

the Village Voice

Issue No 3, Volume 22

Lanchester, March 2022

Helping Ukrainian Refugees

We have changed our masthead this month to show support for the Ukrainian people. The yellow and blue of their flag is there, but what is featured is the sunflower - the national flower of Ukraine. In this edition we show what the people of Lanchester have been doing to support the Ukrainian refugees, particularly in Poland (full stories on pages 2 and 3)



Collecting clothes and other supplies for Ukraine
(full story on page 2)



1. Kathryn Rooney, coordinator of the local appeal, with a driver before he set off for Poland.
2. Fiona Selby, with the loaded lorry.
3. First van from Lanchester, ready to go.
4. Community centre notice board
5. Clothes waiting to be sorted at St. Mary's Blackhill.



Marjorie, Anne and Pat beside the big red bucket at the Red Cross Shop, which was filled with money for their Ukraine Collection. Over £2000 was collected. Well Done!



Junior Disco in aid of Ukraine raises over £800
Hokey Cokey : Children enjoying the Hokey Cokey
Disco food servers: Matthew Hill, Arnaud Lefoyer and Louis Lefoyer (from the Boys' Brigade) and Linda and Kevin Carroll serving refreshments.
(full story on page 3)

Collecting clothes and other supplies for Ukraine

(continued from p1)



Fiona Selby of Lanchester reports on sending clothes and other items to Ukraine.

"I only got involved due to being a friend of Councillor Kathryn Rooney (Consett North) who had an idea that she could maybe fill a van and send it to the border to help out. She then asked me if I could give a hand and I opened

my house doors to donations. Oh my goodness what did I let myself and my family in for? Within less than 24 hours the kitchen had been taken over and within 48 hours the whole downstairs had been taken over stacked three high in places. We couldn't get to the cooker so lived on takeaways for 3 nights. On Saturday the 5th of March I filled my son David Selby's van and sent him up to Stanley to my friend Mary Jo Bunting where she squashed more into every nook and cranny left in the van and that has just been the start!"

The church hall at St Mary's Blackhill was made available

free of charge, and donations poured in from all over North West Durham.

Kathryn was coordinating the activity.

The main items being collected were clothes, baby items, milk, nappies, household goods and toiletries. There was a major sorting operation there with clothes being sorted and boxed. The other goods were also boxed and sent to Elddis who palletised them. At one point there were too many clothes in the system and people were asked to stop sending them in. Transport to Poland is expensive and Kathryn organised a Facebook fundraising page to raise £6,000 for the cost of transport to Poland. At the time of writing, this had raised over £4,500.



The Community Centre

The Community Centre in the village was also a drop off point for donations which were taken to St Mary's as well. They have provided a box in reception where users of the centre can also drop off donations as they come in for their activities. At the time of writing, they were looking for volunteers to take the donations up to St Mary's. If you would like to help please ring the centre between 9 and 3 on 521275 for up to date needs as the situation is changing all the time. What is needed in Poland is constantly changing so we are not publishing a list here.

Pallets awaiting shipment



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Junior Disco in aid of Ukraine raises over £800

(continued from p1)

Croft View sports hall was transformed into a disco on Sunday 13th March in aid of Ukraine. The idea came from Sophie Emmerson and the event was organised by Ann Marie Emmerson. The original aim was to raise £500.

Many people gave their time to help make the event a success. Tyrone Disco (Liam Allakar and Mychaler Lawson) provided the disco, organised the games and produced the candy floss free of charge.

The hall was free, Aldi donated cakes, drinks and hot dogs, Lanchester Dairies donated orange and apple juice and neighbours and friends made cakes.

The EP School sold tickets. Parents and friends made donations for their food on the day. On the next day, there was a sponsored run, and a raffle. It was a tremendous effort which raised £815.14. As you can see from the photographs everyone had a great time.



A family taking a breather and enjoying their food – with other children rushing back into action in the background.

Sitting in a circle playing a game, and candy floss for all!



Ukraine refugee hosting – volunteers needed

I'm sure many people have watched the unfolding horror in Ukraine and felt helpless and unsure what they can do to help when humanity is faced with such horror.

Village Voice readers may have heard of community sponsorship. Community sponsorship is a refugee resettlement programme with local people at its heart, where local people support the resettlement of people into their community.

I'm currently looking to establish a community sponsorship group that may be able to work together as volunteers who could sponsor refugees to live in the area. I'm working with the national organisation - Reset UK - an umbrella organisation for community sponsorship schemes in the region - Tyneside Welcomes - to try and establish a community sponsorship scheme in this area.

The great news is that a large number of people in North West Durham have already stepped up and expressed an interest in helping. The practical skills that people in this area have to offer, from speaking Ukrainian to teaching English as a foreign language to mental health support skills (to name just three) - has been inspirational. We have also been given some early leads for potential properties in the area. At the time of writing, we are keenly awaiting

further information from the Government on how this will work in practice for Ukrainian refugees. We are also going through the process of finding out more about community sponsorship in general (many refugees, of course, are not Ukrainian).

What we do know is that we will need volunteers to help. And we know that the more people who help, the better the range of skills we can bring together, from right here in North West Durham, which will hopefully help give a great welcome to people in unimaginable, desperate need.

Although we are at an early, planning stage, we are intending to move as quickly as possible in making this a reality - reflecting the urgency of the situation. If people are interested in volunteering their time, please get in touch.

I can be contacted at martin.walker.72@btinternet.com or on 07954 099737

Martin Walker



Village response to Ukraine -

(continued from p1)

The Red Cross shop have had a collection to the amount of over £2000, which has been sent to their head office. Someone had gone into the Red Cross Shop and donated £1000, as he has done before in a crisis. WOW!

The EP school had a collection on a non-uniform day, for UNICEF to provide emergency hygiene kits which raised over £2500. **The Roman Catholic Primary School** had made a collection of all kinds of goodies which they took down to **St Bede's School** as part of a collaborative effort. They said the parents' response to their collection had been overwhelming.

Brenda Craddock

Line Dance Classes

The line dancing class has been running now for just over five years and is held every Thursday afternoon from 1:30-3:30 p.m. This is a very friendly, lively class and we do a mixture of classic line dances and new line dances. The two hour class is great fun for everyone, the instructor included, and we get through a lot of great dances each week.

Some original members still attend every week and new members have joined us over the years. Most people who joined the class originally were absolute beginners, but the level of dance now is at improver level. Some dancers have progressed so much they now also attend my intermediate line dance class at Dipton every Tuesday night. Class numbers have fluctuated over the years but since the Covid lockdowns, many people decided not to come back to the class, for whatever reason. This was very disappointing for me as everyone had worked hard over the years building up their expertise in line dancing.

So, I'm hoping this little article in your Village Voice will remind people of the fun and friendship they had in the line dance class, and I hope they will consider coming back to the class. New members are also welcome, but they need to have some line dance experience as the class is not for beginners now.

Line dancing has been proven to be a great form of low impact exercise and it helps to improve physical, mental, and emotional wellness. It is one of the best activities for total body wellness; it improves confidence and coordination, builds up stamina and helps with balance



and memory. It provides heart healthy benefits of aerobic exercise and provides the chance to engage in social activity and make new friends.

In all my line dance classes I use all genres of music, not just country music. Forget the old fashioned "cowboy style" image that is usually portrayed by the media! Country music is still used but all genres of music are used: pop, Irish, Latin, waltz, and this mix of music makes line dancing more interesting and enjoyable.

I hope this has piqued people's interest and hope that those who have some dance experience will come along to this great class. Everyone will be given a very friendly welcome.

Agnes Roberts

Instructor

Renegades Line Dance Club

The art of friendship

We all know we live in a small world. Many years ago, I worked in the shipbuilding and ship repair industry on Tyneside and all over the UK. Coming from the steel industry in Consett, it was a real eye opener. The steel we made at Consett was used locally on Tyneside to build ships. If anyone has seen a new ship grow from the stocks it is a truly awesome sight and seeing Consett steel from Hownsgill plate mill is even more miraculous. The entire experience broadened my outlook to the work environment. Returning to the art story, I was very surprised when a knock at the door revealed one of my former work colleagues, Joe Thackeray. Joe is a true professional craftsman and worked as a shipyard joiner. However, he wasn't just a joiner, he was charged with building model ships; these were for the shipowners or to keep as a true record of that ship. In later years he was more hands on with health and safety and medical support.

I was surprised as Joe was now a full and active member of the Thursday Art Group. I couldn't wait to visit the next group meeting in Lanchester Community Centre. Wow what an energetic and industrious group, the room was alive. I was introduced to Margaret Walters the group secretary, and of course one of the painters too. To my total surprise Joe then presented me with one of his valued paintings. It was a water colour of Wallsend Dry Docks. The picture now hangs proudly on my wall below one of the steel works. I'm sure you have all heard of the Pitmen Painters, well we also have the Shipyard Painters now. Joe continues to visit Lanchester to join his friends on a Thursday, you'll be amazed to know how far they travel to paint: Gateshead, Durham, Rowlands Gill, Stanley to mention just a few.

The group is so popular there's a waiting list so check before you turn up. The annual exhibition is planned for the end of October this year, it's worth a visit, it's free and you can purchase a painting.

Paul Jackson





Notes from the House

I am delighted to have been asked to write for Lanchester's Village Voice. This section Notes from the House will hopefully provide a little insight into the workings of the House of Commons and my role within it as your elected Member of Parliament. Rather than being party

political pieces, I hope they provide some snippets of insight into life as a working MP.

The oddest thing I find is that when I'm out and about in my beautiful North West Durham constituency, Westminster feels a very long way away. There is nothing like exchanging the Palace's looming oak doors for the North Pennine Moors and the villages and towns that nestle around the Tyne and Wear and their tributaries. And nothing more pleasant than swapping the incessant honking of car horns and hubbub of London for the whistle of birds, background pub chatter, and stars on a clear night.

Parliament is overflowing with history – and more is made every day. President Zelenskyy's address to the House of Commons via video link from Ukraine marked another point recently and when war is debated it can make other concerns and debates feel less important and brings the history to life. The memories of great men and women are

immortalised by imprint in gently worn away stone steps. The spirits of our parliamentary antecedents fill the buildings that house our Parliament. From Peel, to Gladstone, to the towering giants of the 20th century like Churchill and Attlee, whose statues stand in members lobby and whose brass feet shine bright as MPs from their respective parties touch them daily for 'luck' before entering the House of Commons. It is always worth remembering that they were just people who went before, sometimes remarkable people but people all the same. It should inspire us all that whoever we are, as individuals we really can make a difference in our communities and our country.

As a working MP, it's vital to reflect on history, but not let it overwhelm you. I will write again next month about some of the specific actions I am pursuing to get things done, along with other MPs from all parties. Whilst Parliament always inspires through its history and the opportunity it gives to help deliver things, it is also true that I long for Thursday nights and Friday mornings, when I usually get to travel back home to my Consett office and home in Wolsingham too. As a lad born and bred in the Pennines, cities don't really do it for me. If MPs do ever have to leave Westminster for the building to be refurbished, I hope it's to somewhere much more rural. **Richard Holden**



World Day of Prayer

It is over 45 years since our village first held a special service once a year, to celebrate 'Women's World Day of Prayer'. Our three village churches are all involved and for many years each church hosted this service in rotation. More recently the title of the service changed to 'World Day of Prayer' being a woman led Global Ecumenical Movement. This in effect means it is open to men and women. We were delighted therefore to welcome the clergy of All Saints' Roman Catholic Church and several other men, including our pianist, Harry Carr.

The committee decided two years ago that the Methodist Church was much more central for people attending and that in the future this would always be the venue. That is why a number of people were making their way to the church on Wednesday March 2nd to attend the service. The Methodist Wives and Friends were holding their first meeting in church that day for a very long time due to Covid restrictions, which made it special, and it seemed to make good sense to incorporate World Day of Prayer into their meeting. It turned out to be very successful and it was a joy to see a good number of people from all three churches represented both in the pews and in presenting the service. The service is different

every year because it is written and prepared each year by women from different countries. This year it was the turn of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. A booklet containing the order of service and other relevant information, is given out to every participant and it makes very interesting reading. The central theme of the service was hope which is very appropriate in these troubled times.

After the service there were refreshments and a chance to mix and chat with people, which was such a bonus after being restricted for so long.



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A Dream Come True

Colin and Jean Burrows have lived in Foxhills Crescent, Lanchester since 1966, and have always loved the village and church communities. When their grandson, Daniel, decided he wanted to become a helicopter pilot, Colin knew he wanted to have a helicopter trip piloted by Dan, (Colin was in the RAF in the early 1950s, but in communications, not as a pilot). Dan went to New Zealand to train and then spent 7 years working in Australia and the glaciers of New Zealand, before returning to the UK. The pandemic then effectively prevented helicopter flights, and in August 2021, Colin and Jean moved into Greenways Court in Delves Lane, three days after a fabulous party to celebrate their platinum (70 years) wedding anniversary.

Colin had mentioned his ambition to fly to Dan and to Greenways' manager, Kinga, who decided they would make it happen if at all possible. Neil, from Northumbria helicopters, very generously agreed that Dan could use one of his helicopters (based at Newcastle airport), and Kinga arranged minibus transport to take Colin and Jean to the airport. Everything depended on Colin's health, negative Covid tests, and a break between storms Eunice and Franklin, but on 22nd of February, 2022 (3 weeks after Colin's 92nd birthday), the trip took place. Paul came in from leave to drive the minibus, and Colin and Jean were accompanied by Gill and Gilbert (daughter and son in law) and Tracy from Greenways.

We took off from the airport, and within 6 minutes were flying over Greenways, able to see staff and residents in the car park; and a few minutes later flew over Foxhills Crescent, to wave at neighbours and friends who had gathered to watch. We then headed towards Durham city with a very clear view of the castle, cathedral and River Wear (although we had to climb higher to go over the city). We then headed to the coast, and were able to fly at a much lower altitude to see the coastline, the cliffs and the lighthouses. A magical moment was when we saw a rainbow ahead; we could see not only a normal rainbow (although it was double!) but also an inverted rainbow, so effectively a complete circle of colour which we flew through, an amazing experience. We returned to Newcastle airport, and Colin's comment was that it had been 'the trip of a lifetime'.

We'd like to thank Neil and Northumbria helicopters for their generosity, Kinga and the staff at Greenways who from the start have been supportive and keen that all residents should achieve any unfulfilled ambition, Paul for his kindness, and Tracy for sharing the experience.

Definitely a day to remember!



*Colin and Gillian with grandson Dan.
Helicopter flying over Foxhills Crescent*

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An Irish Wedding

Past pupils, parents, parishioners, and staff of All Saints' RC Primary School in Lanchester will recall our colleague Mr Daniel Hayes, from Ballybunnion on the West Coast of Ireland, who joined our school as a newly qualified teacher back in 2011. He was a valued member of staff who brought much enthusiasm for primary education, especially PE and all sporting opportunities. He felt warmly welcomed into the Catholic community of Lanchester and made many friends during his time here, in the village and abouts. In 2017 Mr Hayes moved back to Ireland, settled near Limerick and kept in touch. He and his fiancé Nicole recently invited several All Saints' School staff members to his wedding in Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland on Saturday 19th February 2022.

The service took place in the stunning St Mary's Cathedral followed by a most joyous reception at the Great Southern Hotel. The Irish hospitality was truly magical. In his speech Mr Hayes thanked Mrs Conlin, me and our husbands for making the long journey, and on the stormy weekend! It was a great trip and to meet his wife, both their families and many friends was entirely our pleasure! Mr and Mrs Hayes hope to visit Lanchester next year, where they will always find a warm welcome.

Tina Patterson



*Ronnie and Lilian Dixon
with their daughter,
Hilary on the left.*

originally from Langley Park and, in the 1980s, wrote two books about the history of Lanchester. They met through the church and are still members, Lilian having played the organ until just before the pandemic.

Their early years together were spent in teaching, Lilian at the EP School and Ronnie in Sunderland and then in Whickham. Lilian enjoyed leading musical productions at the girls' club and the EP School, also playing for the Choral Society. Ronnie was Boys' Brigade captain for many years. They celebrated this major milestone with neighbours and close family. Among the many cards received was a special one from Her Majesty the Queen. Many beautiful flowers and gifts also arrived.

Ronnie and Lilian remain a strong team, although life is understandably a bit quieter these days. Their family would like to wish them good health and happiness in the future.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Ronald and Lilian Dixon celebrated 60 years of marriage on Thursday 3rd March.

Ronnie and Lilian were married on a snowy day in 1962 at Lanchester Methodist Church. They have lived in their current home ever since, bringing their two children up there. Hilary is a paediatric consultant at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and Gavin has a software development business in Hamilton, New Zealand. Their daughter in law, Rachel, and their three grandsons from New Zealand have been welcomed to Lanchester on several occasions.

Ronnie has always lived in Lanchester, brought up in the family haulage business, while Lilian is

Food Banks

There are several food banks in the area and there are two drop off points in the village if you would like to support them: All Saints' Parish Church. Food can be left at the church during normal opening hours which is basically when it's daylight.

Methodist Church: Food can be left Monday and Wednesday

11am -12 noon, or Saturday morning when the coffee morning is on 10am – 12 noon.

Help needed! Volunteers are urgently needed to help with Stanley Food bank. Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at The Venue.

Contact Gillian Coulter 07402795797 for further information.

Willow Burn Hospice

(continued from p24)

Willow Burn Hospice Volunteer to Run Across Scotland in Ultra Marathon Challenge for Local Hospice

On 13 August 2022, a Willow Burn volunteer will run a unique 215-mile, coast-to-coast ultramarathon in Scotland to raise money for Willow Burn.

Ian Lowther 38 of Annfield Plain will have only 100 hours to complete the Race Across Scotland which starts on the coastline of Portpatrick, with some tough climbs over the mountains, along the valleys, through the beautiful forests of the Southern Uplands.

Ian said: "Race Across Scotland is one of the toughest Ultras in the UK and I have the opportunity to represent a charity very close to my heart. Willow Burn has been very special to me for several years, the team has provided exceptional palliative care to both my family and friends, and I wanted to say thank you for that, which is why I started fundraising and volunteering for the hospice.

This isn't the first running challenge Ian has taken on for Willow Burn. Over the last 3 years he has completed 11 races, raising thousands of pounds for end-of-life care in Derwentside. "Race Across Scotland is unlike any event I have ever participated in before, but I am really looking forward to it. It is daunting and I have no doubt, at times, it will get tough up there but I'm going to give it everything I have. For me the biggest challenge is going to be the mental side of things; there will be a lot of mind games with my brain telling my legs to stop but I will keep going. I will have a great support crew with me who know what I need and lots of encouragement from my family, friends and the team at Willow Burn."

Ian is a familiar face at Willow Burn and on the charity's social media pages, not only does he take on regular personal challenges to fundraise, but he also volunteers with his daughter Emily Lowther, 12, and pops into the Hospice with family to offer his support.

Marketing and Communications Manager at Willow Burn, Rachel Todd, said:

"Willow Burn wouldn't exist without people like Ian, who do extraordinary things day after day to help us to raise enough money to provide vital end of life and palliative services to people who need them the most. We are incredibly grateful for Ian's continued efforts to not only fundraise vital income but also raise awareness of Willow Burn and its importance to the local community. This challenge is really something special and we are all behind Ian every step of the way."

Ian's challenge takes place on 13 August 2022. If you would like to fundraise or offer him support visit: Facebook Group: Ian Lowther's Ultra Race Across Scotland 2022 or www.willowburnhospice.enthuse.com/pf/ian-lowther-race-across-scotland-ultra



Lanchester Vintage Tractor Club

The Lanchester Vintage Tractor club continue to help and support local charities; this year it's the Great North Air Ambulance and Willow Burn Hospice.

John Burdon, the chairman, is pictured presenting a cheque to Paul Jackson from Willow Burn Hospice.

Family Easter trail

Free family fun is on offer this Easter at a beautiful location on the outskirts of the village. Explore the community orchard, just off Newbiggen Lane and discover decorated eggs hanging in the trees. Let the children run around searching for the Easter decorations and see how many they can find. If they're not too noisy you might glimpse some of the local wildlife, perhaps even a real rabbit. But don't worry if you don't, there will be Easter bunnies hidden around the site for them to spot.

The Easter trail will be open from dawn until dusk from Sunday 10th until Monday 18th

April. Parking is limited, please walk if possible taking care on Newbiggen Lane. The community orchard is on the left about 150 metres after you pass the last houses in the village and is a project run by The Lanchester Partnership.



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Go Electric Event

Over 50 residents attended an information evening, organised by the Environment Group of the Lanchester Partnership, on going electric at the community centre.

There were three separate presentations.

The first was from Dr Neal Wade, latterly of Newcastle University, and now working for Northern PowerGrid. He spoke about the National Grid and its future. The electricity distribution system was originally designed around a relatively small number of large power plants with electricity distributed around the country into homes and commercial premises. The number of generators feeding into the system has massively increased with the advent of renewable energy produced by generators ranging from large wind farms and solar panel arrays to individual households via their solar panels. This presents a major problem for the network in terms of balancing the load and system stability.

A major problem with wind and solar power generation is the variable nature of it and Neal spoke about the need to rapidly increase the storage of energy when more was produced than was needed. This is being facilitated by hydroelectric pump storage schemes and, increasingly, large battery facilities.


The second speaker was Andrew Brown, who works for Project Solar UK. He described how panel technology had improved since the early days of solar panels; the current panels are able to generate more power than their predecessors. The key difference now is that solar panels can be coupled with battery storage in the home. This means that you can store energy, when you produce more than you need, and, in some circumstances, you can buy cheap electricity overnight (when there is a surplus of power generated) and store it in your battery. You can use the electricity from the battery during the day (for example) to reduce the amount you draw down from the grid. This should result in a bigger saving than solar panels alone. He said that the typical cost ranged from £5K to £25K and paybacks were between 8 and 10 years. These paybacks could be considerably shortened as electricity costs rise.

One resident pointed out that he had been refused planning permission to put solar panels on the roof as their house was in a conservation area – and asked for the Partnership's help in campaigning for a change of heart. The final presentation was given by Steve Elmsley and David Malone on "Electric cars and when to jump!" Both presenters were committed electric car users and took the audience through their justification for owning electric cars and encouraged the audience to take the plunge.


They gave their financial justification based on the reduced cost per mile – 18p for petrol or diesel compared to, typically, 4.8p per mile for electric vehicles. Servicing costs are considerably cheaper than for an internal combustion engine. There are other advantages, of course, principally the elimination of the emission of greenhouse gases at the point of use. Questions were asked about range and charging points if venturing far from home. The response was that range is increasing in newer cars and there is also a rapid increase in charging points around the country. Another question was about how you would be able to charge your car if you couldn't install a charging point at home – this could only be done at public charging points.

One final point, which brings us back to the first presentation, is that electric vehicle batteries could be used for storage by the grid to contribute to the national battery storage demand.


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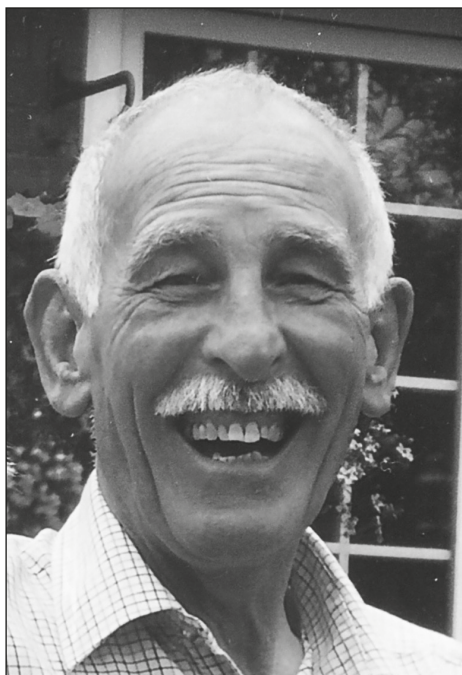
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Remembering



Ron Carr *With our thanks*

On behalf of our Mam, Connie Carr, we wish to thank her lovely neighbours and friends, and the brilliant people of Lanchester, for their kind words and support following the death of our dad, Ron Carr, on 31st January 2022. These caring people have brought a little love, fun and laughter back to her life during such a sad time. We would also like to thank Co-op Funeralcare (Annfield Plain), for guiding us through each stage of the funeral arrangements, and during the funeral itself, in such a friendly and professional manner.

Family and friends attending the funeral generously donated £320 to the British Heart Foundation. Lanchester Club was an excellent venue for the wake, and there were many compliments about the lovely buffet provided by the Black Bull. With much thanks and appreciation.

Jason and Scott Carr





Margaret (Peggy) Phillips

In loving memory of Margaret Phillips (Peggy) who passed away on the 19th Feb 2022, a few days short of her 92nd birthday.

Loved and missed by all who knew her.



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KoGs

KoGs is a Christian based youth group for children aged school year 5 and upwards. We meet on Monday evenings from 5pm to 7:30pm at Lanchester Methodist Church to take part in various activities which include: Games, Arts & Crafts, Drama, Dancing, Bible Study, Messy Games, Day Trips, Night Trips, Weekends/Weeks away etc. We are extremely proud to have been going for 15 years this coming April! We provide a two course meal each week along with bottled water, tea, coffee and hot chocolate that is all included in the cost of subs. Subs cost £2 per person per week or £22 per term. Your first week is free!

Even though we are based in a Methodist Church and

are a Christian youth group you do not have to be from a Methodist background or any other religious background at all, we are open to everyone, come along and make new friends and have some awesome fun!

All of our leaders are all DBS/CBS Checked and have training in Safeguarding and Creating Safer Spaces, Young Adult Safeguarding as well as First Aid and Food Hygiene Certificates.

For more information please contact

Laura Cole : 07428500059 / laura.

cole@outlook.com or Mervyn Burdon:

mervynburdon14@gmail.com



Lanchester WI met in February

President Marie Murphy welcomed the group and described some of our events planned for future months. Our subscriptions will remain as last year, our darts teams may be returning, our summer outing will be a cruise, with refreshments, on the Tees, and we plan to celebrate this special year for the Queen with a jubilee coffee/tea event. We held a raffle and awarded prizes for attractive wedding favours produced by our ladies. Jean had selected the nights reading.

As a family matter had prevented our planned speaker from attending our meeting, Carl and Richard Suddes kindly stepped into the breach to describe their life and work as local farmers. The family had farmed in Cornsary for a great many years, concentrating on dairy farming in the 1970s. Over time, the brothers have seen enormous changes, as agriculture became more scientifically based, with a growing awareness of new ideas which would assist sustainable farming. As part of the general awareness of the importance of healthy diet, the farm has recently introduced free range eggs, with a mind-boggling number of hens and the eggs they produce. We found it really fascinating to hear the brothers describing how the ancient traditions of farming have been brought into our modern scientific world and wish them every success in the future.

We ended our evening with tea and chat.



Lanchester WI...our March meeting

We were welcomed by our President, Marie Murphy, who reminded us that our next meeting will take place on April 4th, with our competition being the decoration of an Easter egg. An event will be held in Ramside Hall in April, in support of the St. Cuthbert Hospice, and the WI County Quiz Final will be held in May. In June, a traditional Afternoon Tea will be shared to celebrate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, a chance

for ladies to appear in their 'best bib and tucker' - if they choose to! This will be a faith tea, with ladies bringing some tasty afternoon food on a plate!

Plans for our summer outing sailing on the Tees are well under way and, once again, members were reminded to keep themselves informed of all events as shown on our information table.

Marie thanked everyone for the very large number of toiletries donated during the evening for the refugees from the Ukraine. Raffles were won by Jean Forster, Jennifer Macdonald and Lynn Davison, and our competition was won by Jennifer Macdonald and Ann Carr.

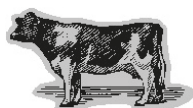
Our activity was introduced by Elaine Williams, and she shared with us a part of the ancient story of Bobbin Lace Making. The ladies she had brought with her sat among us and displayed the intricacy of their work, and their dexterity and patience were greatly admired. Elaine works with a group of Lanchester ladies every week, and their work must be commended; a real part of the past was shown to us. Our demonstrators shared tea and conversation with us as the evening ended.

Maisie Raine

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Good day readers

Now spring is in the air I am preparing to take my Humans on even longer walks than we have been on recently. The one I am about to tell you about today starts from outside Diggerland at Langley Park.

Of course, you could persuade your Human to walk with you from Lanchester to Langley Park to start this walk. But for the sake of those – the majority I am sure who would

travel by car to Langley – we park on the road outside Diggerland and then begin our walk on the railway path which is known as the Lanchester Valley Walk.

Just in case I need to reintroduce myself, I am Poppy, a black Patterdale Terrier with more than a tinge of grey now. Not that I am slowing down, far from it! I enjoy sharing details of the walks I take my Humans on with Village Voice readers.

The walk starts on the railway path in the direction of Durham, crossing the main road leading into Langley Park

near the social club. We continue walking until we come to some barn conversions on the right. We turn left at the junction there and go onto Wallnook Lane. We walk along the lane until it joins the main road then we turn right down towards the garage by the roundabout on the A691. We cross the main road carefully then walk on the footpath towards, and on into Witton Gilbert.

We walk along Witton Front Street passing a couple of hostelries where I tug hard on my lead in case the male Human is tempted to stop. We then go right on a lane towards the church at Witton Gilbert. Just before the churchyard we turn right and go down a path past a field with alpacas on the right and the churchyard on the left. The alpacas seem friendly enough creatures to me, but I would not be allowed into the field to play with them.

At the foot of the bank, we cross a footbridge over the river Browney. We can then turn either left or right, both paths will lead us back onto the Lanchester Valley Walk. Once we join that we turn right and head back towards Langley Park. There I am off my lead and there are plenty of embankments to run down to explore.

Another thoroughly enjoyable walk.

Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society



One of the club members did a small demonstration of flower arranging

We held our Annual General Meeting on 23rd February 2022, in Lanchester Community Centre Main Hall at 2pm. The formal part of the meeting was completed very quickly as there had been so little in 2021 to comment on. The Committee all agreed to stand for another year. Kathy Smith kindly agreed to be a co-opted committee member. Sylvia Hocking has decided to stand down from the Committee due to ill health. It was agreed by all the members, Sylvia has always worked so hard as a Committee member for the Lanchester Flower Club - we owe her a big thank you. The informal part of the afternoon. One of the members of the club kindly did a small demonstration of flower arranging, we chatted and laughed so a very convivial afternoon was enjoyed by us all. Tea and coffee was served

so we continued to enjoy each other's company.

We have now arranged a full programme thanks to Helen Tomlinson our Chairperson with many National Association Flower Arrangers booked for the rest of the year. So we are assured of an interesting and entertaining next few months.

Our next meeting will be on 27th April 2022 in the Community Centre main hall at 2pm. Our demonstrator will be Christine Ogle, her theme "Do you believe in Fairies?"

Everyone welcome, please come and join us.

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

Our annual membership is £25 visitors £5 per meeting.



More emergency deliverers needed

Do you need a new challenge in your life? Do you feel at a loose end and would love to be part of a new and growing band of people living a jet set lifestyle and making executive decisions on a daily basis?

If so, then join the Village Voice as an emergency deliverer with the prospects of rising to the giddy heights of permanent if you stay for long enough. You will take over from deliverers when they cannot deliver for whatever reason so you will be required to deliver anywhere in the village at a moment's notice. Encyclopaedic knowledge of the streets of Lanchester is not required as there is a comprehensive map situated in the village centre by the bus stop (or you can use Google Maps – editor). Pay and pension rights will commence on appointment.

If interested phone Mike Stoddart 520291

Indoor bowls returns

After a long layoff, due to high Covid prevalence, the indoor bowls are back at Croft View, every Friday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.30pm.

New members are always welcome, and you don't have to be experienced to try this sport.

If you are interested just pop in on a Friday afternoon and you will be made very welcome.



Ladies who lunch

On our last outing we walked there - down to the Kings Head, overlooking the green - a most pleasant spot.

50 years ago, when we first arrived in Lanchester, 'the place to be' was the Kings Head and if you didn't book about a month in advance there was no chance of getting a table. Since then, it has been sometimes ok and sometimes not, and has looked quite jaded.

Not anymore. The whole place has had a makeover, completely refurbished, new decor, bars, restaurant, a 'snug', and looks quite delightful - a lovely, relaxing place to be. It's warm and inviting and has a new and interesting menu. The staff were most welcoming, and we were soon comfortably seated, with menus to peruse and consider.

They have appetisers and light bites, award winning pies, grills and burgers, which all sound really good but we all decided to go straight for the main course. We sampled grilled calves liver with creamy mash, seasonal greens, baby onions and pancetta gravy; pan fried seabass, cherry tomatoes and gremolata served with baby potatoes and seasonal greens; chicken supreme cooked with creamy wild mushroom sauce, baby potatoes and seasonal greens; and salmon, cod and prawn pie topped with creamy mash and seasonal greens.

For puds we had homemade sticky toffee pudding and pear and almond tart with maple walnut ice cream.

All the meals were piping hot, well presented - looking like 'pictures on a plate'. We had good, quick service, the quality of food was excellent - we were all very impressed by the whole experience.

We've got it all, right here, on our doorstep - in the middle of our village. We do hope you go and give it a try; we shall most certainly be back and look forward to our 'Kings Head' keeping up the good work in the years to come.

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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.

Non-League Football

Hi, my name is Stephen and I like watching the Ebac Northern League which is local football – such as Tow Law Town. I remember when Brock* the dog took his owner and when the linesman put his flag up for offside, or out of play he jumped at it!

I think I've been to just about every Northern League ground in the northeast. You often find me in the stand with my drum and radio to listen to other games. I am still a Middlesbrough fan, but I have never been since Aitor Karanka was manager, because they put the price up from £24 to £26. And that was before they went up! In the Northern League, it is only £5 to get in and programmes are a pound, you can stand if you want to, and you can talk to the away fans.

Stephen Howatt

Witton Gilbert

* Brock was the dog which used to write in the Village Voice. Poppy does the job now!

Dave Donnelly

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WHATS ON - March, and April

Family Easter Trail

Bring the family for a walk round the community orchard on Newbiggen Lane, open from dawn till dusk Sunday 10th – Monday 18th April. Enjoy the views, the wildlife and of course admire the painted eggs all made by members of the orchard and their friends. You might even find some Easter bunnies hiding in the grass. Free entry.

Easter Monday Egg Bouling

The usual egg dying in the traditional way. Come and take part at Pace Egg Bank organised by the Lanchester Wildlife Group. Bring a raw egg/s. Meet on April 18th at 10am behind the The Bridge (AKA The Green School & The Woodlands).

Lanchester's New Playgroup

Every Friday at 9:30 at Croft View Halls

Table Top Sale

10th April, 11am-2pm, Croft View Halls
Sellers £5 per table, contact Zoe on 07766313365. Deposit needs to be paid to secure your table.

Badminton at Croft View

Every Monday except Bank Holidays from 10am to 12 noon.
The badminton group are looking for new players. If you play regularly or have not played for a while, please come along and give it a try. You will be very welcome. Just drop in on a Monday morning or for further information contact Rosemary Naylor on 07803106615.

Lanchester Bowling Club

The club's spring meeting is to be held on Monday 4th April at 7 pm in the bowling pavilion. Prospective members welcome.

The Friends of Longovicium,

part of the Lanchester Partnership, will be holding their next meeting on Thursday 24th March at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Our new interactive website is coming along nicely. Amongst items for discussion will be arrangements for day visits to Ebchester (VINDOMORA) and Melrose (TRIMONTIUM). Contact is being made with Friends of other forts e.g. Ilkley (OLICANA) or possibly VERBEIA. Further information from

Rodney Hawkins, 0191 4103472 or hawkins_15@sky.com.

Tuesday Club

We are hoping to start again at Easter; if you haven't left your contact details please ring Jackie on 07908 838452 so we can let people know in advance.

Durham Dramatic Society

Dangerous Obsession by NJ Crisp will be on at The City Theatre from 3rd to 9th April. Tickets £8.50 with concessions Sunday matinee and Monday evening. Available from the Box Office Durham Gala 03000266600. A man obsessed with pinning the blame for his wife's accident on someone, enters the Driscoll home and shatters their marriage.

Lanchester Medical Centre

Are you interested and would like a voice about your healthcare services? Why not join our Patient Participation Group? If you are a patient of the Lanchester Medical Centre you will be welcomed at our next virtual meeting on Wednesday 4th May 10:30 am until 11:30 am. The joining code for the meeting is available from the surgery manager.

Lanchester Wildlife Group

12th April, 7.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre small hall. Elliot Lea, Naturally Native (DWT), Water Voles & their recovery

WHATS ON - March, and April

Lanchester Library

Monday Book Club

On Monday April 25th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing The Herd by Emily Edwards. 'The thought provoking and unputdownable must read, book club novel of 2022'We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday April 28th from 4-5pm, the group will be discussing Em and Me by Beth Morrey. 'Compelling..... a touching and uplifting read - a tonic for troubled times' (Sunday Express)! If you would like to join this book group, pop into the library and pick up your copy.

Toddle Time

Every other Thursday 2-2.30, April 7th and 21st. For babies and under 5s, come along and enjoy songs and rhymes with other young families. Ask Laura for future sessions.

Easter Crafts for children aged 5+

Call into the library and speak to our librarians for more information, check times for events or collect an activity pack.

Knit and Natter

The first Thursday of the month 10-11.30am, April 7th. Bring along your wool, needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Enjoy.

FREE Family History Sessions using Ancestry

Including volunteer support, during April, 1st and 2nd Mondays between 1.30 and 4.30. Call in/contact the library to book your hourly slot.

Lanchester Friendship Group

Every Tuesday during school term time from 2 to 4 pm (come and go as you like). A new group for

anyone who just wants to sit and chat or listen. No set agenda. Light refreshments available.

Lanchester Local History Society

Friday April 1st at 7.00pm. Community Centre Room 3. Margaret Bozic will be speaking on "Citizens Advice Bureau Cases in Tyneside in the 1950s: Divorce, Domesticity and Rehousing. The audience will be able to remember a lot of what I am talking about such as 1950s food, and rehousing in Newcastle. There are lots of good illustrations."

Thursday Club

April 21st at 1.30pm, main hall of the Community Centre. Our speaker will be Dr. Lowry talking about 'Funny Bones + Wisdom Teeth.

Lanchester Social Club

2nd April – Lee Paul

9th April – Karaoke

16th - April Sandy Smith

23rd April – Lacey

29th April – Bonkers Bingo Party – whacky games, fun prizes, tickets £5 from the bar (includes 1 x bingo card and pen collected on the night)

30th April – Lance Newman

Lanchester WI

Our next meeting will be held on Monday April 4th, starting at 7.15 pm. Our competition will be very traditional, to decorate an Easter egg. Our speakers Eileen Mason and Barbara Galloway will tell some 'Game Show Gossip'. Members are kindly reminded that subscriptions are due on April 1st. We are entering a busy time for outings and social events, make sure you keep up to date with everything happening so you don't miss out! Advance notice given about our planned

visit to the show 'Les Miserables' in November, sure to be very popular! Think if you'd like to work more closely with our WI...on the Information Table there are some suggestions about how you can contribute more, if you have the time! Wishing all members and their friends and families a very peaceful and Happy Easter.

Willow Burn events Firewalk

Would you walk over hot coals for your local hospice? Join team Willow Burn and lots of other north east charities at Rainton Arena on Saturday 14 May at 6pm as they attempt a world record Firewalk with Change Fundraising and UK Firewalk. The Firewalk is completely safe as everyone gets training from UK Firewalk on the night. Registration Fee: £35, Minimum Fundraising: £100. For further information, please contact Selina on: 01207 529 224 / smankin@willowburnhospice.org.uk

Willow Week

Monday 9 May 2022 - Sunday 15 May 2022 Willow Burn is asking its amazing supporters, staff and volunteers to get involved in Willow Week 2022 by fundraising for the hospice and/or raising awareness of the vital work of the team. We encourage as many people as possible to get involved – your success doesn't depend on special skills or fitness levels; it is simply a week to celebrate the work of Willow Burn. So, whether that's donating £1 by filling a jar with loose change, learning more about your local hospice, painting a willow tree to display at the hospice or

raising £50 by wearing green for Willow Burn - every penny and thought counts.

www.willow-burn.co.uk/willow-week

Willow Burn Spring Nurse's Fair

Saturday 14 May 2022, 11am – 2pm, Willow Burn Hospice
The Nursing and Care Team at Willow Burn Hospice invite you to join them at the first Nurses' Fair in over two years. This event is a great opportunity to enjoy some spring sun in beautiful gardens and to catch up with the wonderful team at Willow Burn. With a fantastic mix of gift stalls, cakes and produce, raffles and tombolas, it promises to be a great day. All proceeds from the fair will go to fund the vital services provided at Willow Burn for the local community. www.willow-burn.co.uk/our-events

Quiz night

Saturday 19th March 7pm at Lanchester Social Club
A fun evening with a quiz, a few rounds of bingo and a raffle, all fuelled by a pie and pea supper. Tickets are £5 each and include the supper, alternative dietary options will be available (please get in touch beforehand to request this). Tickets are available by emailing

Lanchester Methodist Church

Family Film Night

Saturday 2nd April, 4pm
All bears welcome (accompanied by their owners of course!) Bring your own snacks. Tea/coffee/juice available. There will also be a craft stall in aid of charity so bring some pennies! Marmalade sandwiches will not be accepted as payment!

KoGs

KoGs is a Christian based youth group for children aged school year 5 and upwards. KoGs meet on a Monday evening from 5pm to 7:30pm. For more information please contact Laura Cole : 07428500059 / laura.cole@outlook.com

Crafty Coffee Morning

Meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10am till 12. Call in for a cuppa and a chat and if you wish there is wool, needles, patterns, etc. to knit for charity. Next dates are April 12th and May 10th.

Lanchester Methodist Wives and Friends

Meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm
April 6th: Easter service led by Kath Jones our Children, Young People and Families worker.
May 4th: Willow Burn Hospice, a talk by Selina Mankin about the work and fundraising for our local hospice.

Art Exhibition and Sale of Paintings

Easter Sunday and Monday. 10am – 5pm. Refreshments. Admission 50p. Castleside Village Hall.



Lanchester Medical Centre: Lanchester Patient Participation Group

Lanchester
Medical Centre

“Let’s talk about pain”

Pain is the most common reason that people attend their surgery. It is fair to say that every one of us has experienced pain at some time.

Pain can occur with an illness, for example arthritis.

Pain can be visible, for example a broken bone or a burn.

Pain is not always visible. This pain can take longer and be more difficult to diagnose.

What is pain?

You feel pain when specific nerves detect tissue damage, release tiny quantities of neurotransmitter chemicals and transmit the information along the spinal cord to the brain. It is a warning system, telling us something is happening, and action needs to be taken. For example, putting your hand on something hot, instantly the message is passed to the brain, and you respond with the action of removing your hand from danger.

Different terms for different types of pain

Recurrent – also called intermittent pain, this pain comes and goes, for example toothache.

Acute pain – many acute pains are telling us something is wrong. Most minor ones are easy to treat, others may need investigations to find the cause. For example, the pain of a broken leg is quickly diagnosed.

Chronic Pain – also called long-term or persistent pain, for example back trouble or arthritis. In contrast to recurrent and acute pain, chronic pain often serves no useful purpose. Medical assessment and diagnosis may not lead to the pain going away and requires careful management and medication aimed at relieving the pain.

Long-term severe pain can affect your mood, relationships with family and friends and your ability to work, sleep or relax; often causing strong emotions that can interact with other feelings. If you are angry, depressed, or anxious, your pain may be worse. Alternatively, if you are feeling positive and happy, your pain may be less, and you are able to cope better.

Which is the most effective pain relief?

The best way to find the most effective painkiller for you is to talk to your doctor, pain nurse or pharmacist. Following a thorough assessment of your pain by a healthcare professional that includes aspects of your general health, emotions, and lifestyle they can give you individual and detailed advice tailored to your specific needs. Recent thinking leads away from long term medication that can become addictive.

What things besides medical treatment might help me?

Pain is a very personal experience; the type of pain relief required will depend on the cause of your pain. You may be asked to see a physiotherapist as some pains can be resolved by movement. Alternative non-medical techniques may provide pain relief.

Techniques that can help with managing pain:

- Deep breathing and relaxation
- Focus on the positive aspects of your life
- Thought distraction
- Heat or cold compresses (or a combination of the two)
- Reducing stress in your life
- Exercise tailored to your ability
- Mindfulness techniques
- Maintain a healthy diet and a healthy weight

Many of the modern techniques used and recommended by clinicians have helped us to understand and treat pain better. But there is still a lot that needs to be learned.

Thursday club

On Thursday 17th February we were treated by Fools Gold who are a couple of very talented musical entertainers. They happen to live locally and travel throughout the country explaining “wor lass” and many other northern idioms in a folksy way.

There seemed to be no end to the musical instruments played too, which added to the entertainment. Using good video aids they told us introductory stories about miners and keel men. Then with many local observations, they cleverly

created songs and fitted in other well known songs for us to enjoy. We were encouraged to join in choruses and the participation was enthusiastic and well received. There are many hidden talents in our group and the singing was uplifting.

The next performance of this entertaining duo in the community centre is on May 7th. (Book your tickets early to secure a place.)



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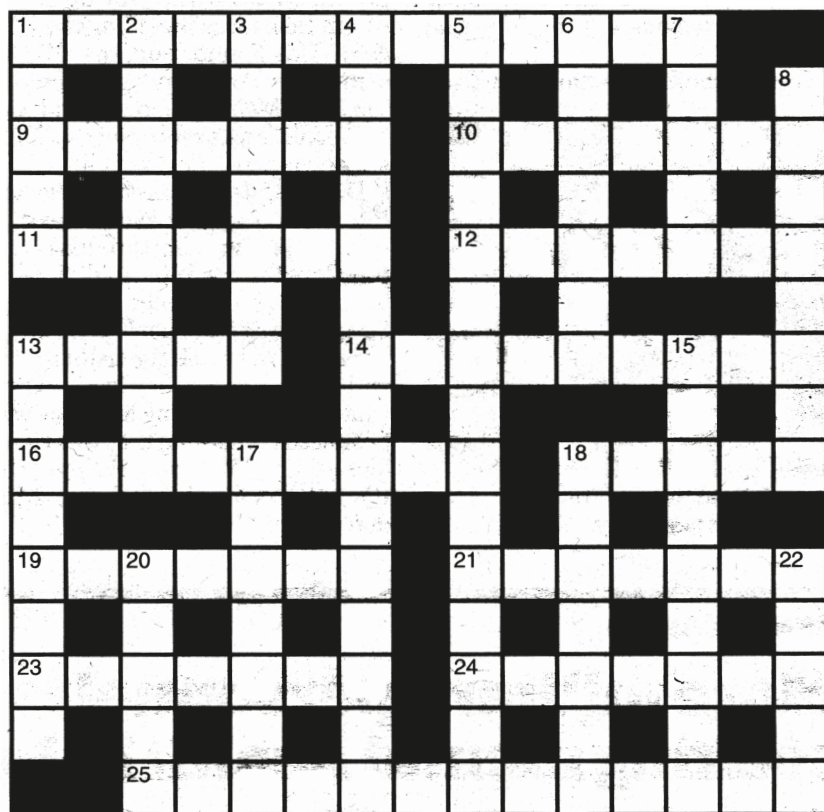
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CLUES CROSSWORD 171



Across

1. In a confused hurry (6-7)
9. Brown coal (7)
10. Difficulty (7)
11. Hide (7)
12. Tempter (7)
13. Give birth to a baby cow (5)
14. Wrecks (4,5)
16. Scientist (9)
18. Tree of the poplar family (5)
19. Brutal (7)
21. Cold oil makes an emulsion (7)
23. Result (7)
24. Cricket bowling technique (3,4)
25. Hot angry rogue produces cold dessert (6,7)

Down

1. Improves (5)
2. Rationally (9)
3. Hurtful stare (4,3)
4. US film director and producer (6,9)
5. Putting it politely! (15)
6. Pig's foot
7. Souvenir of a bygone age (5)
8. See 22 down
13. Perfect (8)
15. Spontaneous (9)
18. Is Radio a female name? (7)
20. Fight (3-2)
- 22,8. Reject incarceration (2,3,8)

Name: _____

Address: _____

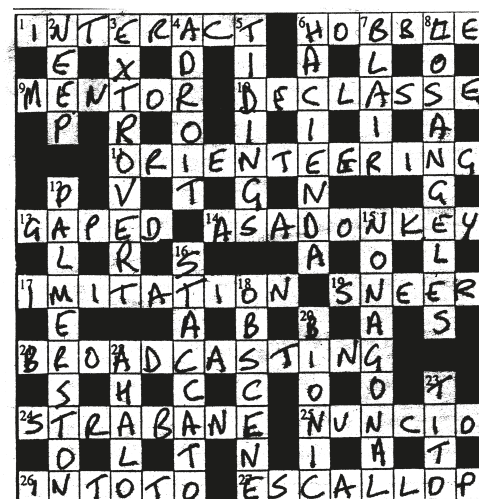
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Winner of the Crossword 170

is Shirley Rogan.

There were 9 entries this month, and only ONE correct. Seven people put GAZED instead of GAPPED for 13 across.

The winner is Shirley Rogan, Lynwood House.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 8 February, Planning Meeting 22 February – approved

Police Report - received

Correspondence

Lanchester Cricket Club - Members received information from the club on the preparations for the beer festival to be held 2 - 4 June 2022. A number of measures are being proposed to address people bringing their own alcohol to the event and underage drinking.

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

drainage work on Kitswell Road and Durham Road, parking outside schools, planning applications, Consett incinerator planning appeal, potholes, tree work and Public Rights of Way.

Police and Crime Commissioner - Councillors discussed the visit by the Police and Crime Commissioner which will take place at the end of March to consider parking and traffic issues. It was agreed that the following areas be included: Kings Head / Durham Road junction, Ford Road, Station Road / crossing of the Valley Walk, Front Street, St Bedes School, Primary Schools.

2021/22 Pay Agreement - Councillors were informed that the National Salary Award for 2021/22 had been agreed and would be applied to salaries.

Durham County Council - The following consultations are currently taking place:

Our Big Econ-versation – economy

Area Action Partnership (AAP) Community Priorities 2022/23

Libraries For You

Manor Grange Play Area - Councillors were informed that the order confirmation had been received from the play contractor and a pre-start meeting will take place shortly.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Councillors were informed of the outcome of a public meeting held on 3 March to consider a village event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. A village picnic will be organised through the Partnership, details to be confirmed.

Discharge into Watercourses – concerns were raised about the discharge into the Smallhope Burn and the quality of the water. It was agreed that further information is sought.

Newsletter - the newsletter was approved for distribution.

Maintenance Work - Councillors agreed maintenance work on the Village Green footpath, fence repairs at Kitswell Park and work to address exposed tree roots on the Village Green.

Grass Cutting 2022 - the price for grass cutting for 2022 was approved.

Risk Assessment Schedule – reviewed and approved.

Internal Audit Arrangements – reviewed and approved.

Schools – Distribution of newsletters – It was agreed that a donation of £100.00 is awarded to the two Primary schools in Lanchester.

Grants / Donations - It was agreed that a donation of £300.00 is made towards the servicing of the Parish Church Clock.

Financial report - discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment – approved.



Community Centre News

Here is the latest news from your Community Centre.

Your Community Centre is back into the swing of things now and as well as all of the fun and interesting groups that meet here, we also arrange some fun events which help with our fundraising. One of these upcoming events is an entertainment evening featuring 'Fools Gold'. This will be held on Saturday 7th May and the tickets are £12 which includes a pie and pea supper. You are allowed to bring your own alcohol. Get your tickets from our reception or from Lanchester News. Don't miss out, it'll be a great night!

Remember that we are a self-funding charity, and we are always working hard to keep the Centre in good order and to improve the facilities that are available to you. An easy way to help us is to become a 'Friend of Lanchester Community Centre', which only costs £2 per month (£24 per year). Contact us to find out more.

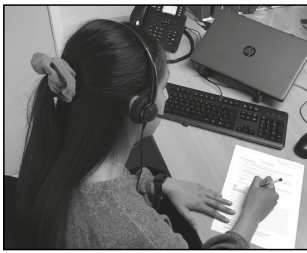
One of our recent improvements is the new exercise bikes installed in the gym, which is one of the great facilities we offer and at only £19.50 per month it's great value too!

Remember if you have any family occasions or business meetings planned for the coming year your Community Centre is a really great venue with excellent facilities.

The office is staffed 9am-3pm Monday to Friday. 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/>

Two Durham based charities call for telephone support volunteers



Two north east charities – Nepacs and Citizens Advice County Durham – have joined forces to recruit more volunteers to provide telephone support to people in need of help.

During the pandemic a lot of charities have had to increase the

level of telephone support they offer, instead of the typical face to face work they would usually do. Some of these charities have seen a decrease in their volunteer numbers over the last 18 months.

The Nepacs Helpline and Citizens Advice County Durham were appealing during March 2022 for potential volunteers to get in touch.

Emma Price, early days in custody coordinator for Nepacs said: “Nepacs North East Helpline offers confidential support and information for individuals, families and friends involved in the criminal justice system, from arrest, to court, prison and on release - helping over 600 people in its second year. Our team of helpline volunteers aim to reduce the distress and confusion that individuals experience and offer practical information which can reduce the impact of imprisonment.

“Our friendly helpline volunteers work closely with our teams in north east courts, prisons and visits areas, and our youth project team to ensure families or friends are offered the

support they need to get through this difficult time and are signposted to relevant services in the community which can help them.”

Sarah Ward, training and development manager for Citizens Advice County Durham said: “Our team of volunteers offer free, confidential and impartial advice services for people who live, work or study in County Durham. The Adviceline volunteers aim to give people the knowledge and the confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are, and whatever their problem.

“Our volunteers come from a range of backgrounds, and all have different life experiences, which adds to our friendly, welcoming organisation. People volunteer with us for a variety of reasons - some to give back to the community, some to gain confidence and skills, and we find that for those that want to find a job, our training provides the experience and skills employers value. In fact some of our staff, including some of our managers, started as volunteers.”

Nepacs and Citizens Advice County Durham have a range of volunteer opportunities available, in addition to the telephone support roles, so please visit their websites to find out more.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Nepacs (eprice@nepacs.co.uk) or Citizens Advice County Durham (Volunteer@citizensadvicecd.org.uk) and can find out more about the campaign on the charities' websites: www.nepacs.co.uk and www.citizensadvicecd.org.uk

Coffee, Cake and Company

On Tuesday February 22nd members of All Saints' Parish Church gathered in the Chapter House for a social afternoon organised by the fundraising committee. Masks were raised as the tea and coffee cups were filled and a very happy

atmosphere pervaded the whole room. It was so good to talk freely and enjoy one another's company with fewer restrictions, though there were two sittings to allow for social distancing.

Committee members baked the cakes, and they were all delicious!



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Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Following the meeting on the 3 March it was decided that we will organise a Platinum Jubilee Picnic Lunch on Sunday 5 June starting at 12.30pm, to which the whole village is invited. The Lanchester Partnership have agreed to take the lead in this which hopefully will take place on the Lanchester EP School yard and field. We would ask that you bring your own picnics but tea, coffee and juice will be provided. It is hoped that we will have games, activities, quizzes, music and much more which we are currently working on and will have more details of in a later edition of the Village Voice.

Our next meeting is Thursday 7 April at the Methodist Church starting at the earlier time of 7.00pm and again we would ask anyone who is interested in helping to come along. We will need many volunteers from stewarding, welcoming, to setting up tables, decorating the tables, serving and much more.

With your help we can make this a picnic to remember on this historic occasion when we will give thanks for the unwavering service Her Majesty the Queen has given this country.

Eric Hepplewhite

Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

Lanchester EP Trip to Dubai

After a long flight, we finally arrived in Dubai and suddenly realised how different the weather was to Lanchester. The intense heat was so hot that we were told that during the summer, you can fry an egg on the ground due to the scalding heat. During this amazing week away, we were fortunate to visit outstanding places as well as partake in some fun activities. One of these fun activities included visiting the Wild Wadi Water Park. We slid down some of the tallest and quickest slides, keeping cool from the warm sun. In addition to the fun water slides, we also tested our nerves by going up to the top of the world's biggest building, the Burj Khalifa. The Burj Khalifa offered some phenomenal views of the city and the vastness of the land surrounding it.

Furthermore to the more adrenaline pumping activities, we also went to visit a local school in Dubai called Hartland International School. From this, we were able to see how school life compared to back home. Hartland is enormous and has some brilliant facilities, such as an extensive library and an outdoor swimming pool. Within this school, we met some

amazing children which we can now call friends. School life was not the only cultural learning we had conducted during our time in Dubai. We also went to one of the local mosques where we began to learn about the religious values in the United Arab Emirates. When we entered the mosque, it was a sign of respect to remove our shoes as well as ensuring that the mosque remained really clean. We learned that the dome structure in the mosque is used as a means of transporting the sound of the prayer due to its excellent acoustics. Focusing on the prayer, the sound of the prayer is echoed around the city and the mosque itself can be identified by its tall towers. These tall towers also help people find the mosque during the day.

Overall, we had an amazing time and learnt so much about the culture in Dubai as well as enjoying some of the fun activities on offer. Even the plane journey was fun as we got to sit in some comfortable chairs and watch some movies on the back of the seat in front of us.

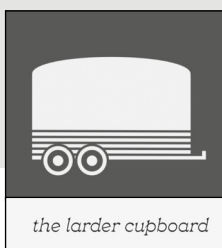
Kate Gowan, Charlotte Roe and Sophia Raw (Year 5)

The Larder Cupboard Comes to Lanchester

The Larder Cupboard, a mobile minimal waste refill shop, made its first visit to Lanchester on Tuesday 8th March. It was parked in the Community Centre car park. The Larder Cupboard was set up by Kathryn, a mum of 3 living in Lanchester, and is aimed at those who wish to reduce their consumption of single use plastics and shop more locally. Kathryn writes:

"As a family, we've always tried to shop locally and make conscious choices where possible. However, during lockdown, like most, the whole family was at home and we found that our recycling bin was still fast filling up. This didn't sit right. With the pace of life slowed down, we had more time to consider our shopping habits, but found the options for going plastic free, particularly for dry goods and non-perishables, were limited."

"I decided to set up the Larder Cupboard to allow for more people to have access to plastic-free products on their doorstep, that didn't compromise on quality or affordability."



A customer visits the Larder Cupboard on its first visit to Lanchester



"Lives are busy, and time is precious. There often isn't time to shop around and research every item picked up from the shelf. We've done the hard yards for you and worked to curate a selection of quality products which are largely organic, sourced sustainably and generate minimal waste through the supply chain. Our cleaning products are also cruelty free, vegan and made less than 100 miles away." Work on the business started in November 2021. The shop is housed in a converted twin-wheeled horse box trailer and makes regular stops at locations across West Durham. Customers can choose to bring their own containers to refill or use the paper bags provided. Products range from pasta, pulses & grains, cereals, herbs & spices, nuts & seeds, baking supplies, coffee, oil, and snacks, through to cleaning & laundry supplies, cleaning accessories and personal care products. Local suppliers will also be showcased, for example coffee roasted in Langley Park and chutneys made in Burnopfield.

The Larder Cupboard calls at the following places:
Lanchester Community Centre - 2-4pm Thursdays
Ushaw Historic House - 11-1pm Thursdays
Brancepeth Castle - 10-12noon Fridays
Aldin Grange/Field & Fodder - 10-12noon Saturdays

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Cheers David & Caroline



Lanchester All Saints' Primary School

As part of our mental health and wellbeing week at the end of last half-term, we held a whole school art gallery to celebrate each child's unique artistic talent. Children were asked to bring in an item they held dear to act as inspiration for a watercolour painting. Objects of importance ranged from goalie gloves and special teddy bears to baptism bracelets and framed photos. Each watercolour painting was then framed and exhibited for parents to enjoy at our special 'galleries' (classrooms!). The event was a fantastic way to showcase the artistic talents of our children and encourage those who may not have normally enjoyed art to create something beautiful and, more importantly, personal to them.

Other activities as part of this week included workshops about mindfulness, meditation, yoga and healthy living. The whole school also partook in lessons linked to relationships education.

To begin this half-term, we have started our Lenten fundraising activity. We are proudly working once again with Willow Burn Hospice. Each child is being sponsored to

complete a number of 'acts of kindness' each week, after which they bring back to school a decorated leaf which after six weeks will give them a 'tree of kindness'. Acts of kindness so far have included: giving up sweets and taking that money to donate to charity, visiting elderly members of the community, litter-picking, donations to Ukrainian appeals and tidying up bedrooms when asked first time! We look forward to sharing more information with our parents during the last week of term when we will welcome them in to share each pupil's small, yet meaningful acts. A whole-school act of kindness will be a sponsored fun-run later in the term where we aim to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

If you would like to see and hear more about our lovely school, please visit our website where you can find a short video filmed over a period of two hours one afternoon – enjoy!

Frances Stephenson
Head Teacher

Consultation regarding the nursery provision at All Saints'

There is an ongoing consultation to add a thirteen place nursery to All Saints' Catholic Primary School for ages 3+ with the intention of the nursery being open to children from September 2022.

Please visit All Saints' Catholic Primary School's website (www.lanchester.durham.sch.uk) to view a consultation related to nursery provision at the school.

The closing date for comments is Friday 1st April 2022.

Ukuleles for fun

Jean Dougherty writes:

'We are a newly formed group of people who enjoy playing the ukulele. We are not, nor intend to be, structured. We simply enjoy playing for fun and our own entertainment. If you would like to join us, come along to Croft View Halls, Kitswell Road on a Thursday, where the group meets from 1.30pm until 3.30pm.'

Having spent a very happy hour with this group of lovely people on Thursday 3rd, I can thoroughly recommend it to you. They are very welcoming, and everyone has a smile. You will soon be tapping your feet and singing along to a variety of well-loved songs and ditties.

Brenda Craddock



Deanos closes down.

The permanent closure of Deanos was announced on Facebook.

"It is with the heaviest of hearts that I write to tell you that we have made the very hard and sad decision to close Lanchester Deanos. This decision has not been taken lightly and, as a small family run restaurant, it breaks our heart; unfortunately, we were simply unable to recover from the extra pressure brought on by Covid. We would like to thank our community for the years of support we have received and to our staff team for always being amazing.

We have combined our staff teams and many of them, including our head chef, have joined us at our Wickham branch. Although Wickham is a little way out we would still love to see our regular customers.

Thank you to everyone and we wish you all well for the future".

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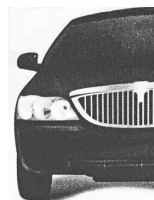
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Fundraiser for Motor Neurone Disease *(continued from p24)*



My wonderful husband and father to Kirsty and Chris, Steve Walker, unfortunately died, aged 68, of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in April 2021. As this has been devastating for all of us, we are holding a fund-raising event for MND to celebrate Steve's life and raise awareness and much needed funds for vital MND research. If we can do our small bit to prevent any other family going through this horrendous ordeal it will be worth it. Please donate where you can, it would mean a lot to us.

Steve was only diagnosed for 4 months before he died, and Kirsty was married 4 months after his death. He was a fanatical runner, finishing in the top 100 in the London Marathon in a time of 2 hours 29 minutes and ran for several North-eastern running clubs, his first being Middlesbrough and his last 3 Houghton, Durham and Elvet Striders.

We are holding a running event and a raffle on 25th June 2022 at 11am, during MND awareness month, to celebrate what would have been

Above: Steve in Bruges, one of his favourite places.

Steve's 70th Birthday. We have asked the 3 running clubs Steve ran for, along with Birtley Harriers, to provide 26 runners to run a mile each from our house in Lanchester to Malton picnic area to replicate Steve's favourite distance of a marathon. Jess, our Labrador dog, and I will also run a mile as well as 26 miles to raise funds. MND Research are providing public indemnity insurance for the event.

Please support the event by running or walking, buying a raffle ticket, providing a raffle prize or sponsoring us so that we can raise as much money as possible in memory of a loving husband, father and friend. Raffle tickets can be purchased from Talking Heads or 22 Lee Hill Court – many of the local businesses have donated prizes.

I have set up a Just Giving page which can be accessed via my Facebook page (Google Lynda Walker, Lanchester).

If you would like any more information, please ring 07872881352 or email: wlyndaswimmer@yahoo.co.uk.

Lynda Walker

Soft Plastic Recycling Returns to Lanchester

Lanchester Environment Group, with the support of Lanchester Community Centre, have now reinstated the soft plastics recycling point as well as Terracycle Dental waste recycling, inside of the Community Centre.

The bins, located in the hallway outside of Hall 2, accessible from Front Street entrance, will be emptied & maintained by Environment Group members on a rota. Soft plastics waste is taken to Tesco's public recycling bins in Consett & the dental waste bins are emptied on arrangement with Terracycle.

Tesco commits to recycling as much of the waste collected as possible for use back into packaging inside of their stores. The remaining waste goes to energy generation. They expect to collect over 1000 tonnes each year.

Terracycle runs many public recycling schemes for specific products. Once items are returned to Terracycle, they are cleaned, sorted & then turned into plastic pellets which are sold onto manufacturing companies to use once again in packaging. For each kilo of product recycled, a monetary donation can be redeemed by the collection point. Accepted items are highlighted at the recycling point. Anyone putting items into the bins are requested to ensure items are free from excess crumbs/food & also to ensure only recyclable items are put into the bin.

Please don't wash any items.



Get into Bowling

The bowling green at Lanchester will be open in mid-April and we are hoping for some new members. It cannot be denied that lawn bowling has an image problem. It's a sport for old people isn't it? Well yes and no. It is a superb sport if you are retired but it can be very enjoyable for everyone, especially for those who have some spare time, perhaps work flexibly or are winding down to retirement. What stops some people taking up the game is that no one thinks in themselves they are old. They also don't want their friends and family to think they are old so they don't play bowls because of its image. Those people are missing out on a great sport that challenges physically but more importantly mentally. It is also a good way to make friends on and off the green.

Our club prides itself in having established a pathway to help new members to get up to speed in the game. Please take a look at our website (Google Lanchester Bowling Club) where you will find plenty of information about getting started with our club and our sessions for new bowlers. We welcome both men and women members. The club's spring meeting is to be held on Monday 4 April at 7 pm in the bowling pavilion.

Prospective members welcome.

You are never too young to start bowling!



Cricket News

Preparation for the season has commenced with players practicing at the indoor nets. It's always hard to get motivated at this time of year but players will get there. The Premier League is the first league to start in the area and league games kick off on the Easter weekend when the firsts entertain Crook, and the seconds make the reverse journey. The third team don't start until a fortnight later when they travel to Eppleton. We also have a fourth team this year, playing in the Hetton Lyons Sunday League. This is a team combined with Burnhope to get the maximum number of junior players playing over a weekend. All their home games will be played at Burnhope and we're hoping for a successful partnership.

Pasindu Madushan has been retained as the overseas player and having played here last season should settle in much more quickly this year. We have also recruited the services of 22 year old left arm Durham pace bowler Jack Campbell, to add some variation to the bowling attack. All Stars has proven very popular with all 70 places having been filled. That starts on the first Friday in May, 5.30pm, when we will have a food vendor on site and the bar will be open for parents to enjoy themselves too. Take up of Dynamo places is slow but that is understandable as it doesn't start until July. The winter coaching in Croft Hall has been popular and worthwhile in ensuring that we will have sufficient numbers for under 11s and under 9s this year.

Off the field the outdoor practice nets have been relaid and would politely ask people not to allow their children to ride bikes on it, play football or allow their dogs to foul it. The surrounding nets will also be renewed shortly.

Beer Festival

The Beer Festival will run from Thursday 2nd June to Saturday 4th, so no excuses everyone, two of these are Bank Holidays and the other means you get a Sunday lie in! Thursday will be 6-10.30pm, while the other two days are 2-10.30pm. Tickets are available through the Lanchester Beer Festival Facebook page. Thursday night is £6, Friday and Saturday £8, or all three for £20, which is a bargain. There's still a lot of work going on to get everything in place but we can confirm that the C- Collective have been booked for the Friday night. Other bands are in the process of being hired. Food vendors will be on site throughout the event.

Tennis Club - 111 years old and counting!

As we head out of winter into spring, members of Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club can begin to plan for another busy summer of tennis and social events.

The club has been in existence since 1911, occupying two sites in the village. The first was "somewhere" around the Fenhall Park area and then, from 1926, at their current location on Ford Road.

Originally, the Ford Road location was all on its own, but gradually it has been surrounded by the houses of Ford Crescent and Smallhope Drive. The access is down a grass path off Ford Road and the club continues to provide a picturesque and vital part of village life.

The club has a comprehensive coaching programme for young and old players alike, and teams are entered into local leagues with some success. The mixed doubles team claiming their league title in 2021 is one example of recent triumphs!

Club tournaments and social play are an integral part of the season.

Organised by Ladies captain Sally Laverick and Secretary Dennis Laycock, the courts are fully utilised whenever possible.

The 2022 season is almost upon us with play to begin on Saturday 23rd April.....weather permitting!

Coaching will start on Monday 25th April. This year the club are running LTA Youth Start courses for juniors up to the age of 11years and places are limited so booking is essential.

The older juniors and adults will also have sessions available to them. Full details are available on the club website lanchesterlawntennis.co.uk

With tennis returning early in the pandemic, it has provided a vital source of exercise for members, and an increase in numbers joining was an unexpected bonus for the club. New members of all ages and abilities are always welcome.

We can look forward to the new season with optimism and if anyone would like further details about Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club, please don't hesitate to contact Dennis on 07960494442 or email den.lizjane@gmail.com

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Tennis Club - 111 years old and counting!

As we head out of winter into spring, members of Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club can begin to plan for another busy summer of tennis and social events.

(full story on page 23)



Fundraiser for Motor Neurone Disease

A running event and a raffle to be held on 25th June 2022, during MND awareness month, in memory of Steve Walker

Family Group above: Chris, Lynda, Kirsty and Steve Walker

Steve with his son Chris who was competing in Rotterdam (full story on page 22)

Sponsored run for Ukraine.

Sophie Emmerson (left) whose idea the disco and sponsored run was, with Ivy and Gracie Martin doing their sponsored run at the cricket club. (full story on page 3)



Willow Burn Hospice Volunteer to Run Across Scotland in Ultra Marathon Challenge for Local Hospice
(full story on page 8)

Ian Lowther (left)

NEXT DEADLINE

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

Tuesday 19th April 2022

The deadline for advertisers is

Tuesday 19th April 2022

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