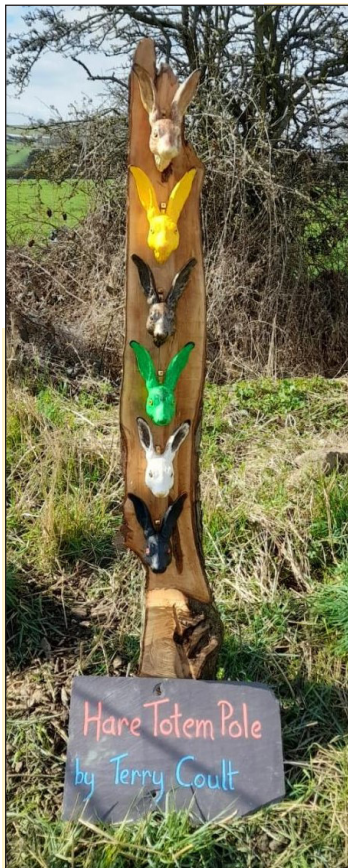


the Village Voice

Issue No 4, Volume 23

Lanchester, April 2023



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LANCHESTER MARKS THE CORONATION
A celebration of volunteering and support for the community
to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III



The Coronation takes place on Saturday May 6th. Nationally, on Sunday May 7th neighbours across the United Kingdom are encouraged to share a meal with friends and sip on a cup of tea or host a street party together. We hope many streets in Lanchester will be planning something nice.

Here at the Village Voice we'll be interested to hear about and report on what you've organised.
Please note the following events.

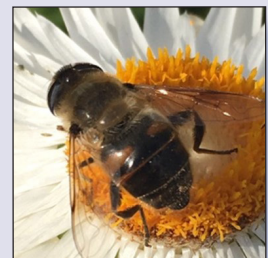
Coronation Songs of Praise - Sunday 7th May 6pm
All Saints Parish Church with Lanchester Band & Lanchester Choral Society
All welcome.

Coronation Bank Holiday Event - Monday May 8th
Lanchester Community Orchard and Margery Flatts Allotments
On Monday May 8th the orchard and allotments will be open all day.

The Community Orchard is a project operated through The Lanchester Partnership. It is an amazing place, created by the hard efforts of local volunteers over a number of years. Make a visit with the family, enjoy a couple of hours in the open air, and learn about the power of volunteering to transform our local environment.

It is one of Lanchester's best kept secrets.

- Guided tours of the orchard
- Learn about the allotments nearby (Margery Flatts)
- Find out about bug hotels with Lanchester Wildlife Group
 - Stalls manned by local voluntary groups
 - Seed, seedling and plant swop
- Help with tasks around the orchard and allotments



If you are a voluntary group wishing to mount a stall at the orchard or wish to get involved in the coronation celebrations in some other way, please email: contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk or ring 07890 803648 (Henry Edwards). Once all of the arrangements are firmed-up, we'll confirm the full programme via Facebook and by posters around the village <https://www.facebook.com/LanchesterPartnership>

Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

On Wednesday 22nd March 2023 we held our monthly meeting; Phileda Irving was our speaker, her theme was "I am a Plant Hunter". We all enjoyed a most interesting talk on different places Phileda and her husband had visited in America. She told us some lovely stories about the indigenous Native Americans and how they were early plant hunters and knew how to survive in some very inhospitable harsh environments.

Also this month we held a workshop which was attended by 20 ladies who all enjoyed making a lovely flower basket for Mothering Sunday. The ladies who demonstrated and brought all the relevant flowers, foliage, oasis and baskets for this event were Claire and Karen from Grays Family Flower Shop in Middle Street Consett. There was plenty of laughter and everyone chatted when tea and coffee was served. Thanks to all who supported this event. Also a big thank you to Kathy Smith who organised the event for us.

Our next meeting will be our outing to celebrate our 50 years of Lanchester Flower Club meeting in the Community Centre. We will all enjoy a meal in the Garden Room at the Derwent Manor Hotel on Wednesday 24th May 2023, where I am sure we will all have a happy relaxing afternoon.

Our next meeting in the Lanchester Community Centre will be on Wednesday 28th June 2023 at 1.30 pm in the main hall.

Everyone is welcome, come and join us.



KoGs Fundraising Evening

Hello all,

Just a little message to say a massive thank you to everyone who came to our Play Your KoG's Right! fundraising event on Saturday 25th March at Lanchester Methodist Church.

It was a fantastic night and all who attended seemed to really enjoy themselves (phew!).

The evening included a mixture of tv game shows with, as usual, our very own KoG's twist hosted by our members.

Our mocktails and ice cream floats went down a storm, all served to tables again by our members. We all enjoyed ending the event with a lovely toe tapping sing along acoustic set from Matthew Grimes (one of our original members).

The evening was loved by all that much, we are considering another fundraising event around Christmas – so please keep a look out!

All the money we managed to raise will be going back to the members to help keep all of our costs as low as we possibly can and for us to be able to provide them with subsidised trips and weekends away.

KoGs runs on a Monday evening (term times) in the Methodist church from 5pm – 7:30pm and costs £3 per week / £30 per term inclusive of a two-course meal, drinks, games, drama, crafts and much more.

Your first week is free so if you're aged between 9 and 18 and want to try it out, please come and pay us a visit or contact Laura on 07428500059 or email kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk.

Please note that you do NOT have to have a Christian/church/religious background of any kind to come and join us; EVERYONE is welcome at KoGs!

We hope to see you very soon, and once again on behalf of our leaders and all of our members –

THANK YOU!

Laura Cole



Eclectic Coffee Roasters

Mike Williams, the owner of Eclectic Coffee Roasters, is a former Lanchester lad whose father still lives in the village. A true coffee enthusiast with a passion for the art and culture of coffee-making, his journey began during lockdown in 2020 when he realised that his true passion lay in coffee.

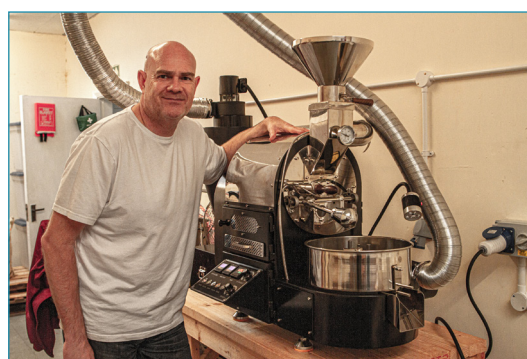
Mike took four coffee courses and deliberately took his time to develop his brand. He believes that coffee culture brings people together and that the way it makes people feel and how it's drunk around the world is a fascinating subject.

Mike prioritizes sustainability and environmentally friendliness when sourcing his beans. Working with a coffee collective that shares his ethos, he sources his beans from countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, and El Salvador.

Mike's nano roastery is unique in that it's deliberately small, with a focus on simplicity. The roastery produces four roast types (light, medium, medium-dark and dark) along with a specific espresso blend. He plans to add a decaffeinated option in the future. Mike believes that keeping it simple and focused on the brand is the key to success.

Eclectic Coffee Roasters is based at the former English Martyrs school in Leadgate. He has converted the space into a functional roastery and is proud to be part of the northwest Durham community. Mike has no plans for major expansion or global domination, instead choosing to focus on roasting the very best coffee possible.

The coffee is available by mail order, or collection in person.



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The Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

The Friends have recently been investigating a rectangular ditched enclosure on farmland close to Peth Lane. In conjunction with the Tyneside Metal Detecting Association, two days were spent examining this unusual feature.

Measuring about one hundred feet square, the surrounding ditch is eleven feet wide and four feet deep. The enclosure appears to be empty of features and our metal detecting colleagues found nothing apart from a couple of small metal rings and a hammered coin. A possible metallated roadway runs along one side and a possible track leads to it from Peth Bank. Investigations and research continue as we try and identify the feature. It appears too irregular to be Roman and may therefore be Celtic, we don't know – yet!



The photo shows part of the ditch and embankments surrounding the enclosure.

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Thursday Club

Gary Bankhead told us, and showed us in photos on the big screen, all about his life as a firefighter. He started in the fire brigade in Consett but has many interests to improve fitness and also scuba diving.

He has had to deal with cutbacks and several site changes, and motivating his team, with obvious success (they were all smiling in the photographs). One of his major goals was to improve fitness in the team and mountain climbing was just one of the exercises. He also loves scuba diving and has a display of his finds, mostly from the River Wear, in the Durham University Archaeological Museum.

A more recent initiative has been to address the welfare of firefighters, especially after serious road traffic accidents when his team has to cut out injured persons. This can be very traumatic. The same is true for police officers and hospital staff of course. We then sang "Happy Birthday" to ourselves and enjoyed some delicious homemade cakes provided by the members.

Jan Vasey



Retirement of Father Cornelius and welcome for Father Charles

The weekend of 11th and 12th of March saw us saying a sad farewell to Fr O'Connor, aka Fr Nelius, who has been parish priest at All Saints RC Church in Lanchester and St Teresa's at Annfield Plain for the past 6 years. Fr Nelius has faithfully served the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle for over 52 years and is now enjoying a very well-deserved retirement. We will miss his kindness, friendship, generosity and of course his humour! He has an amazing memory and is a great storyteller!

As you might expect, Fr Nelius was adamant that he did not want any personal gifts for his retirement but so far almost £2500 has been collected to be divided between 2 charities of Fr's choice - Children's Cancer Unit at the RVI and Mary's Meals. We also warmly welcome our new Parish Priest, Fr Charles Ejjeji who is joining us from Nigeria. We hope he enjoys being part of our lovely village community.



(l-r) Fr Charles Ejjeji, Father Cornelius O'Connor and Deacon Peter Smith

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Lanchester WI

23 members, 3 visitors and 3 new members were welcomed to our April meeting.

President Marie gave information on upcoming events, with details all on the information table, and welcomed visitors. Members were asked to vote on this year's resolution, clean rivers for people and wildlife, which was supported.

Raffle winners were Gladys Robson, Shirley Mair and Dorothy Beadling, with prizes donated by Barbara Sproat and Julie Leckenby.

Flowers were given to Shirley Lamb for her 80th birthday and Jennifer Macdonald celebrating her golden wedding.

The speaker Gordon Henderson gave us a very interesting talk about the Romans and Binchester Fort. Gordon's interest in the fort started when he was 8 years old. He takes part in reenactments twice a year in July and August creating a living Roman village. Binchester covers 14 acres and was previously voted the best site to visit in Britain. The fort was built to a manual on a plateau and housed 160,000 men. Binchester's Roman town is still complete underground and was the only fort in Britain to have a road running through the centre of the site. We learned that the meaning of Longovicium, the old name of Lanchester, is Fort of Sea fighters. Ann Carr gave the vote of thanks and the meeting ended with tea and biscuits and a catch up with friends.

Tracey Dobson

Willow Burn Hospice raises over £26,000 at biggest fundraising event this year!

The snow didn't stop Willow Burn supporters when they raised over £26,000 at its biggest fundraising event this year when it held its annual ball on Friday 10 March at Beamish Hall Hotel.

The black tie event was hosted by presenter, artist and singer Alfie Joey and featured dinner, music from Borderland, a live auction and the Diamond Raffle sponsored by Berry's Newcastle, to raise money for the hospice. The night kicked off with a word from David Barker, director at Willow Burn, followed by "Ain't That a Kick in the Head" by Alfie. Following a delicious three-course meal, there was a live auction with a special prize straight from the celebrity jungle and a luxurious prize donated by Aston Martin Newcastle.

Rachel Todd, head of fundraising and marketing at Willow Burn Hospice said:

"Such a fabulous night with very special supporters. Events like this are very important to the future of hospice care in Derwentside. Not only do they raise much needed funds but they also shine a spotlight on the vital services our teams can provide to people living with a life limiting illness and their families - it is so important that people know the services which are available to them at the end of life."

A very big thank you to all our sponsors, auction prize donors and everyone who contributed by attending - including: Berry's Jewellers, Caremore Services, Industrial Workwear and UrbanBase."

Alfie Joey at the Willow Burn Annual Ball



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Wildlife notes

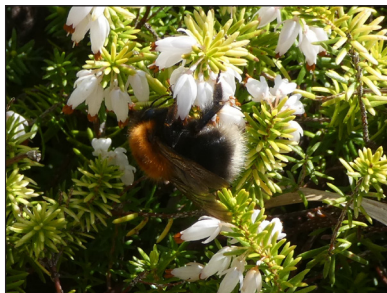
Get buzzing about bees

It can be confusing telling some bees, wasps, and hoverflies apart! Bees are usually hairier than wasps, wasps tend to have narrower waists. Hoverflies have larger eyes and only one pair of wings. Several insects mimic bees, so it can all get a bit bedazzling.

Best begin with bumblebees: easy to spot and 8 species are fairly easy to identify and find locally. There are males, workers, and queen bumblebees, which can look a bit different from each other, males are smaller and can't sting. To tell the different bumbles apart, look at the tail colour, and count the number of bands on its body, use the free guides (links below) to see if you can work out what you've spotted.

The larger queen bumblebee will be emerging from hibernation on the warmer spring days to find nests. Due to the queen hibernating, bumblebees don't need to make honey like the honeybees which need it as winter food.

Most bumbles are social,



Tree Bumble Bee Queen
Photo: Carol Inskipp

making nests and collecting pollen. However, the 'cuckoo' bumblebee doesn't have worker bees; the queen cuckoo will enter another bumble species' nest and lay her eggs to be cared for by the other bee workers, much like the cuckoo bird.

For bumbles the season is from March to October, the queens need energy for nesting and to fatten up for hibernation. Be nice to bees, get some plants that flower in all four seasons, ensuring there is a supply of pollen at all times. Different species nest in different places: in long grass, in bird boxes, holes in trees and underground holes like old mouse or vole holes. Leave a tangled area of long grass, less mowing and more nest sites!

Bumblebee Conservation have a free online guide:

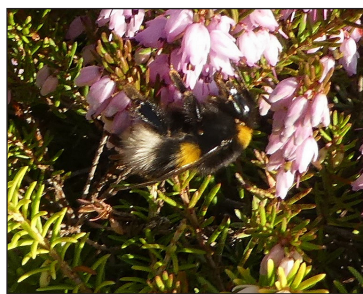
<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/bumblebee-species-guide/>

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From our wildlife correspondent



White Tailed Bumble Bee Queen
Photo: Carol Inskipp

Spring in your step?

Walking is simple, free and one of the easiest ways to get more active, lose weight and become healthier, not to mention meet people, make friends, and get out of the house.

Lanchester has not one but two walking groups who are ready to welcome you!!

No fee is involved to join a walk with either group.

Durham County Council run 'Wellbeing Walks' all over the county. (See cover photograph)

Noel, Claire, Helen & Chris are a team of volunteers who will meet you on the village green by the war memorial every Monday at 1pm. The walks are approximately 3-3.5 miles and generally take between 1 and 1.5 hours. They always walk from the village, often along the track to Malton or Hurbuck Cottages or venture up the hill towards the television mast, exploring different routes around the village all the time. The size of the group has varied since it started in January 2023, with between 20-40 walkers coming out in all weather. Ages of walkers range between 25 and 93 so everyone is welcome, the walk leaders spread themselves amongst the group to ensure everyone is happy and having fun.

For booking and further details please visit www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham or call Emma Thompson on 03000 262539.

Lanchester Walking Group (photo below).

If you want to stretch your legs a little further, Lanchester Walking Group meet at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month and walk for about 2.5 hours covering approximately 5 miles with hills to get your heart beating. This group tends to not walk from the village but travel a bit further afield, within 30 minutes radius of Lanchester with the map published beforehand, lifts can be arranged, and everyone is welcome.

The group has a long history in Lanchester and has been running since 2009 and anyone with knowledge of a walk can lead and everyone is responsible for their own safety. Current numbers range from about 10-20 walkers, typically walking from Beamish, Ebchester, Burnopfield or Durham. They also meet socially, most recently at Ravello Ristorante for dinner in November and plan to meet again for an Easter get together at Derwentside College.

For further details please call Helen Thomas on 07712425623 (or email hdbthomas@live.com).



Police Report



Hello, since PCSO 8722 Andrew Tonge is leaving us, the area has been taken over by me, PCSO 8725 Jonathan Rutherford, from Consett Neighbourhood Police. Here is an update on what has been happening recently in and around Lanchester.

Over the last month there has been an increasing number of incidents whereby children and teenagers have been knocking on doors in Consett and Burnhope, therefore, it may start to occur in Lanchester. These incidents could be recorded as

harassment on our system now and are investigated accordingly.

If you have children who are out late at night, please be aware of where they are and the consequences that may come if they are involved in such activities.

Please contact us if you have any issues regarding the above.

If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to get in touch via email, Jonathan.rutherford@durham.police.uk. 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.

Dear Village...



Dear Village Voice, Solar Farms

Our article in the March edition provoked some interest in the proposed new Annfield solar farm. Here are two letters for and one against. A nice balance and last month we published a letter against. Further views very welcome.

In Favour of Solar Farms

I would like to pass on some thoughts on the solar farms which are proposed in the area. I am very much in favour of these, and the simple reason is global warming.

Global warming is a huge threat which will have a growing impact on all of our lives over the coming decades and is already impacting us in many ways. Even now, due to the climate changes caused by global warming, thousands are dying each year through heatwaves, major fires, flooding and water and food shortages worldwide. The World Health Organisation estimates 250,000 deaths per annum in the very near future due to the effects of climate change (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>). On a more local level, the heatwaves, warm winters, floods in the village and shifts in growing season are undoubtedly linked to global warming and the effects will continue to get worse as temperatures rise. We can't keep ignoring these problems - we really have to do something.

Although, sadly, we have left it too late to stop many of the predicted serious effects of climate change, it is my view that we do have to do all that we can to minimise the effects for future generations - and solar farms are a very good way of doing this.

On a side note, it seems that there can also be some very positive outcomes on the local environment from solar farms. There are many reports which show improvements in biodiversity around solar farms due to changes in the management of the land. So even through the panels may not look very natural, they can help the local environment directly as well as helping to reduce the impact of global warming.

Please don't be put off the idea of solar power by a few fields being covered in solar panels - if you don't like the look of them, then maybe that is a small price to pay for the benefits that they can bring for future generations.

Simon Johnson

Regarding Annfield Solar Farm

When the leaflet dropped through the door, I was shocked to think that the new solar farm was going to be my future view. Living at the highest point in Lanchester it would be my entire view, however believing strongly that we need solar energy for our future and our children's future I didn't want to object...they have to go somewhere right!

I rang my friend and we decided to take a walk the next day armed with Ordnance Survey map, leaflets, and binoculars. What a relief! From Lanchester it cannot be seen as it is beyond the hilltop, so what about other

people living on the other side? Well, I have friends who live up Maiden Law bank and they are not worried as they are screened by a slope and trees. On Peth Bank there will be natural screens put in place as most of us pass by. Indeed, the solar farm will be in a dip where I am told there used to be open cast mining and therefore poor soil quality. If you examine the Ordnance Survey map the contours clearly show that it is a highly suitable place for such a project.

Everybody has to make some sacrifice and we can hope that this project will be our contribution to a safer environment. We can object when we believe we have played a part, not when the first signs of "Not In My Back Yard" affect us.

Chris Coates

Against the proposed solar farm

Why build the UK's largest solar farm at the top of a high, steep hill? And why at Lanchester? Well, actually, there will be two such farms above our village - so make that twice the size of the current UK solar farm goliath. A combined area of about 2 square kilometres- the rough equivalent of 190 football pitches- of solar farms will be up the hill from Lanchester. There are many reasons why not to build the so-called Annfield solar farm here and the main one has not yet even been mentioned: flooding. In the past, the village has been prone to flooding. A solar farm of the size proposed here will greatly increase the severity of flood events and the speed at which they occur. This is especially concerning for a place where 3 schools are situated at the bottom of the hill. Safely evacuating more than 2,000 children with very little warning would be, at best, a logistical nightmare!

Solar farms should not be built on slopes for good reasons. Instead of rainwater falling evenly across an area of hillside, it falls onto the long rows of glass panels and becomes concentrated at certain points along their structure. This forms a powerful run-off of rainwater from the panels onto the earth beneath, creating soil erosion. During a storm, heavy rain will be quickly channelled down the hillside. At the bottom is a village which is not even referred to in the solar farm's promotional literature: Lanchester. And its schools.

The people of Lanchester and the surrounding area are very generous. Perhaps relinquishing the natural beauty of this place could be seen as a noble sacrifice for the long term good of the National Grid and a greener planet (albeit a no-longer-green hillside) but risking the safety of a village and its children is another level of altruism altogether. The proposed facility could and should be sited somewhere more suited to the demands that such a huge solar farm will make on its environment - without risking lives.

Bernardine King (Dr)

Dear Village...



Dear Village Voice,

The issue of access has been raised a number of times in your last two editions.

On March 14th we created Lanchester Wheelchair User Group (you can find us on Facebook) to give a public voice to people with mobility and access problems but don't be fooled by the name, we are open to people with all forms of mobility, access and safety concerns including those with wheelchairs, rollators, walking sticks, prams, pushchairs, toddlers, balance issues, sight and hearing issues, slow walking pace, nervous about crossing roads, horse riders - i.e. anyone who isn't driving a vehicle and is concerned about the safety of themselves and others on pavements, accessing buildings and businesses and crossing roads.

We've already started discussions with Parish and County Councillors, and we want to engage with as many people and organisations within Lanchester Parish as possible to highlight the problems and develop proposals in partnership with all interested parties.

We toured the village centre last week and uploaded videos illustrating the problems from a wheelchair users perspective, but we would welcome contributions from others who have different experiences.

We invite you to join us in our ambition to improve access, safety, and mobility in Lanchester.

Thank you.

Glen Collins

Lanchester Wheelchair User Group

Founder and Admin

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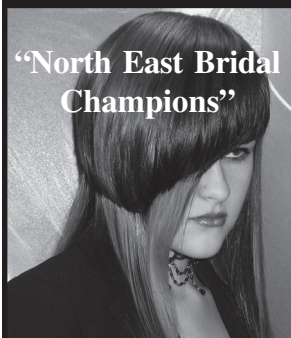
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Poppy's walks

Good day readers and for this edition's walk I have tried to avoid stiles – at the request of my good friend Skye who kindly wrote to say he and his owner find them difficult to cross. As you will know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale Terrier who shares with

Village Voice readers the walks I lead my humans on. Skye's aversion to stiles is a trait shared with my humans, who often struggle and pant a lot. I tend to find a way underneath most stiles. So, to find a walk without stiles I decided to allow the male Human to drive me four miles to Esh Village – it is quite a walk up a steep bank otherwise.

We parked close to the village hostelry – the Cross Keys – so no surprises there. From there we walked along the main street with houses on our left and we passed a wooden owl at the end of the row. From there on a clear day we can also spot Penshaw Monument just outside Sunderland in the distance. At the end of the row there is a public footpath

sign, so we cross the road and proceed along the path. This eventually brings us to a farmyard past some holiday lets. The farm is called Low Esh according to the map.

I am of course kept on my lead through the farmyard because there are livestock which I am strongly advised NOT to play with. There is usually a farm cat I can growl at along the way too. At the farmyard we turn right and proceed through a gate onto a track which leads us up a minor gradient to another farmyard at Esh Hall. Again, I am instructed to stay on my lead.

We can then turn right along Hall Road with a village green on our left and that takes us back into the village, convenient for the Cross Keys.

Alternatively – and this is my preferred option because it makes the walk twice as long – we could go straight ahead at Esh Hall, across a couple of fields and under some pylons before turning right past a barn and coming out on the main road near to Esh Laude church. From there a footpath leads us back into Esh Village, but that longer route DOES include about four stiles.

Either way the Human usually declares he is thirsty, which is why we have to pause at the Cross Keys for refreshments before returning home.



Attention Drama Lovers

A Play Reading Group has just started in the village, and is being held upstairs in the Serendipity Cafe, the 4th Thursday of each month at 1.45pm. We will be reading a variety of plays. No acting experience necessary and no obligation to read, just come along to listen. Next meeting Thursday 25th May. Please order tea/coffee for the meeting from the cafe. There will be a £1 charge each for the use of the scripts.

If you are interested, please phone Lesley Anderson 521149 or 07531858341.

(It will help to pick plays if I know how many will be there!)

Lanchester Churches Together – Prayer Cards

These are the delivery dates for the next three months.

3 April – Burnhope, Beech Drive and Greenwood Avenue

17 April – Burnhope, Meadowfield

1 May – Burnhope, The Haven and Mount Pleasant

15 May – Burnhope, South View and Langley Avenue

29 May – Burnhope, Holmside Lane and The Avenue

12 June – Burnhope, Holmside Lane and Langley Terrace

26 June – Pear Tree, Holmside

Delivery returns to Lanchester from July onwards.

If cards are required before then, there are some available beside the prayer boxes at Lanchester Surgery and the Lanchester Newsagent.

Thanks for your support.

Ray Hill

New restaurant to open soon in Lanchester!

A new Italian restaurant called Luna Rossa will be opening in Front Street Lanchester in April. This is in the former Deanos restaurant premises.

This family orientated restaurant will be managed by the Ravello Group and will bring a selection of specialist dishes not seen in Lanchester for many years.

The village is becoming a popular place to visit and eat.

Paul Jackson



Community Centre News

Celebrating our 55th Birthday in 2023

The Centre was originally the village school, built in 1875, providing education until the 1960s. After construction of the current schools the building experienced a variety of uses: doctors' surgery, clinics, library etc. It was owned by Derwentside Council who paid for the centre's activities and staff until cuts resulted in the funding being withdrawn.

At this point a committee was formed to represent the residents of Lanchester and the building was bought from the council for the princely sum of £1k. In a poor state, needing a huge refurbishment, the committee went to work. A massive fund-raising effort was undertaken, resulting in the current layout.

The building continues to require regular repairs/replacements with ever increasing costs. The latest undertaking is replacement of flat roofs, suspended ceiling tiles and installing fire/smoke detector upgrades. This will cost approximately £55k.

We have been fortunate in gaining some grants, but it is often difficult due to the Lanchester postcode not accepted by many sources of funding. As a charity we constantly fundraise to ensure that your Community Centre will be enjoyed by the next generation. It's a vibrant place with lots going on, so be proud to have this facility in our village.

Thank you for your on-going support.

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/>

Ladies who lunch

Our last outing was to the family-owned Italian restaurant in Sunnyside - Sorrello Sorrello. A venue not too far away, easy to get to with plenty of parking and with a very flat access. All points that we are becoming more aware of, as we get just that little bit older!

We were given a lovely warm welcome and provided with all relevant menus. They have a very extensive menu with an option of 2/3 courses as a lunchtime special. Also, when we were there it was just before Mothering Sunday - and we got the option of choosing from a Mothers' Day special menu.

Choices - choices - what more could we ask for?!

Choices made, we were soon indulging in for starters fritto misto - lightly semolina dusted and deep fried calamari, king prawns, white bait and scampi with a garlic mayonnaise.

Mains, from the Mothers' Day special menu: spinach and ricotta ravioli in tomato and mascarpone sauce with roasted beetroot, garden peas and pine nuts; pizza with fried

halloumi, spinach, sun dried tomatoes, black olives, honey and black sesame seeds. Then, from the usual menu, lasagne, also pollo parmigiana - bread crumbed flattened chicken breast with spianato salami, melted mozzarella, provolone cheese with Napoli sauce and homemade chips.

Desserts were Eton mess, ice cream, Black Forest cherry cheesecake with cherry ripple ice cream and cherry coulis, and pistachio affogato.

It was a really good meal, served on piping hot plates and was very much enjoyed. The restaurant is a light airy room, prettily decorated around the windows with glitzy lights.

Also, there are a good few quirky decorations around which make for excellent talking points.

There were lots of diners beside us, even a few more from Lanchester!

All in all it was a good lunchtime experience - one to be recommended- hopefully you'll decide to give it try yourselves.



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Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

The children have been thinking about others during the period of Lent and how they can help and support other children in different ways. Red Nose Day is always a popular fund-raising event and this year, we saw some talent amongst our children in the form of comedy! We had many jokes shared in our achievement assembly in the morning and then some shared these in front of their parents and carers at the coffee afternoon. Great fun was had by all as well as raising money for such a good cause.

The children who went to India have been keen for some good to come from their trip. They have realised how essential and important school is to all children as well as the fact that in other parts of the world, it is not always compulsory with some children missing out on a good education. They want to ensure there is a lasting legacy from their life-changing trip and are planning fundraising activities next term which will enable some children to attend school in Rajkot, India.

The first event they are planning is an Indian Day when all children will be asked to come to school dressed in the colours of the Indian flag. This is something they have instigated themselves and all credit to them. They were all quite surprised and shocked when visiting India to realise the importance placed on education by children and adults alike with some children missing out on an education altogether. They are planning to help and support as much as they can.

The term finished with our uplifting Easter Service in All Saints' Church led by Year 5 pupils. They led us through the tragedy of the crucifixion to the triumph of the resurrection. The service finished with the whole congregation decorating the cross with hundreds of daffodils to show the new life offered to us all. The Easter story, interspersed with many songs, was shared to a packed church. This was a truly heartwarming and positive way to finish the spring term.

Jane Davis (Head Teacher)



Lanchester Community Orchard Art

Springtime, Easter and recycling were all themes of an innovative display of artwork in Lanchester Community Orchard.

Younger visitors could also search for Easter bunnies hidden amongst the allotments off Newbiggin Lane.

Lanchester Art Group had teamed up with the allotment holders to provide the display, from April 1 to April 15 and there were unusual, thought provoking and amusing installations visible on a walk around the allotments.

The aim of the display was to attract more visitors.

Neil McKay



WHAT'S ON - April / May 2023

Vintage Tractor Club

Meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm in Lanchester Social Club.

Lanchester WI

The next meeting is on Monday 8th May, in the main hall of the Community Centre at 7.00pm. To celebrate the Coronation we will be having an indoor street party, there will be a faith supper and Royal quiz. No speaker will be attending the meeting. Please come along to meet new friends.

Willow Burn

The Willow Burn Nurses' Spring Fair | Saturday 13 May 2023 at 11am

The Nursing and Care Team at Willow Burn Hospice invite you to join them at the Nurses' Spring Fair on Saturday 13 May 2023.

With a fantastic mix of gift stalls, cakes and produce, raffles and tombolas, the Nurses' Spring Fair is great opportunity to have some fun and to catch up with the wonderful team at Willow Burn.

This year in a new addition to the fair, we welcome Marley the Shetland pony to the Willow Burn gardens. As well as stalls, the Willows Café will be open for lots of delicious treats. All proceeds from the fair will go to fund the vital services provided by the Willow Burn Nursing and Care Team.

*Car parking is available at Willow Burn, however we expect this to be a popular event. If travelling to the fair by car, we kindly ask you to consider our neighbours at Maiden View when parking.

Northumberland Coastal Challenge Walk | Saturday 10 June 2023 at 7.30am
Registration Fee: £35.00
| Fundraising Minimum: £150

Run by Shepherds Walk, the Northumberland Coastal Challenge Walk is a superb 26-mile challenge walk which takes place along the

stunning Northumberland Coast Path.

On the journey, walkers will pass through four manned checkpoints at Seahouses, High Newton, Craster and Boulmer, where they will be checked in and out of each. Participants' punch cards also include a detailed map of the route and refreshments will be provided at each of the checkpoints. Upon completion, walkers will receive an event medal and a goody bag, provided by the walk organiser.

Sign up with Ali at aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk / 01207 529 224.

Clarty Bairns / Throughout the summer
Registration fee: £11 | Fundraising minimum: £50

Clarty Bairns is a properly muddy obstacle course for all the family! It's a fun fitness event where families tackle challenges together and is suitable for bairns and big kids aged 5 - 80! Held at Hedley West Farm in County Durham, the muddy obstacle course takes place in a glorious countryside environment. Challenging but quite achievable, Clarty Bairns is not a race. The emphasis is on finishing rather than speed, so you don't need to be a super competitive gym junkie to take part.

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Paradiso Film Night

Sunday 14th May: The Duke
The Duke review:
"Helen Mirren and Jim Broadbent shine in this zingy Ealing-style caper". In 1961, a 60-year-old taxi driver from Newcastle steals Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. He sends ransom notes saying that he will return the painting if the government invests more in care for the elderly. An uplifting true story about a good man who set out to change the world and managed to save his marriage. Lanchester Community Centre, 7pm for drinks, nibbles and raffle, film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £3, non-members: £4. Annual membership £5..

Lanchester Library Library Book Club

On Monday May 22nd at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing The Cleaner of Chartres by Sally Vickers. 'Sally Vickers sees with a clear eye and writes with a light hand and she knows how the world works' Phillip Pullman. Will this novel appeal to all our group? We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday May 18th the group will be reviewing Gentlemen of Moscow by Amov Towles. This book was recommended by one of the Lanchester book Group members. 'A wonderful book.....

how people find ways to be happy and make connections and make a difference in one another 's lives' (Good Housekeeping) If you would like to join this book group, pop into the library and pick up your copy.

Pins and Needles will meet up on May 4th from 10-11.30am. Bring along your wool, thread needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Everyone

welcome, Enjoy.

Children Crafts are available every afternoon and Saturday. Different crafts, ideas and materials are set out in the library for children to be creative, pop along with your children and enjoy.

Remember when the library is open it is a warm space. The librarians are happy to recommend books that suit your taste.

Lanchester Flower Club

Our next meeting will be our outing to celebrate our 50 years of Lanchester Flower Club meeting in the Community Centre. We will all enjoy a meal in the Garden Room at the Derwent Manor Hotel on Wednesday 24th May 2023, where I am sure we will all have a happy relaxing afternoon. Our next meeting in the Lanchester Community Centre will be on Wednesday 28th June 2023 at 1.30 pm in the main hall.

Musical Memories

Join us to enjoy music with a "royal" theme on 3rd May 2023 at 2pm at Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group using the ability of music to improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email lanchesterdfc@gmail.com

Lanchester Methodist Church Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday at the Methodist Church between 10 and 12, in aid of the following organisations:

April 29 - Lanchester Art Group

May 6th - Lanchester Band

May 13th - Christian Aid

May 20 - Margery Flatts Allotment Group

May 27 - Alzheimer's Society

June 3 - Male voice choir

June 10 - Boys' Brigade

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be held in the main hall of the Community Centre on May 18th at 1.30 pm when we will be entertained by 'Kiddars Luck' with local songs and stories.

Folk & Acoustic Music & Song Evenings

We are now cosily ensconced in the newly improved rear dining area of Crinnions, which seems to have improved acoustics to boot! We have a good selection of performers and a wonderful audience too! Please come and join us at 8pm on the third Sunday each month, whether you sing, play, story tell, or listen. Regards Ian (tel 529286).

Lanchester playgroup

Every Tuesday at 1:30 and every Friday at 9:30 at Croft View Halls. Find us on Facebook, 'Lanchester's new playgroup'.

Lanchester Social Club

5th May - Battle Of The Decades 80's v 90's. Tickets £5 from bar, doors open 7.30pm, on stage 8.15pm.

6th May - Katherine Stone

13th May - Mark Judd

20th May - Lily

27th May - Nicola Brown

28th May - Karaoke

All acts are subject to change at short notice.

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

The next meeting of the Friends will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th April in the Community Centre, then on 25th May. We hope to have some results of our investigations into a ditched enclosure off Peth Lane.

Further details from Mrs M. Williams, 01207 520063 or Rodney Hawkins email hawkins_15@sky.com.

Lunch Club

The next meeting of the lunch club held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 9th May 12pm, start all welcome.

Local History Society

The next meeting will be Friday 5th May. We will be taking a locally focused historical look at coronations. Everyone will be bringing any memories of past coronations and any memorabilia of earlier ones. Join us in the Community Centre at 7pm for an interesting evening. All are welcome.

City Theatre

"Damages" by Steve Thompson will be on at The City Theatre, Durham DH1 3RA, from Sunday April 30th (matinee only) 2.30 pm until Friday May 5th 7.30 pm. "Deep in the bowels of a newspaper office as the paper is being put to bed, a controversial topless photograph of a children's entertainer turns up. To print or not to print? Is it as straightforward as it seems?" Tickets £8.50 from Durham Gala Box Office, or on the door. Concessions £7.50 Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. PLEASE NOTE: this play contains very strong adult language.

Wellbeing walk

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

Walking Group

Meets at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month (next dates are 26th April, 10th May and 24th May). Walks are about 5 miles long within a 30 minute radius of Lanchester – lifts provided. For further details please call Helen Thomas on 07712425623 (or email hdbthomas@live.com).

Christian Aid Events

Coffee morning Saturday May 13th 10am-noon at the Methodist Church. If any gardeners out there have surplus plants, seedlings, annuals etc we would love to sell them

alongside books and children's toys.

Swish evening Wednesday 17th May 7pm at the Methodist Church. Bring 5 items of pre-loved good quality clothing and accessories and swap them for 5 items of your choice in return. Tickets for this fun evening are £5 to include coffee/tea and a cake. Available from Judith Brown 521898, Dianne Emerson (520817), and Kathleen Bell (521793)

Choral Society



Japanese Emperor Comes To Lanchester! Yes it's true, but we're talking about Gilbert and Sullivan's comic musical 'Mikado', the best loved of all the G and S shows. Lanchester Choral Society's 'Mikado' comes to Lanchester Methodist Church on Friday 28th April at 7.15pm. Our previous G and S just pre-covid was 'Pirates of Penzance' which played to full houses. The show with guest soloist group of Anna Foster (Radio Newcastle), Hilary Ions, Andrew Fowler, Paul Smith, and Ian Gray will be accompanied by an instrumental team. Tickets from any society member from the end of March.

Lanchester Art Group

Lanchester Art Group will be hosting a coffee morning at the Methodist Church on Sat April 29th. 10 till 12. Paintings will be available to buy along with cakes!

Coronation Songs of Praise

Sunday 7th May at 6pm in All Saints Parish Church, with Lanchester Band and Lanchester Choral Society. Retiring collection for Christian Aid. All welcome.

Health and Hope 10th Anniversary Weekend

It was a jam-packed programme for Health and Hope's 10th anniversary weekend.

A bumper Easter coffee morning started events off in style! The drizzle certainly didn't put the egg-hunters off, with chocolates having to be constantly replenished! As were supplies of bacon and rolls, SPAR saving the day, as demand outstripped our anticipated supply! We fed hungry walkers on the Northern Saints trail, who happened upon us by chance, as well as

Pilates enthusiasts from Angela's Pilates, calling in after their community centre class. Folk ate and chatted, with beautiful piano accompaniment in the background from Tom Baker, Paul Pine, and Bethany Pine. Visitors arrived from as far away as Barnsley and Halifax to experience the delights of a Lanchester Coffee Morning! And closer to home our hardworking shop keepers enjoyed deliveries of take away Easter treats. And the result? £761 raised for Health and Hope, helping towards their humanitarian relief work as well as education projects in Myanmar and beyond. So, THANK YOU, you generous village! Once the bacon had digested, it was off to Gateshead for an intimate concert given by principal violinist with the Northern Sinfonia, Iona Brown and on keyboard, David Murray. We were treated to some beautiful pieces, The Lark Ascending being a highlight. When Iona took breaks, we heard from Miles

Jarvis, director of the charity, about the current work, and even heard from Dr SaSa himself via video. Such is Iona's generosity with her time and talent, she'd been giving a concert the night before in aid of Lanchester's own Henry Dancer Days charity. Barely time to sleep, and we were back at the Methodist Church with Jane Williams, Head Chocolatier at Davenports Chocolates, teaching us how to make our own bespoke Easter egg. While our chocolate buttons set, Miles updated us, this time focusing on

the education programme. We heard from Didi, a graduate of the programme, who told us her story via video. The impact of that was evident, when one attendee in year 6, donated her pocket money after watching. Such is Jane's skill, she managed to help all the would-be Willy Wonkas, from 6 years to 79 years, take home a fabulous daffodil Easter Egg!

Donations are still coming in but currently we estimate we'll have raised approximately £1500 and spread the Health and Hope word to around 200 people...not bad for a weekend's work! This wouldn't have been possible without a dedicated team of the most hard working, faithful volunteers, and the Health and Hope UK team- Miles Jarvis and Tracey Silvermore, to all of whom we say an enormous THANK YOU!

Inga Andrew



*Above: a selection of the cakes and goodies on sale at the coffee morning
Below: Chocolate egg workshop
Front cover: Easter egg hunt*



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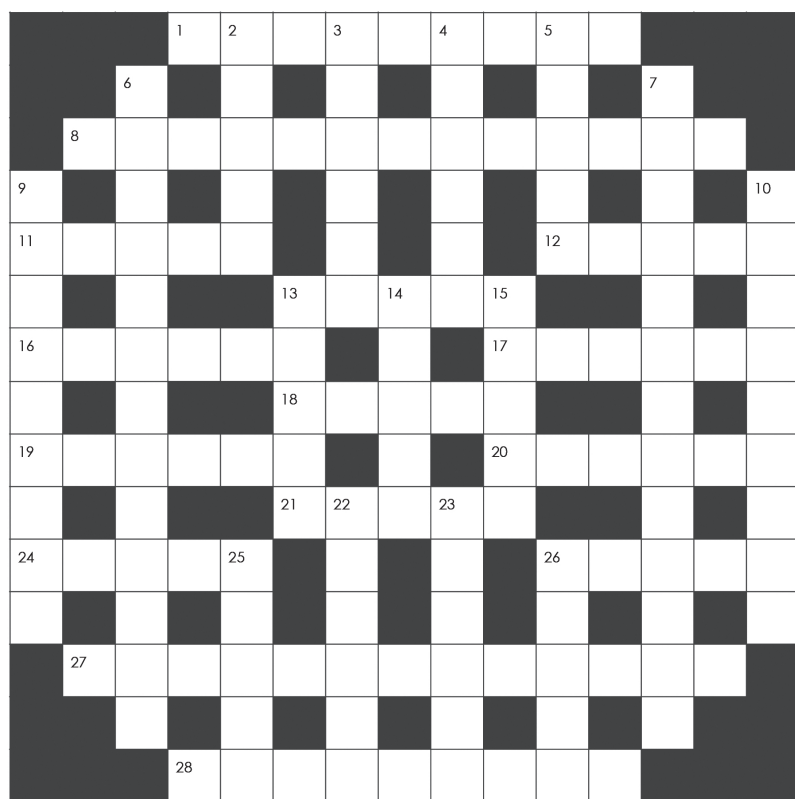
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CLUES CROSSWORD 184



Across

1. To invent a story or lie (9)
8. Northumberland coastal village (6,7)
11. The track or scent of an animal (5)
12. Declare invalid (5)
13. Rising or falling sharply (5)
16. Make certain (6)
17. Sheena, of 'Morning Train' fame (6)
18. To do something beneath one's dignity (5)
19. Bold and adventurous (6)
20. Moves easily and without power (6)
21. Bird of prey (5)
24. Indentation on the edge of a surface (5)
26. Sap sucking insect (5)
27. Presbyterians adapt to accommodate singer (Anagram) (7,6)
28. Elected head of a republic (9)

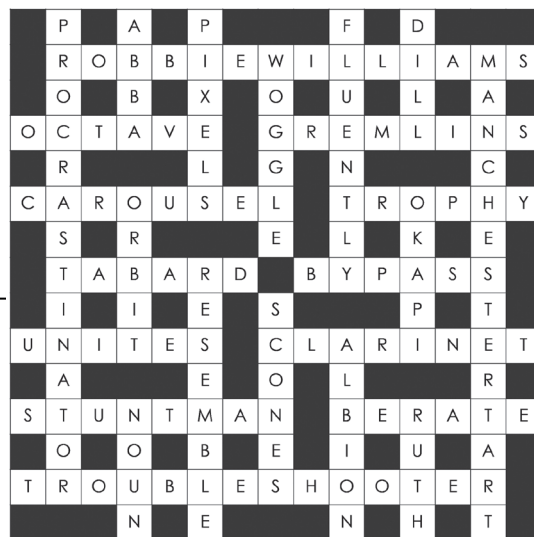
Down

2. Thespian (5)
3. Method of cricket dismissal (3,3)
4. Dairy product (6)
5. Jewelled band worn on the head (5)
6. Public protestors (13)
7. Region of space surrounding the Earth (13)
9. Increasing in size or importance (9)
10. Close at hand (9)
13. Grass-like plant (5)
14. JR's surname (5)
15. Plural form of Penny (5)
22. The nun in charge of a convent (6)
23. No longer practising a religion (6)
25. Person who detests something (5)
26. Bertie, former Taoiseach of Ireland (5)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by the **4TH MAY** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



Winner of Crossword 183

There were 21 entries this month of which 17 were correct.

The winner drawn from the hat is Jo Kelly.

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Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

In 2021/22 Age UK County Durham Advisers helped to recover nearly £3.5M of unclaimed benefits for older people.

How can Age UK Help You?

Age UK County Durham are the 'go to' organisation for anyone aged 50+ living in County Durham. They are an independent local charity providing a range of services and activities to meet the needs of older people. Age UK County Durham offer a free and impartial advice service on a range of topics such as welfare benefits and help completing forms, housing issues, advice about help at home, information about health and social care and signposting to local services.

The charity also offers a number of projects and activities to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of older people including dementia therapy groups, access to trained counsellors, occupational therapy support, wellbeing telephone calls and a bereavement support group.

A recently launched project can support you to improve your digital skills via personalised support from Digital Champions, helping you to gain confidence in using technology in your daily life. If you don't have the technology to do this, Age UK County Durham offer a free tablet loan scheme to enable you to get online.

You could also get involved in social activities which take place in various locations throughout the County and include exercise classes, lunch clubs and craft sessions or if you would like to support the charity there is a range of volunteering opportunities available.

For information about any of the projects or for help and advice call 0191 384 5098.

NEPACS TREASURER TRUSTEE VACANCY

Nepacs is a long-standing charity, formed in 1882, predominantly supporting people impacted by contact with the criminal justice system. Over recent years they have expanded their delivery to include support for other individuals who face challenges and disadvantage in their lives including people who have experience of being in care. They are currently seeking a positive and dedicated treasurer to join their Board of Trustees who is willing to devote the necessary time and effort to this pivotal role within the charity. It is an unpaid role.

If you are interested in applying please download the role description from www.nepacs.co.uk/page/job-vacancies which gives full information on the vacancy.

Applications close Sunday 7th May 2023.

Christian Aid Soup Lunch

We were very worried when we woke up to see a blanket of snow on the ground on the morning of our soup lunch in aid of the Christian Aid appeal for the Syrian and Turkish earthquake. However, the roads were cleared and over 100 people managed to come.

A total of nearly £750 was raised for the appeal. Many thanks to everybody who helped, those who sold tickets, made soup and traybakes and served the food.

A special thank you to Morrisons in Consett who supplied the milk, bread rolls and butter.

Judith Brown

Below: happy diners enjoying warm soup, and some of the helpers braving the snowy conditions.



Notes from the House

As both MP for North West Durham and Minister for Roads and Local Transport, I know how vital buses are to our everyday lives here, particularly for young people, those who cannot drive or do not have a car. However, I also know that bus services in our area have been struggling of late. In order to support buses, the Government has made £2 billion available since the start of the pandemic. More recently, I have launched my 'Get Around for £2 Scheme' which has been extended until 30th June, to get people back onto buses. In addition to this work at the national level, I know our local operators need extra attention.

One way I have been trying to make a difference locally is through hosting public meetings with Arriva North East and Go North East. This allows local people who have the necessary knowledge

to communicate where they can improve. It's really important that operators hear straight from the people who their decisions impact the most.

So far, I have held meetings in Consett, Burnopfield and Crook to give a voice to local people across North West Durham who are cut out of the decision making process all too often. The voice of Lanchester, Burnhope and the surrounding villages has been heard loud and clear regarding frustrations around cancelled services, timetabling and availability.

The willingness of the bus operators to turn up and listen demonstrates a strong desire to improve. Having organised this and successfully got local views across I am optimistic about the future. Especially with the Government having recently agreed the first two years of the North East 'Bus Service Improvement Plan' funding - which will mean more routes, better reliability and lower fares.

I know the transformative impact a good bus service can have, so I will do all I can to ensure it is a viable option to get around. I want our talent to have access to reliable transport to maximise our opportunities. I look forward to an improved transport network unleashing the potential of our area and increasing opportunity for people.

Richard Holden



Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on

Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 14 February – approved

Police Reports – The report for February was received

Correspondence

Clerk & Councils Direct magazine March – received

Clerk Magazine March – received

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

- the approved application for the Burnhope Solar Farm
- parking enforcement in the village

Disabled access to the village shops – Councillors considered the disabled access in the village. It was agreed that the Parish and the Durham County Councillors would set up a meeting with the accessibility officer at Durham County Council.

Lanchester Community Emergency Plan – a meeting has been set up with the Lanchester Community Emergency Plan group to review the plan.

Policies – The following policies were reviewed and agreed:

Code of Conduct, Public Filming, Recording or Reporting and Reporting at Meetings, Health and Safety Policy, Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Public Participation Policy, Training – Statement of Intent, Publication

Scheme, Complaints Procedure, Grants Policy, Community Engagement – Statement of Intent, Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations, Diversity Statement.

Grants / Donations – all grants and donations will be considered at April's meeting.

Financial report - approved

Accounts for Payment – approved

Monday Art Group

The Monday Art Group recently welcomed local artist Kathryn Gander to its meeting in Lanchester Community Centre.

Kathryn talked to us about keeping a nature journal, and demonstrated her drawing and painting of plants and animals, and the illustrated maps of her walks she includes in her own journals.

Group members enjoyed Kathryn's presentation, and created their own pictures with her advice and support, and the morning flew by, though still with time for tea and chat.

The MAG meets on Mondays from 10.00 to 12.00, with a programme

of events, and time for personal projects. It is a friendly group where members can learn from each other. New members are very welcome.

**Anyone interested can contact
Jim Rafferty on tojimrafferty@yahoo.com**



Kathryn ready for her demonstration to the Monday Art Group

Bowls report

The bowls club held their spring meeting in the clubhouse on the 30th March. It was very well attended with the members looking forward to the start of the new season on the 26th April.

The club will be holding a FUN DAY on Sunday the 14th May starting at 11.00am and continuing through the day until about 3.30pm. Everyone is very welcome to come along and have fun trying bowls for the first time or perhaps people who have played before and want to try again. Tea and biscuits will be served during the course of the day, so please come along and have a go. We will be also starting our weekly roll ups every Thursday afternoon commencing 1.30pm on the 13th April and Sunday afternoons commencing at 2.15pm on the 16th April; they normally last about two hours.

You will receive a very warm welcome.

Stuart Lee, Club Secretary.



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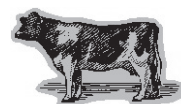
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Volunteers get in the Easter mood at Musical Memories *(Front page photograph)*

"It's lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves", said Roz. Guests were greeted by volunteers (Pat and Jim Rafferty and Helen McCree) in their Easter bonnets (see photo). They then settled in to catch up with old friends and new people over a hot drink and a hot cross bun. Everyone then took part in Easter bingo featuring bunnies, chicks, eggs, and carrots! Each guest received a small Easter egg and there were prizes for the first line and a full house. The music session that followed included Easter and spring related songs with opportunities for singing, dancing and percussion playing.

Music is recognised for its ability to improve brain activity, wellbeing, and mood. Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group which meets once a month and is

run by a group of local volunteers. At Musical Memories we welcome people living with conditions that affect memory and their family and friends.

Our next session is on 3rd May at 2pm with a "royalty" theme to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III.

Do you know someone who might enjoy Musical Memories but needs some help to attend? Could you provide transport or possibly accompany someone who doesn't want to attend alone?

Venue: Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester

Date: the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm

For more information contact us at lanchesterdfc@gmail.com.

Lives built on coal

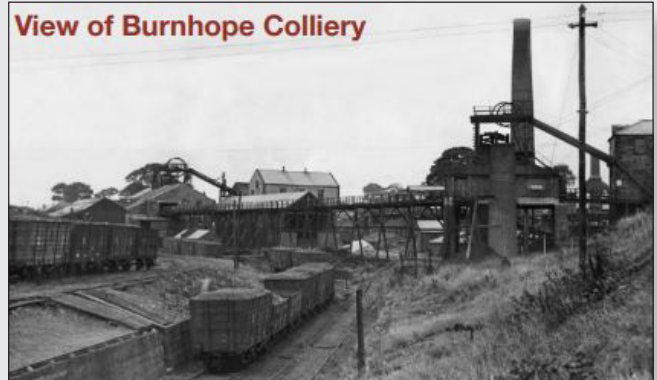
An exhibition of the history of Burnhope at Burnhope Community Centre, DH7 0AG, is to be held on Saturday 20th May 2023, 10:00 to 17:00.

Burnhope village did not exist before 1844 when the rights to mine coal were purchased. First wooden houses, then stone and finally brick houses were built to accommodate miners' families. For 100 years, mining dominated the rural hilltop village and a fierce sense of community developed. In 1964, Burnhope was issued with a 'D' notice by Durham County Council. It prohibited any investment in the village, condemning the village to die. It was, however, a place people called home, where generations of the same family had been raised and Burnhope refused to die.

A small team of researchers have unearthed the hidden history of the village. By capturing spoken memories, using diaries, journals and photographs, the heritage has been rediscovered where little or no evidence remains today. This exhibition documents those lives built on coal, by looking at mining, living, leisure, schools, churches and chapels, shops, and businesses.

The exhibition is open to everyone. Meet the researchers and contributors, view the sources, artefacts, Burnhope Miners Banner, see the growth of Burnhope on the four OS maps, watch a video presentation, and view the six large, newly installed information boards and the 12 metre long mural depicting Burnhope's history from the 1840s. FREE ENTRY with tea, coffee and biscuits available.

For details call Cindy and David Brockington on 01207 775069.



View of Burnhope Colliery

Lanchester Spring Clean *(Front page photograph)*

Over 40 volunteers turned out from all over the village to help collect the litter that had blown around the streets after the winds of winter. Over 30 bags of rubbish were gathered up as well as bigger items such as wheels, lamps and car parts. The most common items collected were bottles and cans. We must have some very thirsty residents!!

The worst areas this year seemed to be Peth Bank, Cadger Bank, near bus stops and further up Maiden Law. But the whole of Lanchester benefitted from a spring clean. One lucky picker made a profit of 9p on their round!! Another couple gave assistance to a motorcyclist who came off his bike. And a very kind person gave a substantial donation to the Partnership. It's sad to say that the worst of the rubbish in the Parish is scattered liberally along our potentially beautiful lanes. What a shame that the hedgerows are seen as suitable areas for people to dispose of their waste.

Again this year the Lanchester Partnership joined forces with the Lanchester Wombles to run this one day event. Thank you also to the person or pupils who picked around St

Bede's school prior to our spring clean. We all know that there are many people who routinely pick while out for some exercise. Without these diligent, caring members of our community Lanchester would not be such a pleasant place to live.

So, a very big thank you to everyone who helps to keep Lanchester litter free!



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2023 Summer Tennis Season Starts

The 2023 grass court tennis season got under way on Sunday 23rd April. This coming summer promises to be another packed few months of competition, social play and social events. The first date to watch out for is Saturday 13th May, which will be the LTA Big Tennis Weekend at the courts on Ford Road in Lanchester. Starting at 1pm, cardio tennis, family play, ball machine and mini tennis sessions will be available. Also for the little ones, the Tennis Factory equipment will be there to try.

Check out Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club website for the opportunity to book your space on an activity. Future events will be the club's strawberry tea and BBQ.

During the past winter, junior coaching has taken place at Croft View Halls. (See photograph). From Monday 24th April, we return to the grass courts with sessions from 4pm for the under 8's, 9 to 12's, Youth and Adult coaching. For further details please contact the number below.

A mixed adult team has been entered into Sunderland and District league and friendly matches will also be arranged.

If any further information is required about the club, please don't hesitate to contact Dennis on 07960494442 or email den.lizjane@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook.

Dennis Laycock



NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by
Tuesday 2nd May 2023
The deadline for advertisers is
Tuesday 2nd May 2023

Cricket News

By the time you read this, the 2023 season should 'in theory' have started, but with such a period of wet weather, the date of the 15th looks unlikely. John Bell works tirelessly on the ground, but he has struggled to get some meaningful hours in and is worried that the wicket won't be as good as it should be. The firsts start with a home game against relegated Sunderland and then have two away fixtures at Philadelphia and Sacriston.

The seconds travel to Castle Eden on the opening day and have the reverse of the first team games in the weeks that follow. The thirds start eight days after the other two sides when they travel to Seaham Park. In junior cricket, the 15s entertain Ryton on the 24th, the 18s are at Shotley the following night and the 13s are home to Consett. The bar will be open during all home games, if you want to enjoy the biggest beer garden in the village.

There are no new signings to report but the club have retained Sri Lankan Pasindu Madushan for a third season and he will be hoping to build on his past performances as well as his excellent coaching.

The club will be sporting new kit this season and it will carry the 50th anniversary badge. There are items for non-playing members too which can be bought through kitlocker...

www.kitlocker.com/ccshop/club/Lanchester-cc.

We would just like the opportunity to thank three key sponsors for the 2023 season. Scott Building and Bricklaying Services for sponsoring our live stream, that means no matter where you are, you can watch the home games through YouTube. Also, A&J Grabaway and Aggregates and Lanchester Country Basket, who have paid for replacement materials to refurbish the wicket covers to allow as many games as possible to beat the weather. - *Thank you!*

50th Anniversary from September 2023

I've mentioned the opportunity to purchase commemorative clothing items in the cricket article and there is something for everyone as we have items for ladies and girls too.

We are going to create what we would call a 'Hall of Fame' as we move towards the 50th anniversary. The Hall of Fame will recognise 50 current and former club members who have made a substantial contribution to the development of the club. We will be creating engraved plaques/bricks to be displayed on the club's internal walls that will name these individuals. We welcome nominations with supporting words for current and former members that you believe should be incorporated into the Hall of Fame. The plaques will be 30cm x 20 cm in size and donations towards the cost of £15 would be appreciated. We hope that former players or relatives will make nominations. There will, at a later date, be an opportunity to purchase plaques with your or another's name engraved on the plaque. Anyone who may be interested, can they contact Andy Allen, either by phone/text on 07786 918021 or via email andy.allen9@me.com to enquire or make positive purchases. The project is for the living as well as those who are no longer with us, as it would be nice for those who were around when the Club started to see their contributions recognised. Once we get some created, I'll post pictures to show what people are displaying with a resume as to why they were nominated.

I know that former players read this or have relatives that do, and I hope that you all spread the word about the various projects as they unfold. It would be fantastic to get 50 of the plaques displayed in line with 50 years of the club and I really hope that you come along to the celebrations.

Andrew McConnell

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