

the Village Voice

Issue No 11, Volume 22

Lanchester, November 2022



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Poppy Displays

Eric Hepplewhite was behind the initiative to produce poppies for display around the village. These were made from the bottom of plastic drink bottles. "We started collecting the empty bottles in December 2021 and ended up with 3,434 poppies."

They were displayed on: the parish church gates, the Methodist Church fences, the War Memorial, the All Saints' war memorial and on the grave of Stuart Ian Laing who was killed in the Falklands Campaign.

A touching gesture was the decision to include poppies in the Ukraine national colours in the displays.

This was a massive undertaking, and Eric would like to thank:

All who collected the empty bottles, whether it was an odd one or dozens - they were all important.

The venues that accepted them: "Hair by Claire", the Methodist Church and Croft View Halls.

Our County Councillors for a grant to buy paint, florist wire and buttons.

The people who helped put the displays together over three days: Brian Naylor, Helen and Arnaud Lefoyer, Laura Bell.

Those who helped with the decoration on the gates at the All Saints' Parish Church.

...and of course his wife Sylvia.

"Without all their help we couldn't have achieved what we have."

It was only when they were decorating the gates at the Parish Church that they noticed they had been erected in 1922, 100 years ago!



1. Sunlight shining through the poppies at the Methodist Church
2. Poppies at the War Memorial
3. Gates of the parish church
4. Poppies at the grave of Stuart Ian Laing
5. All Saint's war memorial
6. Display on the Methodist Church

Community Orchard Coffee Morning

The Lanchester Community Orchard group hosted a coffee morning held at Lanchester Methodist Church on Saturday 5th November.

A wonderful selection of home baked goods was on offer and members of the group enjoyed chatting to many local residents over a cup of coffee or tea.

Visitors were able to taste some of the many varieties of apples that are grown in the orchard, as well as taste some freshly pressed apple juice, also from the fruit grown on the site at Margery Flatts on Newbiggen Lane.

Many thanks to everyone that came along, it was lovely to see so many local residents, and thanks also to the Methodist Church for hosting us. £172.85 was raised.

If you are interested in finding out more about our group, or becoming a member, then please email:

lanchesterorchard@outlook.com



1. Paul and Simon serve the drinks
2. Apple tasting table
3. Visitors enjoying a drink and a chat
4. Sue and Maria manning the apple stall

Five Star Hotel Accommodation

(continued from front cover)

The bugs and minibeasts at Lanchester Orchard are in for a treat now that a new bug hotel is complete. The structure was completed by the Junior Wildlife Group with the help and support of Noel Jackson and Elaine Williams. It was made using reclaimed building materials: old pallets, bricks and tiles and also sawn up canes and broken plant stems. A big thank you to everyone who helped. It certainly is a work of art.

The orchard is a Lanchester Partnership initiative. If you would like to join and help with the upkeep of this lovely space please email lanchesterorchard@outlook.com

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Lanchester Community Centre Christmas Fayre

The Community Centre held a very well attended and successful Christmas Fayre on Saturday November 5th. They had 25 stalls, tombola and sold refreshments and made £772.

Below: Two of the stalls, on the left the stallholders came from Lanchester.

The stallholders on the right came from Sherburn.

Bottom: One shows visitors to the stalls



Lanchester Local History Society

November meeting

We had an enlightening and interesting talk from George Nairn this month. He took us on a pictorial journey from the Tyne at Newcastle up the coast to the Tweed in Northumberland. The images, from old picture postcards, covered a range of dates or print runs since they became popular. He included much social history and snippets of the contents of the messages on the back. Everyone agreed that it's a fascinating way of looking back. The picture is from the talk and is the beach at Tynemouth in the early 1900s.

The next two meetings will be a social on Friday 2nd December and our usual show and tell on Friday January 6th.



Long sands beach in Tynemouth before the pool was built

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Winter and Festive traditions

The use of plants in winter festivals hails from before the Romans. Early pagans used evergreen branches to cheer up their homes. The transition between Romans decorating fir trees and our modern 'Christmas tree' isn't clear. Estonia and Latvia argue over the first use of a tree in 1441 and 1510 respectively. Northern Europeans were probably hanging firs upside down as decorations more than a thousand years ago. European art and literature imply trees were paraded or decorated in the street in Germany and Latvia (1521 & 1584). In the same century, a German called Martin Luther was inspired by a star-lit night to place candles on a tree in his home. The idea was resisted by some people as they linked it with pagan practices.

In Britain, the Royal family were reputedly the first to decorate a tree at Christmas, whether it was George III & Charlotte in 1800, or Victoria and Albert in the 1840s is hazy.

Yule logs were not the yummy chocolate delight of today. In Scandinavia and parts of Northern Europe, 'Yule' is the name of the old Winter Solstice festivals. In pre-medieval times a Nordic tradition was to burn 'the Yule Log'. A carefully selected, ceremonial log (from a tree!) was placed with one end in the hearth and then slowly fed into the fire (not to be recommended in modern households, flame resistance isn't what it used to be!).

Our use of holly dates to the Druids. Druid rituals used another festive favourite, mistletoe: enemies meeting under the plant had to put their differences aside until the next day. A Norse myth suggests that we kiss under the plant in memory of Baldur who was killed by a mistletoe spear. Baldur's mother, Frigga, had made all creatures and inanimate objects promise not to hurt her beloved son, but she forgot mistletoe! The berries are Frigga's tears.

I have attempted to compile a few interesting snippets, apologies if there is any inaccuracy, I am not a historian.

Lanchester Wildlife Group

Thursday Club Update

At our last meeting in October, we welcomed our very own Kate Lawrie and Lesley Anderson to give us a talk. Both members of the City Theatre group based at Fowlers Yard, Durham City, they had come to tell us all about 'How to dress a play'.

As well as taking part in the play productions, Kate and Lesley are part of the wardrobe department, Kate being 'wardrobe mistress' no less. They had brought with them a fine array of costumes and accessories with which to illustrate their talk.

What a fascinating subject!

To 'costume' their plays, they need items from every era. Also, size matters, much time is given to altering pieces to fit the individual playing the role. Costumes are altered, adjusted, and sometimes completely made new. We heard about the introduction of zips, Velcro, different types of material - all manner of things that can instantly date a play.

Finally we were treated to a quiz - and we do love a quiz - testing our knowledge on the dates when many everyday items came into common use. What a splendid afternoon we had - endlessly interesting, entertaining, and highly informative.

The meeting closed with coffee/tea and of course, scrumptious biscuits after a big thank you was given to our two very engaging speakers.

Olive Simpkins



Kate Lawrie and Lesley Anderson with some of their costumes.

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Remembering



ELIZABETH (BETTY) WHALEY (FORMERLY OLIVER, NEE HOWDON)

Although christened Elizabeth, she was always known as Betty. Her association with Lanchester began when, as a 10-year-old she moved with her parents from rural Blackcallerton (where Newcastle Airport is now) to Hollinside Terrace, near Lanchester. For the next 80 years she lived there, residing at No. 2 until she married Ronnie Oliver and moved to No. 3. While her mother attended the Church of England, Betty was encouraged to join the young set at the Methodist Church by a neighbour and local preacher. Involvement in the church was a big part of her life. Many of us will remember her from the Sunday School (later the Junior Church), the youth club, the Wives and Friends, the refurbishment of Croft View, and so much more. Her involvement wasn't just in Lanchester, she was interested in circuit work and Women's Network, a national concern. Betty had a zest for life, and she always felt that her life was enhanced by the people she met. She had a natural talent to be able to engage with all ages and especially enjoyed the company of young people. Her work with the youth club and the Sunday school was a great joy to her.

This natural talent and her respectful attitude to people stood her in good stead when, newly widowed, she went to work at the National Savings in Durham, which eventually led her to become a VAT officer for HMRC.

She enjoyed crafts and had a creative mind. She qualified to teach dressmaking and millinery, joined the creative writing group at the library and the local lacemaking making group.

Her marriage to Bob Whaley brought a chapter of travel, with trips to the Holy Land and Egypt. She embraced the experiences of differing cultures and countries, and enjoyed constructive debates with people, some of whom became lifelong friends.

Betty is survived by her son, daughter, and their respective families. They hope you will join them in remembering her for her smile and wicked sense of humour.

(Editors' note. Betty Whaley was 90 earlier this year and the Village Voice had a feature on Betty in the February edition. Betty was our oldest deliverer having delivered the Village Voice since the start.)

Birth Announcement

Mrs Christine Elland would like to congratulate her granddaughter, Christina Hall, and her partner on the birth of their son Noah. He was born 31st October 2022.

She wishes them all love and happiness.



Community Centre News

Here is the latest news from your Community Centre.

Your Community Centre is delighted that 2022 has brought so many people back together again after a very difficult period. Over 27 groups are using the facilities which is great news. Social events are back in the diary, with lots to look forward to in 2023.

The security cameras have all been replaced to allow greater surveillance and the floor in Hall 2 has been sanded, varnished and brought back to its beautiful original light colour with the help of a grant from our Durham councillors.

To start your Christmas celebrations why not come along to our Christmas Special, a musical night with 'Fools Gold', Saturday 3rd December, 7pm, tickets £5.

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, get in touch and have a chat to see how we can help.

Your Community Centre management, staff and volunteers would like to thank you for your support over the past year, we really can't do it without you, and we would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy 2023.

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/>

Money Makes the World Go Around

Money certainly plays a major part in our society. But money can be used in a positive way to enhance our environment, improve our living conditions or in a negative way investing in activities that pollute the air and oceans and contribute to global warming.

It is with this knowledge in mind that the trustees of Lanchester Partnership decided to switch their bank account from Barclays to the Co-operative Bank. The trustees became aware of just how much Barclays were investing in fossil fuel projects.

"Barclays, HSBC, Standard Chartered, Lloyds and Natwest channelled more than £35bn of new money into fossil fuels in 2021, with Barclays remaining the biggest financier of dirty energy in Europe." Financial Reporter These banks say they are taking climate change seriously yet these projects are helping to pollute our air, destroy wildlife and warm our planet.

The trustees felt they should take a stand and make sure the funds in the account were used in a more positive way, so felt switching to the Co-operative bank with their ethical stand of investing in "The Planet, People and The Community" was well worth the effort of moving the account. So well done Lanchester Partnership.

Many people wonder what they can do to combat climate change. By choosing a bank that does not invest in fossil fuels such as: Co-operative Bank, Nationwide Building Society, Leeds Building Society, Newcastle Building Society we can all make a real difference. The website switchit.green (set up by Richard Curtis of Red Nose Day fame) makes this transition much easier. Why not check it out and see if you can join the thousands of others who are letting Barclays know that our future needs to be a cleaner one. The trustees, while making this switch, would also like to acknowledge that the employees of Barclays have always been helpful towards the Partnership and have indeed made contributions to their funds for which they are very grateful. Their issue is with the overriding policies of the bank and not any individuals.

Sonny Shepherd

Lanchester Partnership Environment group



Notes from the House

As Rishi Sunak becomes our new Prime Minister, and I take on new responsibility as a Minister at the Department of Transport, I hoped I might be able to use this column for a more positive message. Last time I wrote we were communally mourning the death of the late great Queen Elizabeth II.

But I write today with really quite depressing news about our beloved constituency. In its preliminary review, the Boundary Commission has decided to split up North West Durham in four ways. Although there are four more weeks before the final proposal is submitted, it is looking likely that such a change to our constituency will remain.

(1) Weardale, Tow Law and Crook all merge into the new Bishop Auckland seat. (2) Willington, a part of Deerness, Esh, and Witton Gilbert are all pushed into the City of Durham seat. (3) The whole Lanchester Ward, which goes from Muggleswick to Castleside and Burnhope, goes into the North Durham seat with Stanley and Chester-le-Street. (4) Consett, Dipton and Burnopfield all go north into the Blaydon constituency.

This is obviously hugely sad news. It has been the honour of a lifetime to serve all of you guys in these beautiful North West Durham towns and villages. Nonetheless, PLEASE keep in mind, however, that I am your MP until the next general election. I will continue in my fight for you and keep pushing for the 16 beds at Shotley bridge, reopen historic railways, and getting more police officers on your streets.

If you want to raise your concern with this decision, please get in touch with the Boundary commission here:

Email: information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk.

Phone: 020 7276 1102.

Write to: Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ.

Richard Holden



Deadlines

Deadline

The deadline for the December edition is Tuesday 6th December.

We are going to expedite this edition, so we hope it should be hitting the doormats well before Christmas. Please let us have any news, articles, etc. by that date and any events taking place over the Christmas and new year period – and of course January.

The Editors

Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

We all enjoyed a good meeting on Wednesday 26th October 2022 in Lanchester Community Centre. One of our members Christine Stockdale, who has been a N.F.A.S club member for many years, recently moved into our area. Christine kindly agreed to do a flower demonstration for us on the basic principles of flower arranging. It was an excellent afternoon. I am sure all of the ladies present learnt something new about how to do extravagant and small flower arrangements from her very interesting demonstration. Christine brought many of her lovely flowers and foliage from her own garden. A big thank you to Christine from the club.

The arrangements were raffled as usual, so many ladies went home very happy.

Tea/coffee and biscuits were served, and everyone enjoyed the usual chat with each other. There is no meeting in December. But the club will recommence on Wednesday 25th January 2023 in Lanchester Community Centre main hall starting at the earlier time of 1.30pm. I hope everyone has remembered to get tickets for the Christmas demonstration in November.

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

Lestrine Kelly



Christine Stockdale with her arrangements.



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Humanitarian help for Ukraine - our biggest ever Toy Appeal

The latest from our fundraising efforts is that we held a children's Halloween disco in October raising around £500, this was a great success and was enjoyed by all the children who attended. Many thanks to The Demi for allowing us to host it here.

Following on from this we did a bag pack at B&M which raised £740, thanks to everyone who donated money and bought along toys on the day, the generosity of everyone was amazing.

The following day we took part in Lanchester Social Club Christmas Fayre, where we had a tombola and craft stall, in total we raised £200.

In the run up to 7 of us going to Poland in December we will have two more bag packs at Tesco, Consett on 20th November, B&M bag pack on 3rd December and on 19th of November we will have a cake stall at Maple Court, Delves Lane in Consett.

Everyone has worked so hard to make this toy appeal a success. Please note that the toys will be distributed amongst children in Co Durham as well as Ukrainian children in the Polish orphanage we visit in December.

We need your support to help make this a success. Drop off points in Lanchester are: Lanchester Community Centre, the Genome Centre, Westlands Dental Surgery and Lilydale Pet Supplies.

For other drop off points please check our Facebook page or ring Kathryn Rooney on 07859896478.

Justine Harrison



Police Report

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

The ongoing problems around an address in Lanchester have been continuing. We have spoken to around 20 people relating to this matter, who have been involved in incidents. We are working with the school to tackle this issue as it appears that information is being passed around school, particularly in years 8 and 9.

There are further issues relating to parking at schools. The message is simple, park sensibly and respectfully. Yellow lines and keep clear signs are there for a reason. We are working with the schools and Durham Council around this, and people may end up with fixed penalty notices.

With the dark nights now closing in, please keep all doors and windows locked, all valuables out of sight.

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.



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Good day readers

As you will know by now, my name is Poppy, I am a black Patterdale terrier with more than a tinge of grey, and I enjoy sharing the walks I lead my humans on with you.

At the time I did this walk it was too early for festive decorations, but I bet if you try it now you will pass plenty on the way. We start from the centre of Lanchester – for the sake of argument, say in front of the Kings Head – and proceed along Station Road and up Cadger Bank. As most of you will know, this can be quite a strenuous uphill walk but my male Human cheats by allowing me to pull him up – or at least give a helping hand – as he holds onto my lead. We don't go to the very top of Cadger Bank, but instead turn right up a flight of stairs.

This leads us across a short road and onto a narrow passageway – or ginnel – which takes us onto the top of Briardene.

From there we turn left and walk over a grassy area with mature trees – I often encounter one or two pals there for a tail wag. We then walk right between houses and down a slight incline to the top of some stairs, which we walk down towards Broadoak Drive while there is a stream on the left which I try to explore if I am let off my lead.

From Broadoak Drive we turn left at the end and proceed along Newbiggen Lane, staying on the footpath on the right-hand side. When we come to a footpath on the right – known as Ridgeway – we turn along it. There are a couple of doggie bins along there which are useful if I am caught short.

While there are houses on the right of Ridgeway there are fields on the left which are often full of sheep, so I am kept on my lead.

At the end of Ridgeway, we walk down some more steps then I insist on turning left to prolong the walk. We then walk along the Lanchester Valley railway path in the direction of Hurbuck, but on this occasion go only as far as Lizard Cottage which is on the left of the path.

Then we turn right down a track and onto a road which leads us back towards Kitswell Road, and then onto Lanchester village centre.

If we have time I often persuade – by pulling hard on my lead – the Human to divert onto the cricket field so I can run around there.

By the time we are back to the Kings Head the walk has taken around an hour, which is by no means one of my longest walks, but which is very welcome nonetheless.

Poppy

New deliverer needed

Once more the opportunity to join the dynamic team called the Village Voice has arisen due to the well-earned retirement of our Deneside colleague Elizabeth Hall, who has decided to call it a day after delivering the Voice since its inception. She will cash in her pension and set off on a Caribbean Cruise* in the new year which has proved to be the reward of choice for deliverers with more than 20 years' service.

Can you take on the round of 90 papers and stick at it until finally sunning yourself on a sun kissed island, such as Barbados, listening to Harry Belafonte sing "Island In the Sun"? Can you even remember Harry and his wonderful Calypso repertoire? Ring Mike Stoddart on 520291 for more details.

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Ladies who lunch

Our choice of restaurant this month couldn't have been easier to find as it is right here on our doorstep in Lanchester. Opposite the beautiful 12th century church, whilst overlooking the picturesque village green, the Kings Head Hotel's ginormous rear car park offers ample parking and thoughtfully placed disabled access to its front entrance.

At the time of our visit the restaurant was spookily decorated for Halloween with witches' hats, spiders and cobwebs plus plump pumpkins. So, we happily 'parked our brooms' and were soon spellbound by the eerily extensive menu.

Three of our ladies chose pan fried sea bass with baby potatoes, seasonal greens, roasted cherry tomatoes and gremolata. One of us had homemade chicken curry with fragrant rice and poppadum plus chicken Balti pie with cauliflower bhaji and Bombay potatoes. One had pan fried liver served with creamy mash, baby onions and pancetta gravy. Last not least the good old stalwart fish and chips. Puddings were sticky toffee pudding with cauldrons of creamy custard, chocolate orange cheesecake served with raspberry sorbet, and pear and almond tart served with maple walnut ice cream.

*Friendly staff and excellent service made our luncheon in
Lanchester lovely!!!*

The Gourmet Girls



Lanchester WI November

On Monday 7th November the Lanchester WI celebrated their 96th birthday with an outing to The Stables in Beamish. 25 members attended and had a lovely meal with time to catch up with friends.



Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

Autumn is always an exciting time for our EYFS (Early Year Foundation Stage) children as they start their time with us in school. Crunching through the leaves each morning and exploring the natural treasures of autumn are experiences that stay with us forever!

Our Nursery children have settled in quickly. Many of them had already attended our free outdoor playgroup, Lanchester Little 'Uns, which really helped them to get to know the staff and some of their new classmates. Over the past half term, the children have been provided with lots of exciting experiences, such as exploring pumpkins, finding out where conkers come from (and how to get them out of their shells!), printing with autumn leaves and enjoying s'mores around the campfire in our wild area. The Nursery children have also started regular Forest School sessions, which are invaluable for developing their curiosity, confidence, and resilience – all such important skills to foster in the Early Years!

The children in Reception have explored lots of autumnal themed activities. We have just loved our weekly Forest School sessions during which we have made leaf crowns, learnt the campfire

rules, compared the length of sticks in an outdoor Maths session and used our 'sky eyes' to observe the tops of the trees. We welcomed the wonderful Tiny Tweeties to sing and dance to autumn songs and learned seasonal songs in our weekly music lessons with Mrs Knighton. In literacy lessons, we learned the story 'Stone Soup' and we rounded off the half term by making and tasting our very own 'stone' soup. The children brought in a huge range of vegetables to add to our soup, and we spent two wonderful days exploring the smells, tastes and textures of leeks, carrots, potatoes, green beans, pumpkin, broccoli, onions and cabbage – not a stone in sight! We all agreed that our soup was delicious!

We can't wait for all the seasonal learning opportunities that the winter will bring!

Jane Davies
Head Teacher

Top: Child with mirror exploring the tops of trees with their sky eyes
Below: Exploring conkers



Lanchester All Saints' School

There is always so much going on in All Saints', often what we call our 'hidden curriculum', which contributes to and strengthens our curriculum offer. As well as covering each subject (you can see a celebration of what each class has learned each week on the 'Blog' section of our website), there have been a whole host of other experiences that the children have enjoyed recently, developing teamwork, challenge and competitive spirit. Year Three undertook an adventure day, we have girls' football, boys' football, rugby and cross country teams representing our All Saints' as part of competitions, as well as Years Two, Three and Five participating in athletics events. Other opportunities where the children have to work as a team are our weekly samba drumming sessions for Years Three and Four and our weekly brass teaching in Year Five. We are proud to offer a variety of clubs each week, many of which also focus upon collaboration, teamwork and problem solving: judo, tennis, gardening, singing and fencing to name a few.

A further way in which we enhance our curriculum is through visitors into school and experiences outside of school. Years Three and Five learned a lot when visiting a local synagogue, Year Four enjoyed a day in Matfen Forest, our Early Years Foundation Stage children are due to enjoy visits by a sports coach, a 'hedgehog lady' and someone to help them become actors and actresses! Year Six have enhanced their World War One knowledge with a visit from a World War One Battlefield tour guide (and also a working member of The British Legion) and have enhanced their STEM learning with a visit from a scientist looking at the physics of buoyancy.

We cherish our class assemblies that are taking place again each half term. The most recent assemblies have been led by our infant classes – Remembrance by Year One and Firework Safety by Year Two which included a Makaton performance of 'Firework'. It is so wonderful to hear our children speak and sing to an audience as well as get a glimmer into their learning. In September, we learned about a range of European countries – thinking about their language, culture and traditions as part of the European Day of Languages. Over the following months, we have continued to learn about our local and global neighbours. To support our harvest celebrations, our annual donation to The People's Kitchen was made; the children love learning about the great work of the charity from Mr Baker. Our families have supported Children in Need via our annual dance-on-the-spot-athon and our school council have led the school in the importance of recognising and standing up to bullying and racism. In such a wonderful primary school like All Saints', learning takes place every moment of every day and is represented in a myriad of ways by our pupils and staff.

Frances Stephenson, Head Teacher

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Lanchester Library

Library Book Club

On Monday December 19th 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 December 15th from 4-5pm, the group will be reviewing Jailbirds by Mim Skinner, lessons from a women's prison, 'a unique brand of humour, realism and hope'. 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 December is the 1st 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 welcome, enjoy.

Children crafts on a Thursday afternoon,

Different crafts and materials are set out in the library for children to be creative, pop along with your children and enjoy.

Remember to pick up your Christmas books to enjoy over the festive period.

Lanchester Local History Society

The next meeting is on Friday 2nd December when we will be having a more social evening. With light refreshments, but please bring any special beverages or nibbles that you prefer. There will be some light entertainment in the form of a 20 questions session where each table will be provided with a topic and some facts about the topic. The rest of the group need to work out the topic. See you in room 3 at the Community Centre.

Paradiso Film club

Lanchester Community Centre 7pm for drinks, nibbles and raffle, film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £2.50. Non-members: £3.50. Annual membership £5.

Sunday 11th December:

A Boy Called Christmas
An ordinary young boy called Nikolas sets out

on an adventure into the snowy north in search of his father who is on a quest to discover the fabled village of the elves, Elfhelm. Taking with him a headstrong reindeer called Blitz and a loyal pet mouse, Nikolas soon meets his destiny.

Sunday 8th January 2023:
Belfast

Cuppa and Company lunch club

The monthly lunch held at Lynwood House will be on Tuesday 13th December at 12pm. All are welcome. Any questions call Jackie on 07908 838452.

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 of the Lanchester Wildlife Group will be on 13th December at 7.30pm in the Community Centre small hall, when we will hold the AGM and take part in a wildlife quiz.

Musical Memories

On 14th December at 2pm we will hold our annual Christmas party at Lynwood House, including a Christmas quiz, Christmas songs and carols and seasonal refreshments. New members are welcome. 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 and family and friends. 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.

3rd December: Consett Food Bar

10th December: Lanchester Band – the band will be playing Christmas music

17th December: Health and Hope

24th December: To be advised

Thursday Club

The Thursday Club will not be meeting in the Community Centre next month. On December 15th at 12:30 pm we will be gathering at the Kings Head for our Christmas meal.

Choral Society Christmas Concert

'A Celebration of Christmas'
Monday 19th December, 7.15pm, Lanchester Methodist Church
Carols, readings, guest soloists, audience participation
Donations for Willow Burn on the night

Willow Burn

Nurse's Christmas Fair -

Willow Burn Hospice
26 November between 11am and 2pm
The Nursing and Care Team at Willow Burn Hospice invite you to join them at the Nurses' Christmas Fair. This annual event is a great opportunity to enjoy some Christmas shopping 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.

As well as stalls, the Willows Café will be open, Potting Shed will be transformed into a Christmas gift shop and Santa's Grotto will be in the garden. Donations of raffle and tombola prizes would be much appreciated. All proceeds from the fair, will go to fund the vital services provided by the Willow Burn Nursing and Care Team.

Light Up a Life 2022 at Lanchester All Saints Catholic Church

4th December at 2pm
Christmas is a time to be thankful, but it can also be a time when we miss those who are no longer with us the most. Light up a Life offers an uplifting and meaningful way to remember family and friends and is an opportunity to come together to celebrate and remember our loved ones. Light Up a Life is a warm, loving and festive event to be shared with friends and family. Welcoming you to the service is such an honour and we are privileged to share this special time with you. We will gather to sing carols, listen to readings and light candles in memory of loved ones. Following the service there is the

opportunity to spend time together over refreshments in the beautiful setting of the church.

If you would like to attend, please contact Ali at Willow Burn: 01207 529 224 / alie@willowburnhospice.org.uk. Please note, the dedications book has now closed.

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.enthusie.com/WillowBurnChineseBanquet#1/

Scottish Dance Group

This group has met for over 50 years in the small hall at Lanchester Community Centre on Friday nights from 7.30pm until 9.30pm. The end of this term is 16th December. Please come and join us, beginners are very welcome and instructions are offered if wished. This is Scottish Country Dancing (social) not Highland dancing (flings & sword). Have a lovely evening with us! Contact Vivien Welsh (01388 528529) or just come along one Friday night and meet us!

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)

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: 6pm
Christmas Vigil Mass
Christmas Day: 9.30am
Christmas Morning Mass
New Year's Day: 9.30am Mass

All Saints Parish Church November events

Saturday 26th November:
Advent Fair in Church
Sunday 27th November:
3pm Messy Church - book via Facebook page
Sunday 27th November:
6pm Advent Lessons and Carols

Christmas light switch on

Saturday 26 November on the village green. Refreshments & Christmas carols from 5.30pm, lights to be switched on at 6.00pm.

Musical Christmas Special

Fools Gold will perform on 3rd December at 7pm at Lanchester Community Centre. Tickets are £5.

WI

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 5th December in the Community Centre, starting at 7.00pm. This is our Christmas party with entertainment from singer Larry Page. There is a faith supper with tea and coffee provided but if you fancy something stronger, please bring along a bottle. Instead of a raffle a silent auction is going to be held with lots of great items for you to bid for. Your committee would like to wish all our members, their friends and family a Merry Christmas and offer a sincere thank you for all your support.

Lanchester playgroup

Every Friday at 9.30am at Croft View Halls.

Vintage Tractors

Meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in Lanchester Social Club.

Art Group Exhibition

The thriving Lanchester Art Group had plenty to celebrate when they staged their exhibition at the village community centre over the weekend of October 22 and 23.

For one, it is now 40 years since a handful of enthusiasts came together to form the group which now has 42 members.

Secondly, this year's exhibition was the first they could stage since 2019, due to Covid restrictions. And thirdly, they received a grant from the County Durham Community Foundation which enabled them to continue after lockdown restrictions were lifted.

Secretary Margaret Walters, herself no mean artist, said: "We are delighted to be back and hopefully the community is pleased to see us back." A comment book at the entrance to the hall certainly seemed to indicate that people were enjoying the exhibition of artwork from the members. A red dot on a painting indicated that it had been sold. So many artists displayed their work that it would be impossible to name them all, but they included Margaret herself, Malcolm Coils, Linda Marrin, Lesley Hughes, Lesley Anderson, Jim Richmond, Pamela Fry and Harry Carr.

Neil McKay



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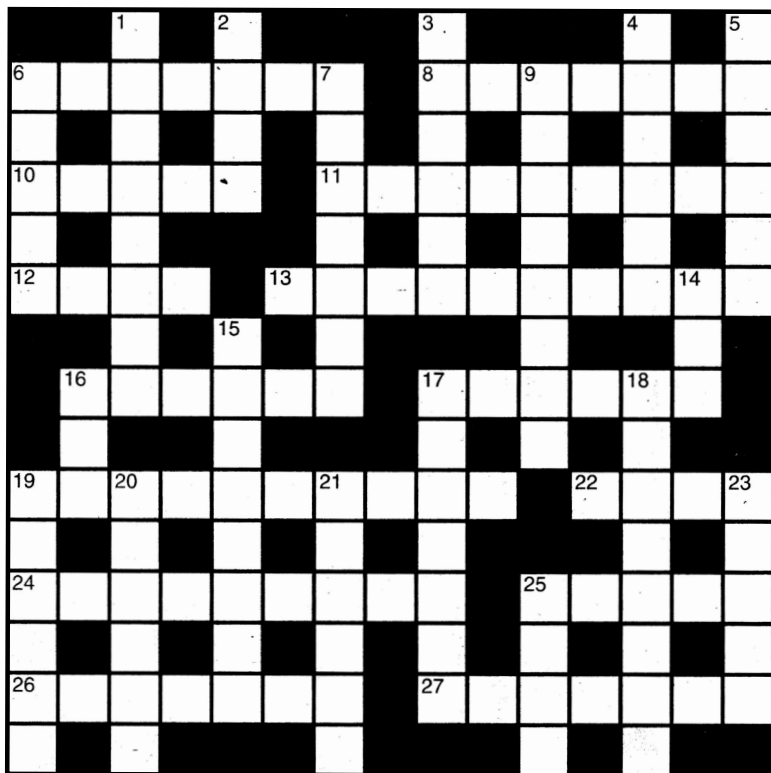
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care.connect@durham.gov.uk

You can also find us on facebook.com/CareConnectDCC



CLUES CROSSWORD 179



Across

- 6 Take into account (7)
 8 Imagine (7)
 10 Avoid (5)
 11 Create coin for growth (9)
 12 Pitfall (4)
 13 Sneaky look (4,6)
 16 Dupe (6)
 17 No nude is exposed (6)
 19 Incompetence (10)
 22 Indecent (4)
 24 Break (9)
 25 Move stealthily (5)
 26 Seed of tropical palm (7)
 27 Isolate (7)

Down

- 1 Correct (8)
 2 Symmetrical six-sided object (4)
 3 Soul (6)
 4 Balm (6)
 5 Meeting that tries to contact the dead (6)
 6 Lifeless (5)
 7 Devious (7)
 9 Rule out (8)
 14 Prompt (3)
 15 Grumble (6,2)
 16 Put on (3)
 17 Strip (7)
 18 Mass migration forbidden (2,6)
 19 Foolishness (6)
 20 Lure (6)
 21 Reliable (6)
 23 Explore (5)
 25 Purple brown colour (4)

Name: _____

Address: _____

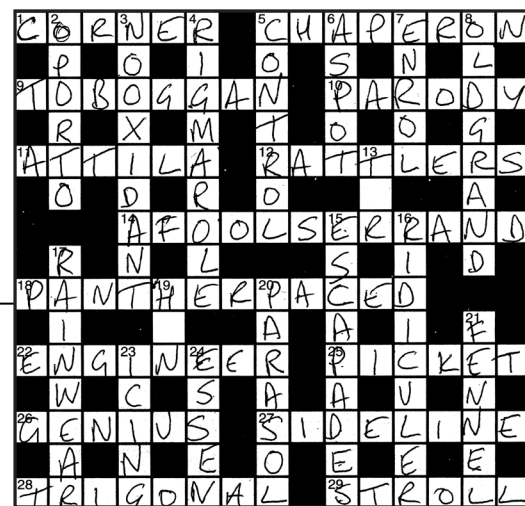
Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw (by the deadline date on back page) to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbigen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY

Following the advert in last month's Village Voice, we are pleased to announce that we have successfully recruited a new compiler for the Village Voice crossword.

He will take over in time for next month's edition.

We are extremely grateful for the long service of the current compiler who has produced all 179 of the crosswords.

Happy retirement!



Winner of Crossword 178

There were 6 entries, 5 of which were correct.
 The winner drawn out of the hat was P Dixon, who wins the £10 prize.

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Tatyana enjoys living in Lanchester

Tatyana Mykhailova recently moved to Lanchester from Odessa under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme to escape the war. She is a professional artist and art

restorer in Ukraine and is hoping to restart her business here in Lanchester. She came over with her dog Leonya who you can see with her in the photograph.

She specialises in oil paintings of landscapes, portraits and animals and has over 25 years' experience of restoring artworks in art galleries, churches and monasteries.

Tatyana graduated from the Odessa Grekov Art School (BA) and Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts (MA) and studied amongst some well-known Ukrainian artists including Michael Ryasnyanskiy, Konstantin Filatov, Svyatoslav Bozhiy and Alexander Umanskiy.

Tatyana says "I am enjoying living in Lanchester and think it is a beautiful scenic village. I would also like to say thank you to the people I have met so far who have made me feel welcome here, with special thanks to the Lanchester Art Group."

Top left: Tatyana with her dog Leonya who she brought from Ukraine

Top right: Portrait of a friend's mother

Centre: Farm is a scene, Ukraine

All We Want for Christmas Is You – Give the Gift of Volunteering This Christmas

The Willows Café at Willow Burn is currently recruiting for Café Assistant Volunteers on Mondays and Saturdays between 10am and 3pm. The Willows Café is at the heart of the community and is a welcoming safe space for everyone to come and have a hot meal, meet people and find out what is going on in the local community. It is a friendly and bustling meeting place offering home-cooked food to generate income for the hospice. Please note, if you would be interested in volunteering on a Saturday but can't commit every weekend, please do not worry, we would still love to hear from you.

Apply today at: www.willowburnhospice.org.uk/volunteer/cafe-assistant-volunteer or call Rachel on: 01207 529 224



Lanchester Choral Society

*'Wonderful' 'Counsellor'
'The Everlasting Father'
'The Prince of Peace'*

You will no doubt know these words

from Handel's Messiah and indeed the Lanchester Choral Society's rendering of the 'The Messiah Part 1' plus the Hallelujah chorus was wonderful. A large audience in the Methodist Church on Friday November 4th was once more indicative of the very high standard of singing which the Lanchester Choral Society always achieve. The concert that evening was rather special because the society is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its existence this year.

David Hughes, who was responsible for founding the society in 1972, has conducted the choir for 50 years and is to be congratulated for his unstinting devotion to it. The village has enjoyed countless performances by the society over the years all of which have been very much enjoyed and appreciated by a large audience. In his introductory remarks at the beginning of this concert David said that people have come and gone over the years but there are still some who have been part of the society since its beginning. He also paid tribute to the pianists who have accompanied the choir, all of whom he said have added to the success of the performances. John Ord, whom some readers may remember, was the very first pianist/organist who played for the rehearsals and actual performances, followed by Lilian Dixon who took over when John sadly died very suddenly, and she served the choir for a very long time. On Friday evening, for this anniversary concert it was David Williams, a very accomplished organist and musician. There were four soloists for the evening: Elizabeth Woods (soprano), Emma Anyan (alto) Paul Smith (tenor) David Gray (bass). They all performed to perfection!

Part 2 of the concert was devoted to the great composer Vivaldi and his work 'Gloria' and again it was a glorious performance. The whole evening had a wonderful ambience which drew together audience and performers and in the present time when the outside world seems rather chaotic, it was good to have our spirits lifted and feel that sense of togetherness. There were refreshments after the performances when people could linger and chat and share memories, all of them good, of this long-standing society which contributes greatly to the community spirit which is so alive in our village. We wish them many more happy, successful years and again thank them and their brilliant conductor, and musical director David Hughes, for always giving a first class performance.

Brenda Craddock



New parking restrictions for Lanchester

Traffic bosses are set to clamp down on parking outside schools and in Lanchester village centre.

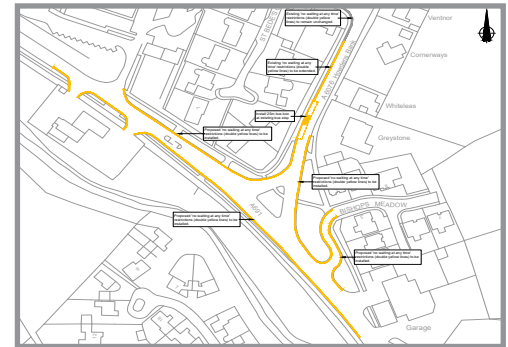
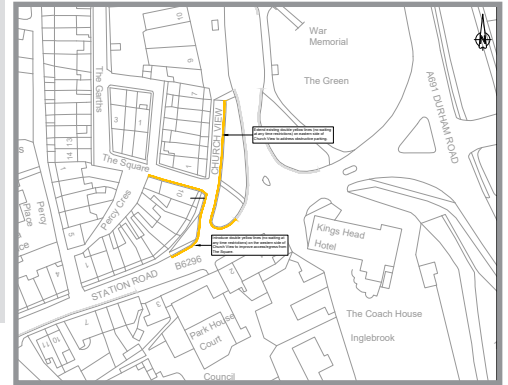
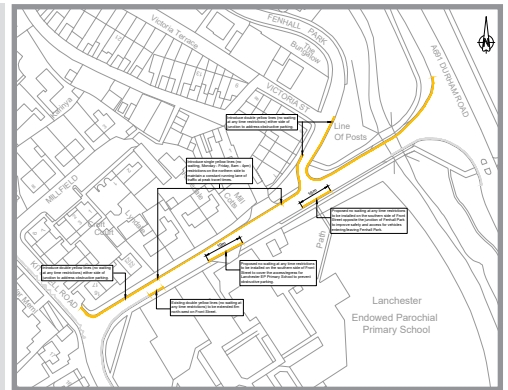
Proposed traffic measures submitted by Durham County Council and considered by Lanchester Parish Council at a meeting on November 8 included yellow lines in Church View, Front Street opposite the junction into Fenhall Park, and on roads outside St Bede's School.

These proposals have received mixed reactions from residents, some who fear traffic may move to park outside their homes away from the newly restricted areas. But pedestrians and motorists regularly complain about obstructions in the village centre and outside schools.

The plans, which are likely to be implemented sometime next year, include extending yellow lines in Church View to "address obstructive parking", double yellow lines on the A691 outside St Bede's and around the corner on Howden Bank and near the Jet garage, and double yellow lines opposite the entrance to Fenhall Park.

Local Durham county councillor for Lanchester, Doug Oliver, was contacted for his comments and views by the Village Voice. He said: "This is a matter we are following very closely as councillors and we had another discussion with the Parish Council last night about the work we are doing in terms of bringing focus on this issue from officers at County Hall, as well as enforcement action from the police and DCC's neighbourhood warden."

Neil McKay



The Village Bus - Fundraising

Fundraising for the village bus has continued in earnest.

The Lanchester Partnership, with support from Crinnions of Lanchester, organised a race night in October. Special thanks to Martin for his dazzling race commentating on the night!

Much fun was had and a whopping £750 raised!

A match funding application has been made, with the hope that the final total will therefore be £1500!

The Kings Head in Lanchester continue their monthly support. The village bus has been selected by the Parish Church (PCC), as one of their charitable donations for 2023, and will receive a monthly donation.

Many thanks to both for their commitment to sponsoring the bus. Thanks also go to the individuals who continue to support the bus, as one off or with ongoing donations.

To sponsor the bus for a day is £25. An ideal birthday or Christmas present for those who have everything, we give them a mention on social media, and a poster on the bus on the day.

If you would like to support the bus, please contact Laura on 07967 597 949 or email the partnership on contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk

The village bus provides a vital link for many people in the village, running daily Mon – Fri allowing people to continue to live independently.

Anyone is welcome to use the bus, it's a great help with getting shopping home! On Wednesdays the bus also visits Lanchester Garden Centre.

Timetables can be found online <http://lanchesterpartnership.org.uk/transport-and-bus-link-group/>

Laura Bell

Sponsored days in October/November were:

3rd October

Sponsor: Kath Marshall – Ivens - In honour of Mike Gladstone to recognise all the hard work, perseverance and time spent keeping the bus on the road.

28th October

Sponsor: Clive and Margaret Turner - With thanks.

1st November

Sponsor: Lanchester Women's Institute - The WI in Lanchester was first formed in November 1925 and meets on the first Monday of each month in the Community Centre.

Visitors are always welcome!

7th November

Sponsor: Linda Gray - To celebrate Margorie Gray's Birthday - with love from Linda xxx

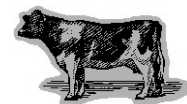
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Adam's walk for Cancer Research

I decided to do a 100 mile walking challenge in October in and around the village. This was for Cancer Research UK and so far has raised £210 plus gift aid which could push that up. I had 31 days to get my miles in and have lots of photos of the journeys etc. In November I am doing a new challenge of keepy uppys with a football each day and will look for another new challenge for December.

Adam Plumptre

Cricket News

Thank you to those who responded with regards to the two mystery men in the photographs. Several people identified Simon Totten in 1981 but the other player from 1976 remains a mystery. No one has come forward with any team photos that I could do with, so if anyone belatedly wants to let me see some, then please get in touch.

Some former players who may be able to help me are: Michael Callaghan, Mark Carlin and Phil Carlin, who I would hope could help with their experiences of going to the national finals with Lanchester. If they would like to get in touch, my email is AnJsince89@mail.com.

Finally, while it is a long way off, a date for the diary is Saturday 23rd September 2023. This will be the end of season presentation day/night, but will also be the official 50th birthday party, when we will be hoping that many former players and members come along. There will be a band and food and we are hoping to take some very large group photos! If you know someone who may be interested in this event, then please do pass this on.

A reminder that the bar is open every Friday night from 6.30 and all are welcome. **Andrew McConnell**

WARM AND WELCOMING LANCHESTER... through the cold of winter!

The shorter days and falling leaves herald the start of winter and the approach of Christmas. For some people it can be a worrying time. The cost of living crisis and higher energy bills can result in difficult choices: whether to heat a home properly or to cut expenditure on other things that most of us might consider essential.

The Warm Spaces Programme is a growing movement in which libraries, village halls, community spaces and church annexes work together to provide warmth, company and the possibility of grabbing a warm drink. Lanchester Community Centre, Burnhope Village Hall and the churches are working to introduce some local warm spaces.

Funding has been made available by mid Durham Area Action Partnership and the County Durham Community Foundation to the area. The Lanchester Partnership is making an application for funding on behalf of Lanchester and Burnhope.

Durham County Council has already designated all libraries (including Lanchester Library) as a warm space. We'll use these pages to keep you updated throughout the winter.

If you would like:

More information about what is going on in Lanchester and Burnhope To volunteer to help out at a warm space

you can contact one of the churches, Lanchester Community Centre, look out for posters, or contact

Henry Edwards

07890 803648

contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk



Lanchester Community Café and Warm Hub opening

Stuart and Michael Martin are opening a not-for-profit community warm hub and cafe in Lanchester Community Centre over the winter months. They'll be offering a warm space, very affordable food, free tea and coffee and a friendly welcome to anyone who will benefit from the project. They will be opening the doors on the 13th of December 2022.

The café will be based in the Community Centre and will operate:

Tuesdays 8:30am – 4:30pm

Wednesdays 8:30am – 11:30am

Thursdays 8:30am – 4:30pm

**Why not go along and try it!
We'll be going along to try it for ourselves!**

How to contact the Village Voice

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

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

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