, we are self-funding and need your help and support to keep this valuable village asset open, you know the saying 'use it or lose it'.

How you can help us –

Do you have any family occasions, parties or business functions planned for 2023? Book the Community Centre, it is a really great venue.

Do you shop on Amazon? Please do your shopping via 'Amazon Smile' and register the Community Centre as your chosen charity.

Join and support one of our many clubs, groups and activities.

Become a 'Friend', it's only £2 per month (£24 for the year)

Take a 'loose change' box and fill it for us

Buy books from our selection in the conservatory.

What's New –

The Centre is a 'Warm Hub' and we welcome anyone Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm to come and have a cup of tea.

Gym, new member offer, join and get 4 months membership for the price of 3

Community Café cafe opened in December: Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am to 4.30pm, Wednesday 8.30am to 11.30am.

The office is staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-1.15pm. On Tuesday and Thursdays, it's 9am-3.45pm. If you have any enquiries about any of the activities or clubs available or you want to know more about hiring our brilliant venue please get in touch on 01207 521275 or drop in and have a chat it will be good to meet you!

To keep up to date with what's going on check out our Information Point; follow us on Facebook 'Lanchester Community Centre' or check out our new website - <https://lanchestercc.co.uk/>

Police Report

Hello, an update from PCSO 8722 Andrew Tonge from Consett Neighbourhood Police about what has been happening recently in and around Lanchester.

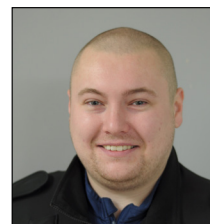
Durham County Council have handed out Fixed Penalty Notices to people parking inappropriately around Lanchester recently. Thank you to the majority of those who are adhering to the parking restrictions and being considerate.

As we get closer to Christmas, be mindful about items that you may have purchased and have on display. Keep all doors and windows locked and all valuables out of sight, both in your home and vehicles.

Everyone at Consett Police hopes you have a safe and happy Christmas.

If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to get in touch via email, andrew.tonge@durham.police.uk or you can call 101, select option 1 and enter extension 208722. This is for general use and incidents shouldn't be reported this way.

Please report any incidents via 101 (or the online report form) or 999 in an emergency.



Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of the Flower Arrangers Society

The club held the open Christmas demonstration on Saturday 26th November 2022 in Lanchester Community Centre. It was a wonderful afternoon and we had a full house. We had not seen the likes of which since before Covid. Everyone had such a lovely afternoon; a big big thank you to all who attended and supported us. We were also very fortunate to have three very unusual visitors. Three gentlemen! Richard Holden M.P., Doug Oliver and Mike McGaun. The three gentlemen were very instrumental to the Flower Club receiving a grant in 2022 from Mid Durham Area Action Partnership which was a life saver for the club. It enabled us to keep going after Covid and still be able to pay for flower demonstrators. We extend a big thank you to these gentlemen.

Our demonstrator was our newly elected NAFAS Area Chairperson Val Guest. After she was congratulated by the club on her new role, the demonstration began. Val showed us some lovely ideas for alternative colours for Christmas arrangements. The lovely arrangements Val produced were raffled to the delight of all the winners. Then we all enjoyed a light bite, tea and coffee and plenty of chatter.

We would also like to thank Gillian Harrison and Jane Pegram for coming along with their homemade produce.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 1.30 p.m. in Lanchester Community Centre Main Hall - everyone is welcome.

If you need any further information or details please contact Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667, our Chairperson, or Lestrine Kelly 01207 521494 our Secretary.

Lanchester Flower Club would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2023.

Lestrine Kelly



Above: Richard Holden, Doug Oliver, Kathy Smith, Helen Tomlinson and Mike McGaun.
Left: Val Guest demonstrates her skills
Right: A full house!



Notes from the House

I planted a Remembrance Cross in Parliament last month in a tribute to all those brave men and women who fought and died in the service of our country during both world wars and subsequent conflicts. Members of Parliament were all invited to place their tributes in the Constituency Garden of Remembrance in Parliament to mark Armistice Day on Remembrance Sunday.

I was honoured to do this on behalf of everyone in

North West Durham. So many from across our towns and villages gave their lives so that future generations could live in peace and enjoy the freedom we hold dear. This year is special because it is the centenary year of the founding of the Royal British Legion, who continue to do some invaluable work providing lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

Nothing makes me prouder to be your MP than the way the people in the towns and villages of North West Durham approach Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. Each of our towns and villages is unique but there is a real unity in remembrance and in honouring the freedom that men and women fought and died for.

From Consett to Crook, Willington to Wearhead, and Burnhope to Burnopfield, and to your own Lanchester, thousands gathered to respect our brave war dead and those who served. It was especially lovely to see so many children at remembrance events, brought along by mam and dad to honour those who serve. Different names may have been read out, but each location was still strikingly similar to one another, filled with poignant memories and deep respect.

I managed to get to Consett, Willington and Fir Tree and, separate to the main memorial services, managed to pop by Crook and Wolsingham too. It was very kind of Doug Oliver, one of our councillors, to place a wreath for me at the Lanchester memorial service too.

Richard Holden



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Warm Wednesdays off to a cosy start

As part of the Lanchester-wide "warm spaces" project, All Saints' Parish Centre in Kitswell Road opened its doors to its first ever group of Warm Wednesday visitors.

Home-made scones, teas and coffees were on the menu and the proceedings enlivened by an informal quiz, some games of bingo and dominoes for those who wanted.

A kind Lanchester resident had donated a beautiful collection of crocheted blankets. Every guest was invited to choose one to take home to help keep them warm and cosy during the cold days of winter.

The organisers were delighted with the success of the first meeting but would be thrilled to welcome even more guests. Everyone can have a lift to and from the centre.

If you would like to join in and would welcome a lift please phone or text Kate on 07507 816036.



Warm Spaces in Lanchester

There are a number of "Warm Spaces" open in Lanchester, with more to follow. Currently we have:

Lanchester Community Centre: Monday to Friday 9-1, with the new Community Café on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Church:
Wednesdays 1- 3.30pm (lifts provided)

Lanchester Methodist Church:
Tuesdays 12-3pm (hot drinks and soup)

Lanchester Library is designated a warm space:

Monday - 2.00pm to 5.30pm

Tuesday - 2.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday - 9.00am to 7.00pm

Saturday - 9.30am to 12.30pm



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Good day readers

I hope you liked my new colour photo in last month's edition.

It has helped me to be recognised by fellow walkers – canine and human – as I take my daily strolls around Lanchester. As you know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale terrier who enjoys getting out

and about.

This month I am going to share with you a walk I particularly like at Wolsingham, just nine miles away and a short car drive. The Human parks in a free car park at The Demesnes, a picnic area which is signposted as you enter the village. When we get out of the car I am kept on my lead because there are often ducks waddling about near the riverbank, and it can be tempting to chase them.

We walk through a gate from the car park, pass some picnic tables and go along a path with Waskerley Beck on our right. On a warm day it is tempting to have a splash in the stream. We proceed to the end of a field where there are some newly

planted trees. From there we turn left and go through another iron gate onto another field where I am allowed off my lead to run around. This is quite a large field which again has water – a smaller stream this time – on the right.

We walk until we come to another gate which we go through and turn left. This takes us onto a footpath with a fenced off field on the right which often contains livestock. We carry on to another gate which leads us onto a path with Wolsingham School fields on our right. We walk towards the churchyard and turn right to a path with a high wall on the left which takes us out onto a road in front of the school. This is known as Leazes Lane. We walk to the end of it and cross the main Stanhope Road.

Ahead of us is another path which takes us onto fields which lead down to a path alongside the River Wear. We follow the path under Wolsingham bridge and through a caravan park then out into the village centre. It is a short walk from there back to the car unless the Human decides to quench his thirst in one of the local hosteleries.

The beauty of this walk is that it need not be strictly adhered to. There are lots of paths and byways from the Demesnes car park to vary the route on each visit.

Poppy

Lanchester WI December

Lanchester WI held their Christmas party on Monday 5th December in the Community Centre. Marie, our president, welcomed 31 members and 5 visitors. Calendars and Christmas cards were given to each member on arrival with raffle tickets on sale for some lovely prizes.

After a short introduction, with information about upcoming events, we all enjoyed a buffet supper brought along by very generous members. The entertainment for the evening was singer Larry Page who sang popular classics with members singing and clapping along; he was warmly thanked by Ann Carr wearing a very festive dress and Santa hat. Raffle winners were announced, Alma Kelly, Valerie Johnson and Judith Collins. Next the bids for the silent auction, which had over 10 items to bid on (several donated from local businesses), were announced with the lucky highest bidders collecting their lots.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all.



Larry Page



Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial

'The Glorious Dead'.

'Lest we Forget.'

Two phrases which we associate with Remembrance Sunday and as always, our village community turned out on Sunday November 13th in good numbers to honour our Glorious Dead. The village war memorial stands with pride on our village green because the Lanchester community will never forget all those who lived in our village and gave up their lives in two World Wars, in addition to two young soldiers who more recently have died in conflict. The service as always was a moving tribute to all those men and several women, and there is a great sense of dignity and poignancy about this special service. Lanchester Brass Band once again played for the hymns and Mark Draper played the Last Post commendably as he always does.

This year, once again, young people belonging to a number of youth organisations were in attendance. The Boys' Brigade plays a big part in our village life and is attended in large numbers from the very young to teenagers and young adults. How smart they all looked and how very well behaved! They are a credit to their leaders and their parents.

Some of our young people attend the Scouts at Annfield Plain and they were present. They also, like the Boys Brigade, presented a wreath at the memorial. All these young people need to know how much they are valued and appreciated because they will be the ones to carry on the community of the village in the future.

Other organisations in our village laid wreaths, preceded by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Durham, the County Council, Doug Oliver on behalf of Richard Holden MP, the Independent Party, and the Veterans. Following these were, the Women's Institute, the Thursday Club, the Mothers' Union, the Red Cross, the Lanchester Partnership and the Churches Together.

How proud we can be that the memory never dies of those

Lanchester people, who died so many years ago and who lived, moved and had their being in Lanchester. They would be proud of the enriching community spirit which epitomises Lanchester today.

Brenda Craddock.

Top: Annfield Plain Scouts laying their wreath

Bottom: Lanchester Boys' Brigade with Eric Hepplewhite (left) and Paul Pine (right)



Food bank fundraiser

On Saturday December 3rd a coffee morning was held at the Methodist Church to raise much needed funds for the Consett food banks. Tea and coffee were served along with some mouth-watering cakes, scones, pies and festive stollen. We would like to thank everyone who attended, and especially those who helped out by baking cakes, clearing tables and donating in aid of this very worthy cause.

Big thanks of course must go to the Methodist Church for allowing us to host this event. We raised approximately £300 all of which will go to the food banks.



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Ladies who lunch

It was a glorious day as we ventured out up the back lanes, over the moors and alongside views of Derwent Reservoir, leading to the lovely mediaeval village of Blanchland - home of our destination for lunch - 'The Lord Crewe Arms'. A delightfully quirky old building where you have to be aware of low doorways, uneven floors and some monastic style seating. However, the welcome is always warm and the food, although on the pricey side, delicious.

At lunch time they have - bar bait, starters, mains, and desserts. Always a few items on the menu will require an explanation and then a decision on whether or not to try something new.

We all decided on a main and pudding combination and sampled: slow cooked pork belly with apple sauce, tender stem broccoli and buttered potatoes; chargrilled beef burger with Emmental cheese, red onion jam, gherkin and fries; battered North Sea cod with mushy peas, tartar sauce and fat chips; chicken schnitzel, fried ham, egg, lemon and caper butter, and fries.

Our desserts were: tonka bean creme brûlée with shortbread; ice cream; dark chocolate mousse with boozy cherries and pain d'epice; treacle tart with clotted cream; and blue Monday affogato.

Blanchland may not be very big, but the delights don't stop with the Lord Crewe - it has retail therapy in the form of 'Crewe Too' - a delightful little shop full of local crafts which is manned by the crafters themselves.

Finally, homeward bound, we were well fed, well shopped ladies and looking forward to the next outing which will be for Christmas.

A happy Christmas to you from us all.

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Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

Christmas is always a wonderful time to work in schools and this year is more special than ever. After three long years, we are thrilled to finally be able to hold our traditional events again this Christmas. We have Family Christmas Songs and Stories for Nursery, a nativity for Reception, a more advanced nativity for KS1 and our special Christingle led by Y3 combined with a traditional nativity led by Y6 with traditional carols and songs held in church.

Once again, we've also got our very special Winter Wonderland opening this week. Our woodland area has been transformed by our amazing team of teaching assistants, aided by our very handy caretaker! We are looking forward to welcoming all 460 children from our school and another 180 children from All Saints School too. They will enjoy popcorn made on the campfire, hot chocolate, a Christmas Photo Booth with carols and jokes and of course a visit to Santa's Grotto as well.

We are looking forward to opening the Winter Wonderland to the community on Thursday evening with over 300 tickets sold.



This, combined with our Christmas fair and outdoor Christmas market will, I am sure, be a fabulous evening.

Next week is party week and for the first time, due to our increased numbers, we are holding our parties in year groups rather than key stages. With 60 children in each year group, we have certainly outgrown the style of party we have hosted for as long as I can remember!

We also have a group of 4 Y6 boys heading off to Ajka and Budapest in Hungary as part of our Erasmus+ project. I am sure they will also have the opportunity to visit the Christmas markets during their time there too!

The final two days are when we think about the real meaning of Christmas and we have got a very special life size nativity scene which will be installed in the woodland. Carols will be sung around the tableaux, sending the children off with the real

meaning of Christmas at the forefront of their hearts and minds.

A wonderful few weeks for our very special children. Merry Christmas to you all!

Jane Davis, Head Teacher

Lanchester All Saints' School

Amongst all of the busyness and excitement of this half term, there is often peace and tranquility if you look closely enough! For example, our Children in Need Dance-on-the-Spot-Athon raised an outstanding £1092.64; behind the spots and excitement, in true All Saints' fashion, the children were happy to help those around them in need. (see the photo on the front cover)

Our Christmas productions are one of the highlights of our year. We cannot wait for our first ever Nursery Nativity and, as always, our infant children, led by Year Two, will impress with their own production. Our junior children, fronted by Year Six, are currently working on a performance of Silent Night; their acting and singing will remind everyone of the true meaning of Christmas. The retiring collection from these three performances will go towards CAFOD World Gifts, particularly supporting refugees as we remember that Mary and Joseph, famously, had to seek refuge.

Throughout the season of Advent, each of us in school make an Advent Promise – a small act which will improve the lives of those around us. We have a range of promises in school from: giving some pennies to our Thursday Fund; visiting relatives in care homes a little more frequently; and promising to help at home with tidying bedrooms or the washing up! Each week, as we light our Advent wreath and notice it becomes brighter the closer we get to Christmas, we concentrate on how we can take time to prepare our hearts and minds for the special day by trying to show kindness and support to those around us.

Of course, in my opinion, Christmas time is the very best time to be in school! The excitement of the pantomime, special events, even more special visitors, parties and gifts can be seen and felt and we have a fantastic time celebrating it all. Our Christmas Mass and Carols Around the Christmas Tree, on 23rd December this year, will bring our time in school this term to a perfect close when we will all be suitably prepared for Christmas Eve and the time ready to be spent with families.

We hope you have a joyful Christmas with your loved ones, filled with kindness and hope, and of course, lots and lots of good cheer!

Frances Stephenson, Head Teacher

Dear Village...

Deer on Pace-Egg Hill

Today we saw 4 deer on Pace-Egg Hill. Possibly there were more.

Please will dog walkers on the hillside be aware that deer could be nearby, and control their dogs appropriately?

Best wishes for Christmas,

Jill and Mike Gladstone



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Church services over Christmas

All Saints Parish Church

Sunday 18th December: 6pm Nine Lessons and Carols
Thursday 22nd December: 5pm Christingle service
Christmas Eve: 11pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day: 10am Eucharist for Christmas morning

Methodist Church

Sunday 18th December: 10:20am Carol service
Christmas Eve: 4.30pm Holy Communion service
Christmas Eve: 5.00-5.30pm Come and go as you wish Holy Communion (with notes for reflection)
Christmas Eve: 6pm Carols on the Green
Christmas Day: 10.00am All-Age Celebration (bring a present to show!)
New Year's Day: No service

All Saints Catholic Church

Christmas Eve: 7pm Christmas Vigil Mass (please note time change from 6pm)
Christmas Day: 9.30am Christmas Morning Mass
New Year's Day: 9.30am Mass

Lanchester Library Library Book Club

On Monday January 23rd at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing *Suite Française* by Irene Nemirovsky, 'a masterpiece' (Sunday Times). It consists of two novellas portraying life in France from 1940 to 1941, sadly the remaining works were never written. Will this book generate a lively discussion? It sounds intriguing. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday January 19th the group will be reviewing *Jailbirds* by Mim Skinner, a local author. Lessons from a women's prison, 'a unique brand of humour, realism and hope'. Although this would not be my choice, I really enjoyed this social comment and tales of prison life, which was sensitively and humorously written, give it a go. If you would like to join this book group, pop into the library and

pick up your copy.

Pins and Needles

The first Thursday in January is the 5th, and from 10-11.30am this small group will meet. Bring along your wool, thread, needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Everyone is welcome, enjoy.
Children crafts are available every afternoon and Saturday. Different crafts, ideas and materials are set out in the library for children to be creative, pop along with your children and enjoy.

Happy New Year, and make sure you pop in the library, choose a book or search the internet.

Lanchester Local History Society

The next meeting is "Show and Tell" on Friday 6th January at 7pm in room 3 in the Community Centre. Bring something to show us and tell us its history or just come along and enjoy every story with us.

Paradiso Film club

Lanchester Community Centre, 7pm for drinks, nibbles and raffle, film starts at 7.30pm.
Sunday 8th January: Belfast
This Oscar winning drama written and directed by Kenneth Branagh is set in Belfast, 1969. Buddy is a young child, growing up, doing what normal children do. Except that these are no normal times. Violence has broken out between Protestants and Catholics and Buddy's family are stuck in the middle. Rational, law abiding people are being forced to take sides. With all this happening Buddy's father considers moving the family out of Belfast.

Cuppa and Company lunch club

The next meeting of the Tuesday lunch club will be held at Lynwood House on 10th January 2023 at 12pm. All are welcome.

Lanchester Flower Club

There is no meeting in December. The club will recommence on Wednesday 25th January 2023 in Lanchester

Community Centre main hall starting at the earlier time of 1.30pm.

Lanchester Wildlife Group

The next meeting is on Tuesday 10th January at 19:30 in the Community Centre small hall. The speaker will be Dr Martin Kitching; his topic is "Dolphins and Whales (Cetaceans) of the North East". With sightings of dolphins increasing along the north east coast, especially bottle-nosed dolphins, this is a timely talk.

Musical Memories

4th January 2023 at 2pm in Lynwood House. Music can improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email lanchesterdfc@gmail.com.

Lanchester Methodist Church Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday 10 - 12 at the Methodist Church. They are run by the following organisations to raise funds; please come along for a coffee and a chat - and to support them.

17th December: Health and Hope

24th December: no coffee morning
7th January: coffee mornings start again.

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be in the main hall of the Community Centre on January 19th at 1.30pm. We will be enjoying a 'Sound Bath' with Alison Boyd.

Folk & Acoustic Music & Song Evenings

We will not meet on Sunday 18th December, due to various Christmas activities. We will be back on Sunday 15th January 2023.

We meet for a right good sing song and play on the 3rd Sunday of every month at Crinnions, starting at 8pm, until 10:30pm. Please note we play in the back area near the kitchen. If you

sing, play an instrument, or wish to listen, come along, and join us!
Ian Tute (07889 037102)

WI

The next meeting is on Monday 5th January in the Community Centre main hall. The speaker is Dave Dean telling us about the "Myths and Legends of the North East". Soup and a bun will be served. If you fancy trying something new this year please come along and meet us, visitors are always welcome. Happy New Year.

Lanchester playgroup

Every Friday 9:30 at Croft View, except 23rd and 30th December. Christmas party on Sunday 18th December. Contact Zoe on 07766313365 for tickets.

Vintage Tractors

Meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm in Lanchester Social Club. The usual Boxing Day Charity Tractor Run starts at 10am at West Newbiggin Farm. There will be a presentation of a bronze tractor in memory of Tom Stoker who enjoyed seeing the tractors in his latter years. We will be travelling down Newbiggin Lane and through the village just after 10am.

Lanchester Social Club

1st Jan - New Year's Day Party with Cool As Vegas. Tickets £6 from bar. Followed by Karaoke Disco from 5pm in the lounge.
7th Jan - Mark Howells
14th Jan - Paul Allen
21st Jan - Samantha Mac
28th Jan - TBC
All acts are subject to change at short notice.

Wellbeing Walk

Every Monday at 1pm on the village green next to the war memorial. Walk lasts up to 90 minutes, all welcome. To book please visit www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham or call 03000 262539.

Lanchester Medical Centre Patient Group

Calling patients of Lanchester Medical Centre. The Patient Group will be having their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday January 4th 2023 held in the

medical centre. Come along, and find out what goes on, you will receive a warm welcome.

Willow Burn

The Chairman's Dinner at the Pavilion Cantonese 30 January at 6.30pm
Join the Chairman of Willow Burn Hospice in 2023 as he celebrates the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit at The Pavilion in Iveston with a fabulous four course banquet. Enjoy good food, a fun night with friends and support your local hospice. Tickets are just £35 each, grab them whilst you can; you don't want to miss the latest in the Chairman's Dinner programme of events. Get your tickets - www.willowburnhospice.enthuse.com/

Scottish Dance Group

The start date for Lanchester Scottish Dance Group is 13th January 2023. We do not meet on Good Friday but continue until July 14th when we break for the summer holidays.

Lanchester Choral Society concert

'Celebration of Christmas'
Lanchester Methodist Church, Monday 19th December, 7:15pm
Collection for Willowburn Hospice
Come and celebrate the season with us!

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

There will be no meeting of the Friends in December as the day conflicts with Xmas festivities. The next meeting of the Friends of Longovicium will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 26th January 2023. Meetings are currently held in the upstairs conference room of the Community Centre on the fourth Thursday of every month (except at Xmas!). Further details can be obtained from Mrs. M. Williams, tel: 01207 520063 or from Rodney Hawkins, email Hawkins_15@sky.com.

Local MP visits Willow Burn Nurses Fair

The annual Willow Burn Nurses Fair attracted our MP Richard Holden.

The chairman, Paul Jackson, welcomed Richard, introduced him to Santa Claus and encouraged him to enjoy the shopping experience.

The event was a huge success, very well supported, and resulted in raising £4300 which will help towards the services offered to the patients.

Paul Jackson

*Left to right: Doug Oliver (county councillor), Richard Holden MP and Paul Jackson
Front row: Santa!*



Fun Dog Show – 20th November 2022

I would like to thank Marian Morrison and her team for inviting me to judge the 6 classes at the Fun Dog Show at the Community Centre. I had some very difficult decisions to make with all of the dogs being so gorgeous!

Best in Show was a beautiful Border Collie, Paddy, owned by Liam. Winning the 'Best Condition' class, he was in the peak of condition and presented to perfection, his black and white coat spotless and gleaming!

Other class winners were Millie, the Border Terrier, who won the 'Puppy' class, such a smart youngster, moving so well and with a great coat and a most appealing expression.

'Best Veteran' was Freddie, a 12-and-a-half-year-old cross breed, who was a tiny pocket rocket, looking fantastic, and moving so well with such a happy look about him.

Winner of two classes was Max, the Cavapoo. With his constantly wagging tail, he won the 'Waggiest Tail' class, and the class entitled, 'Dog The Judge Would Most Like To Take Home'. Such an attractive coat and in great condition, he was a real sweetheart and melted my heart, with his beautiful head and those soft, eager eyes. Finally, to the three Junior Handlers, who all put on a great performance, following my instructions and encouraging their dogs to stride out well, whilst all the time being gentle and caring towards their dogs. The winner was Niamh, at 9 years old, such a good rapport with her beautiful Bulldog, Maggie. She chatted to her, encouraging and praising her, so lovely to see. Congratulations to all the winners and my appreciation for accepting my decisions so sportingly.

Many thanks to you all, I really did enjoy the afternoon so much and I hope you all did too.

Fiona Thurm

Best in Show Winner, Border Collie Paddy and owner Liam with Judge Fiona Thurm



Red Cross Shop Awards

The photo shows Sian Delahunty (right in the photograph) receiving her badge and certificate for 10 years volunteering in the Red Cross shop; she also got a certificate for Significant Contribution. Sian received her awards from Joanne Turner (left in the photograph), Area Manager, who came to the shop to thank her for her commitment.



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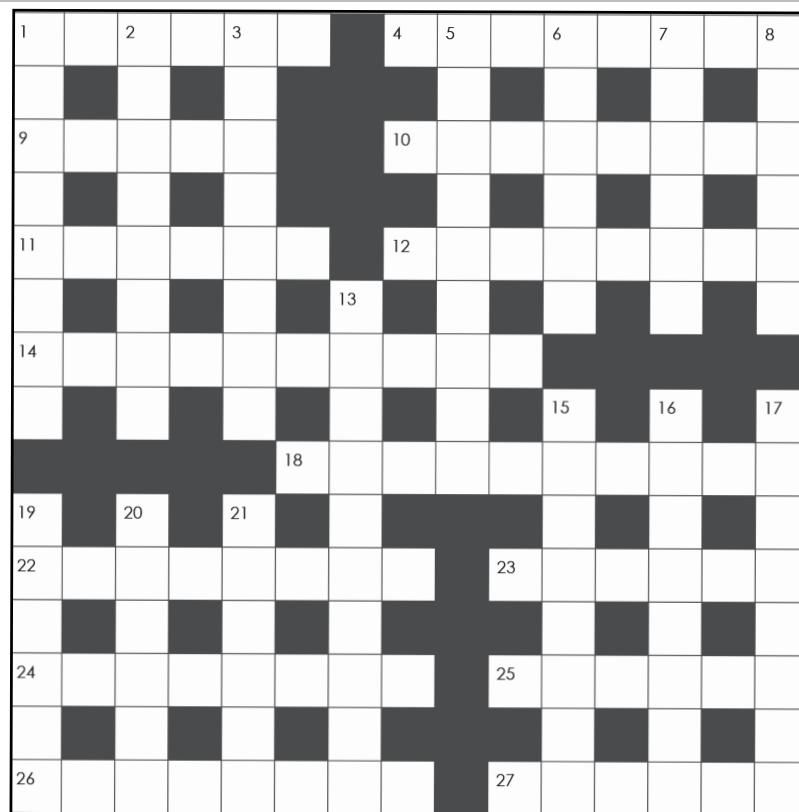
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CLUES CROSSWORD 180



Across

1. Immature and lacking sophistication (6)
4. Silk scarf worn by Spanish ladies (8)
9. Indigenous people of Greenland (5)
10. Irrational and extreme feeling of being persecuted by others (8)
11. Type of flower (6)
12. Neck injury suffered in car accident (8)
14. Geordie 'Rocket' man (10)
18. Simple track and subject of a Catherine Cookson novel (6,4)
22. Person who cultivates flowers and vegetables (8)
23. Former students at a particular college or university (6)
24. Children's Christmas play (8)
25. Leave to start a journey (6)
26. Military commanders (8)
27. Food that is heavy and filling (6)

Down

1. Infantile and silly (8)
2. Sound of amusement (8)
3. Wholly and completely (8)
5. Spider like (9)
6. Itinerant vagrants (6)
7. Bath time accessory (6)
8. & 17. The 'Queen of Crime' (6,8)
13. Term for music used between scenes in a film or play (10)
15. Strolled around as the person with the driest humour (anagram) (8)
16. Agricultural worker (8)
17. See 8 down.
19. Sweet Christmas drink (6)
20. Celtic language of North-West France (6)
21. Fabric maker (6)

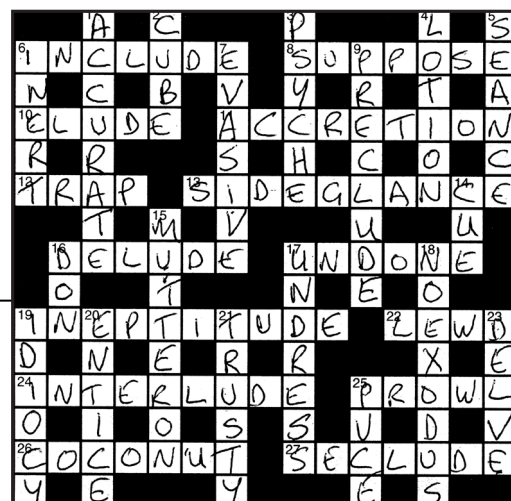
Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw (by the deadline date on back page) to the Village Voice,
c/o Lanchester Community Centre,
Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY

Name: _____

Address: _____

This is the first crossword from our new compiler, Mr X. Please give it a go and send your entries in.

Again, many thanks to the previous compiler for his long service and producing 179 crosswords for the Village Voice.



Winner of Crossword 179

There were 8 entries, five of which were correct. The winner who was drawn out of the hat was W Phillips, who wins the £10 prize.

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Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 8 November 2022 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 11 October – approved

Police Reports – The reports for September and October were received.

Correspondence

Heritage 100 Walk - Councillors were informed that 97 of the 100 heritage walks around the county have been planned by the Walk and Talk Trust. It is hoped that the Lanchester walk will be installed in the second tranche.

Durham County Council – Road Traffic Order – Parking Restrictions - Councillors considered the amendments to the order around St Bedes School.

Durham County Councillors – An update was received on issues including:

Durham Road – ramp to replace steps into estate completed, resurfacing work at Ornsby Hill completed and the latest draft of the Boundary Review. Councillors discussed the Boundary Review which proposes that the Lanchester Ward will move into the North Durham constituency and the North West Durham constituency to be removed.

Parking and Traffic Problems – Front Street - A resident attended the meeting to discuss a number of traffic concerns on Front Street near to Victoria Terrace. Concerns included inappropriate and illegal parking, two way traffic problems due to parked cars, access to driveways being blocked, safety of children and adults and receiving verbal abuse from drivers.

It was agreed that a letter is sent to Durham County Council and the police requesting enforcement to address the concerns identified.

Warm Hubs – Lanchester – Councillors were informed that a warm hubs project is being developed with the three churches, library and community centre involved. The project will provide a warm place in Lanchester on weekdays which will be free and open to everyone. A grant to cover costs

is being progressed under the umbrella of Lanchester Partnership. A schedule will soon be finalised and promoted.

Christmas Light Switch On Event - Councillors were informed that all elements of the event were progressing. It was agreed that the lights be lit between 3.15pm and 11.00pm at night and between 7.30am and 8.30am in the morning and switched off on 6 January.

Pace Egg Hill - Councillors discussed Pace Egg Hill which is well used by the community for walking, sledging and Easter egg bowling. Recent activity has resulted in ploughing of part of the field by the new owner. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the new owner informing him of the significance of Pace Egg Hill and the community use of the field over many decades.

Kitswell Park – small play area - Councillors were informed that repairs were required to two pieces of equipment in the small play area at Kitswell Park. The costs were quite substantial. It was agreed that a wider discussion was needed which would consider options.

War Memorial - Councillors discussed the names on the war memorial some of which had faded. The company who undertook the work on the war memorial have been asked to provide a price to repaint the letters.

Garage – Park House - Councillors were informed that the garage at Park House had been broken into in early November. Only one item had been taken. The police have been informed. It was agreed that works to further secure the garage are undertaken.

Poppy Wreath – agreed that a donation of £100.00 is made to the Royal British Legion.

Newsletter - approved for distribution

Financial report - approved

Accounts for Payment – approved

Recruitment of Clerk - Councillors approved the recruitment pack consisting of job advert, job description, job specification and application form. The timescale and costs associated with recruitment were approved.

Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

Lanchester Pharmacy Services

In this era of rapid change in health care delivery, the pharmacy profession has evolved from its conventional drug dispensing role to an advanced patient focus role. This advancement in role calls for the pharmacist to become part of the broader health care team, providing services that were once the domain of the local doctor.

Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)

Common symptoms:

- Pain or burning sensation when passing urine
- Needing to pass urine frequently and urgently and during the night
- Feeling unable to fully empty your bladder
- Urine that looks cloudy, dark, smelly, and may have blood in it.

Eligibility for the service:

- Females who are not pregnant
- 16-64 years old

UTI treatment requires an antibiotic prescription. Following a positive urine test, the pharmacist can prescribe a suitable medication.

Blood pressure check

High blood pressure increases the risk of a heart attack or a stroke. Often people don't know they have high blood pressure. Blood pressure monitoring will identify anyone with readings higher than recommended and the possible need for medication.

Eligibility for the service:

- Referred from GP surgery
- Anyone who does not have a high blood pressure diagnosis

Asthma - inhaler technique

Poor inhaler technique reduces the percentage of medication that reaches the lungs to relieve asthma symptoms. The pharmacist can discuss different inhalers and their techniques to ensure the maximum medication reaches your lungs.

Eligibility for the service:

Anyone with an asthma diagnosis using a prescribed inhaler
Emergency supply of medication

If you have run out of regular medication and there is a delay in getting a prescription, the pharmacist can dispense a supply of your medication until a prescription is provided.

Vitamin B12

Common symptoms of low vitamin B12: extreme tiredness, lack of energy, regular headaches and pale skin. A discussion with the pharmacist can help to identify the cause of such symptoms and the need for suitable medication.

For more information:

Website: www.lanchesterpharmacy.co.uk

Email: Info@lanchesterpharmacy.co.uk

Instagram: @lanchesterpharmacy

Facebook: @lanchesterpharmacy

Telephone: 01207 520 365

Lanchester Local History Society

The history society met on Friday 2nd for the winter social. Our entertainment was a quiz in two parts interspersed with light refreshments. 10 of us enjoyed an amiable evening without the pressure of the seasonal festivities. 40 points were up for grabs from the questions, but we weren't looking for a winning team as we were all winners from the banter the answers generated.

We had a free raffle as a thank you to members for supporting us over the year. Why not come and join us at our next meeting on Friday 6th January 7.00 in the Community Centre, where we will be holding our usual Show and Tell session. Over the years this has brought in many unusual and fascinating things. Folks just bring an item that has some meaning to them and shares with us its history. One memorable one from the past was a miners lamp made by the owner when he worked in a pit. Have a great festive season and do come along.

This photograph is a picture of one of the quiz questions. It was a true or false question and the answer is true.

Join us and someone will explain all about it.



Monday Art Group



The Monday Art Group is winding up its first year back after lockdown with a Christmas party on December 12th. Although membership has fallen off slightly compared to

pre-covid times, we have still managed to enjoy a varied programme of visiting artists and homegrown set subjects. In March we had Jenny Ulyatt demonstrate her free flow landscape watercolour techniques and in June Kathryn Gander gave us an insight into keeping a nature journal sketchbook. Cath Gilbert from the White Room Gallery in Stanley showed us monoprinting and working with pastels and Andy Taylor demonstrated life sketching and colour workshops. Our set subjects were very popular and "still life with fruit", "old boots" and "indoor landscape sketching" challenged our painting and drawing skills. It is also nice to recall this year's lovely summer weather and our outdoor sketching trip to Beamish Hall.

We intend to continue with more of the same in 2023 and look forward to a new and inspiring programme of artistic endeavour. The Monday Group is friendly and supportive and ideal for beginners, late starters or enthusiastic dabblers. We meet at the Community Centre on Mondays from 10:00 to 12:00. We do have a number of places available if anyone wishes to join us.

Please contact John Dixon on 07703 0524054 or email John@johndixonarchitect.co.uk or leave your contact details at the Community Centre and we will get back to you.

Also check out our facebook page on [facebook.com/mondayartgroup](https://www.facebook.com/mondayartgroup)

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium Pottery

The Friends of Longovicium are very pleased to have received from John and Rosemary Gall a large amount of Roman pottery sherds (broken pottery) for educational use. The pottery was found in the early 1950s on a shingle beach in the River Eden, close by the Roman fort of Uxellodunum, the largest fort along Hadrian's Wall at Stanwix, near Carlisle. It is not known if the river eroded away a Roman rubbish dump or if the Romans chucked their broken pottery into the river to dispose of it. Spending some time on the beach, Rosemary and her family collected many pieces of Samian Ware (the "posh" stuff), bases and rims of cups and bowls, pieces of mortaria (mixing bowls), an amphora handle from a large wine jar, pieces of roof tiles and Roman concrete flooring. Rosemary would take her finds to the curator of the Tullie House Museum but because the pieces were river-washed and unstratified their date of deposition could not be recorded, and they were not suitable to be accessioned by the museum. So, the family kept their finds!

John and Rosemary decided recently to pass on their collection to the Friends of Longovicium for educational use, and Rodney Hawkins (Chair of the Friends), has had much fun sorting through it all.

An illustrative collection has been put together for Longovicium display purposes. Though not from Longovicium, the display highlights the sort of pottery that was in use for many years at forts in the northern area of Roman Britain. A collection is being prepared for the Lanchester Partnership for use by any of the schools in Lanchester. A quantity of mixed pottery has been given to a son of Rodney who delivers STEM education in Cambridge, STEM being Science, Technology, English and Mathematics. It is intended to use the pottery, for example, in sand trays, so that students can archaeologically dig for real Roman pottery in the classroom!

The Friends are very grateful for this donation and our thanks are extended to John and Rosemary. Details of the Friends may be obtained from Mrs M. Williams, 01207 520063 or Rodney Hawkins at hawkins_15@sky.com.



Supporting The Village Bus

Over the past few months, you will have seen a great deal of activity and effort being put into fundraising for our Village Bus. We have had tremendous support from individuals and local businesses in the form of sponsorship for which we are extremely grateful.

As in the past, we've also benefited from significant grants from County Durham Council and other philanthropic donors. Lanchester has had a village bus since 2001. It is a service all of us can be very proud of and we all want it to continue. Increasing fuel prices are having a dramatic effect on costs. From January 2022 there will be an increase of 48% in the amount we pay to the provider. This means that the annual cost of providing the current level of service will rise from £12,000 to nearly £18,000. Thanks to our generous supporters, we now have sufficient reserves to meet the funding gap in the short term - but we are having to review all areas of the operation and its funding, to make sure we are delivering the best possible value to the village.

Discussions with Stanley Travel (the provider) are ongoing and in the coming weeks and months we'll also be contacting passengers to collect their views. We'll keep everyone in touch via these pages. Meanwhile, thank you for the amazing generosity of all of you who continue to keep the bus on the road.

If anyone has a question about the bus or would like to point us in the direction of a major unexplored funding source, please contact:

Paul on 07957871106 or email contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk

Thanks to December Sponsors...

With thanks to Pam Bygate for her unwavering support for the Village Bus even throughout the Covid period with personal donations and also from the proceeds of the popular trips to The Little Theatre in Saltwell, which she has diligently organised for many, many years. Thank you Pam!

Similarly thanks go to Karin Bravington for her ongoing support of the Village Bus; her amazing efforts have raised enough to cover the costs of one month!

We have also had kind sponsorship this month...

In memory of Mary Dew, who loved the bus and used it regularly.

Alison Gray to celebrate Daniel Finlay's birthday!

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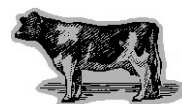


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Lanchester Girls' Cricket

Earlier this year Lanchester Cricket Club added to the programme we offer and started a girls' specific cricket session for primary aged girls. This attracted girls from both the EP School and All Saints' School. Following a block of winter indoor coaching sessions at Croft View Halls, Lanchester U9 girls' cricket team competed in the Durham Cricket "Indoor Bash" at The Louisa Centre in Stanley in November. The girls played some well fought matches against teams from across the county, in a fun development league. The girls are looking forward to the spring for outdoor coaching and their first full season of softball cricket.

For more information and to get involved contact Fiona Holden Fiona.holden@yahoo.co.uk

Above: The team with Fiona Holden at the back

Cricket News

What a year it has been for 15 year old Mae Deaville!

Mae followed older brother Tom into cricket five years ago and was one of a trio of girls who started playing cricket at Lanchester at the same time. Mae quickly caught the bug as she was snapped up for the county squad. Since then,

Mae has played for the county at under 11s, under 13s and despite being 14 during the 2022 season, the under 15s team. Mae's forte is her bowling, but with some good coaching, her batting has vastly improved, and she is making good contributions with the bat.

As a result of being in the under 15s squad, she was also picked for the Northern Warriors squad but unfortunately the match was cancelled. Mae was then selected to take part in the Super 4s, which is four squads of players picked from Durham, Yorkshire and Northumberland, who are brought together to identify future players. The squads are for under 18 players, but Mae was good enough to be selected at 14 to compete with them. This year the event was held at York CC and on the back of her performances, Mae has been selected for the Emerging Players Programme, which hopefully will lead to the Northern Academy.

Mae then picked up the Durham Ladies under 15 player of the year award, which was presented to her by Laura Ellison, captain of the North East Warriors. At home, Mae had great seasons in the under 13s and 15s but picked up the third team bowling award and third team player of the year. Those third team performances earned her a nomination for the Division 2 South player of the year, which made her the youngest nominee ever and the first female of any age. Not a bad year!

Andrew McConnell



Left: Mae with her player of the year award

Right: Mae being presented with her award by Laura Ellison



The winners of the bowling club awards. L to R: Adrian Evans, Paul Hammond Jr, Robert Cuthbertson, John Vickery, Bruce Fox

Bowls Club Dinner and Awards

The Bowls Club celebrated their annual presentation evening with a night out at Ravello's, where all concerned enjoyed a lively evening and good food. Winners of the various trophies with the exception of Albert Spencer, who has gone back to South Africa to winter with the swallows and will return with said birds come the spring, were presented with the following trophies.

Club Champion	Paul Hammond Jr.
3 Woods Champion	John Vickery
Two Wood Champion	Adrian Evans
Pair Champions	Robert Cuthbertson and Albert Spencer
Handicap Champion	Bruce Fox
Challenge Cup Trophy Champion	Robert Cuthbertson

NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

The deadline for advertisers is Tuesday 3rd January 2023

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise,

email: lanchestervadverts@gmail.com.

telephone: Paul on 07957 871106

Please do not use this number for matters relating to content.

General and news enquiries,

email: lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk

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



Walk Durham comes to Lanchester in January

A weekly wellbeing walk is starting in Lanchester on Monday 9th January at 1pm and every Monday after that date. The walk will be led by trained and friendly volunteer walk leaders and will last up to 90 minutes covering 3 to 3.5 miles. Everyone is welcome and all

free of charge. An opportunity to walk and talk, get some exercise and meet new people. The wellbeing benefits of walking are huge to both your physical and mental health. Whether you want to exercise, meet people, get out in the fresh air or learn new walking routes come and join us.

Although free to come along we do ask that you book a place. You can do this either online at www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham or by calling 03000 262539.

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Please let us know, and we will endeavour to correct the mistake.