

the Village Voice

Issue No 2, Volume 23

Lanchester, February 2023



Chinese New Year Dragon in Lanchester

The dragon visited Lanchester, and the Golden Valley Chinese Takeaway on the occasion of the start of the Chinese New Year in January. The colourful event is shown in pictures here. This year is the year of the rabbit.



Sally Laverick retires as Parish Council Clerk

Sally Laverick and Keith Harrison at Sally's presentation. page 3



Lanchester Wellbeing Walk off to a flying start! page 2

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Thursday Club

We have just been treated to a very relaxing "Sound Bath" by Alison Boyd, manager of the community centre. She is an experienced Reiki teacher and demonstrated various bowls, a gong, a drum and many other sound makers. One made a fairground sound which was lovely. With several tapping and stroking techniques, she could give a wide range of soothing sounds with the aim of healing and calming. Many of the members commented on how relaxed and soothed they felt. Of course, in a personal treatment session the singing bowls can be placed directly onto a problem part of the body in order to aid the healing process. There were about 30 present who thoroughly enjoyed this experience. The next meeting is on March 16th at 1.30pm. Our speaker will be Gary Bankhead talking about South America. New members are always welcome.

Jan Vasey, secretary



Alison Boyd demonstrating the "Sound Bath"

Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

On Wednesday 25th January we held our first meeting for 2023. Our speaker was Christine Liddell who lives at Birkheads Secret Garden. She explained how over 30 years ago along with her husband, they decided to buy the land and try to be more self sufficient. The programme the Good Life was showing at the time on television. They were ahead of their time as now this has been proven to be environmentally workable. They have a lovely coffee shop, selling cuttings of most of their home grown plants and shrubs. Definitely worth a visit. The ladies enjoyed a lovely enjoyable afternoon. We finished with tea/coffee and biscuits and of course the convivial chat between friends and acquaintances. We also had our usual raffle so 10 members went home happy with a little prize. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd March 2023. Philieda Irvine will be giving a talk on "I am a Plant Hunter". Can I just let all our members know the Community Centre heating problems have been resolved so at our next meeting we should be warm. Everyone welcome, come and join us.

Extra event!

We have managed to arrange the following:

Spring Workshop Day.

To be held on Saturday 11th March 12 - 2pm in Community Centre small hall.

Flowers and foliage included.

Light refreshments.

Cost £20. 20 tickets only.

Lestrine Kelly

New Farm Experience Opens at Knitsley

Haystax Inclusive Farm Experience is a new family-run venture in Knitsley. Haystax is unique in that it is designed with the needs of those with a wide range of disabilities and neuro diversities in mind but is open to all. A place that not only welcomes the whole family to spend quality time together but also offers work experience opportunities for young adults with additional needs and positive role models for the children who visit us.

February saw the opening of our coffee shop, three sensory rooms, our Changing Places facility, and two accessible lodges. Over the next six months, we plan to open a back-to-nature farm experience centre with a range of farm animals, pets' corner area, and a sensory woodland that is fully inclusive to all. By the time the site is complete, we will have accessible footpaths throughout the whole site, and a calm and peaceful environment that will not overwhelm those with sensory processing difficulties.

If you would like to visit us, the coffee shop is currently open Wednesday to Saturday 10am to 3pm. We are located on Longedge Lane, DH8 9BY. We offer a range of hot drinks and snacks, many of them sourced from Knitsley Farm Shop. Alternatively, why not pop into our open day on 26th March where you will get a taste of what we will offer when we are fully open.

Sue Scott



Lanchester Wellbeing Walk off to a flying start! *(front cover photo)*

Walk Durham launched its new weekly Wellbeing Walk in the village on Monday 9th January.

The walks are led by our volunteers Noel, Claire and Helen and have been very popular with 30-40 people attending each week. The walk lasts up to 90 minutes, and we cover between 3 and 3.5 miles on mixed terrain. You may have seen us out on a Monday afternoon as such a large group of walkers does stretch a long way when we are walking. It is lovely to see so many people from the village attending and other people travelling into the village are enjoying the new routes and meeting new people. New walkers are always made very welcome. We meet every Monday at 1pm on the village green by the war memorial. For booking and further details please visit www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham

Emma Thompson

Sally Laverick retires as Parish Council Clerk

The Parish Council meeting in January was an opportunity to wish Sally Laverick, our clerk for the last fifteen years, a happy retirement and to welcome our new clerk Laura Dodd.

During the past fifteen years Sally has overseen a lot of major projects for the village including the Neighbourhood Plan, the renovation of the miners banner, the two-phase improvement to the village green, the locality map project and the renovation and introduction of the bike track and play area at Kitswell, and the play areas behind Park House and at Manor Grange. She has also organised the beacon events and the yearly Christmas lights switch on as well as many more events.

Sally will still be involved with the Solar Walk project that the council is presently working on but she is looking forward to spending more time with her family and particularly her grandchildren.

Everyone at the council wished her well in her retirement and thanked her for her tireless work on behalf of the village and the Parish Council. Keith Harrison, chairman of the council made a small speech and presented Sally with some retirement gifts from council members.

Keith also welcomed our new clerk, Laura Dodd. Laura is married with two young children, who attend the EP School, and she is looking forward to working for the council and the village in the years ahead.



Right: Laura Dodd, the new clerk to the Parish Council.
Front cover: Sally Laverick and Keith Harrison having a good time at Sally's presentation

"Council" Volunteers' Surprise Farewell!

As you will have just read, Parish Council Clerk, Sally Laverick, retired from her post at the end of January. During her time with the Parish, Sally was tasked, amongst many other things, with organising the council's events, such as the Christmas lights switch-on and the beacon celebrations, to name but two! And to facilitate such things, she would ask some able folk to assist in the running of the events.

So, on Tuesday 31st January, Sally's last day in post, her "volunteers" surprised her with an impromptu send-off at the parish office in Lynwood, complete with a homemade banner and flowers and Prosecco! Sally had provided cakes for the residents of Lynwood, but there was plenty to go around for the group to enjoy also. A farewell toast was given by Ian Murray who praised her work and time with the council and Sally, recovering from her initial surprise, thanked everyone for all their help and support over the years.

We take this opportunity to wish Sally all the very best for the future.

Below: The "valiant volunteers" pictured with Sally are Nick and Malcolm Laverick, Joyce Dixon, Dennis Laycock, Ursula Heale, Jane Laycock, Sandy Lovett, Ian Murray and Susan Connolly. Unfortunately, Kathryn Laverick, Pauline and Paul Winship, Michelle Ridley, Mark Lovett and Pam Graham could not join us at the presentation.



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More Trees Planted in Lanchester Parish

The Trees for Lanchester group have been busy again this winter. We have planted over 300 trees in the parish and plan to plant another 250 in February. All the trees we have planted this season have been grown from local seeds and raised in our own tree nursery. This helps to reduce the chances of diseases brought in from different regions and means that they are more likely to survive in the North East.

If you would like to be part of this group, either planting or growing trees or are a landowner and would like trees planted on your land please text: 07817369160.

The Trees for Lanchester group is supported by the Lanchester Partnership.



New bench on village green

The eagle-eyed amongst us will have noticed the arrival of a new bench on the green next to the bus stop. It has been placed in memory of Henry Dancer, a Lanchester lad who lost his life to cancer aged 12 and whose Mum, Jane Natrass, set up Henry Dancer Days, a charity which supports children with cancer. The bench was donated by Peter and Rosemarie Dancer, Henry's grandparents.

A wonderful coincidence was that it arrived the day before what would have been Henry's 25th birthday and during the 10th anniversary year of Henry Dancer Days.

Since its inception, Henry's charity has been extremely busy:

Over 17,000 children have enjoyed storytelling sessions in paediatric oncology wards throughout the UK. Professional storytellers put smiles on very poorly faces.

Over 5,000 people have been helped through hardship grants when living with primary bone cancer.

The charity is now active in 34 UK hospitals but ensures that the North East receives double the number of storytelling sessions and a unique pottery project (where children create masterpieces which are fired and returned as mementoes). This is done to recognise the support of the local community and its northern roots.

Henry's memory lives on in the village through the annual Henry Dancer Award at Lanchester EP School. It is given to a Year 6 boy who shows Henry's qualities of caring and consideration for others.

Jane would like to thank Lanchester Parish Council for their help in sourcing and erecting the bench and, in particular, Sally Laverick for her support and help with the bench and to everyone in the village who has supported Henry Dancer Days.



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New Concept in Community Eye Care opens Lanchester

Located in the heart of Lanchester, customers will find the warmest of welcomes from Concept Eye Clinic (formerly Wade Opticians). Managing this practice is Sam Harrison (pictured right) who has forged a career in optics for over 32 years and is there to ensure that you will get the best service possible. "It's great to be working in Lanchester establishing this new business at the heart of the community".

Previously, Concept Eye Clinic was open 1 day a week, however within a short space of time and due to popular demand, they have been able to increase this to 3 days per week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday offering the local community more choice and flexibility.

Sam said: "We love greeting old faces and welcoming new patients to the Concept family where we are proud to be able to offer the latest technology.

Relationships are at the heart of what we do. At Concept from walking through the door to collecting your new spectacles, a professional, warm, and friendly experience is what matters to us."

"Of course, it's also about the health of your eye and at Concept your wellbeing and quality of life is prioritised by probably the friendliest team in the industry and investment in advanced diagnostics, which sets us aside from other high street opticians.

We are proud to serve our local community in Lanchester."



Warm Spaces in Lanchester - Update

There are a number of "Warm Spaces" open in Lanchester.

Lanchester Community Centre:

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

Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Church Parish Centre:

Wednesdays 1- 3.30pm (lifts provided).

Lanchester Methodist Church:

Tuesdays 12-3pm (hot drinks and soup).

The Chapter House at the Parish Church:

Thursday 3:30pm-5:30pm; Saturday 12 noon - 2pm.

Lanchester Library is designated a warm space:

Monday - 2.00pm to 5.30pm
Tuesday - 2.00pm to 5.30pm
Thursday - 9.00am to 7.00pm
Saturday - 9.30am to 12.30pm

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Dear Village Voice,



I write to raise awareness after I recently visited a friend within Lanchester. As a disabled person and a wheelchair user, I was shocked by the poor level of accessibility within the village and surrounding paths.

Almost every shop I tried to get into had a step. Whilst some provide a ramp on request, not all do or even provide a method for requesting assistance. Furthermore, many of the shops in question have the space at the front to add a small ramp but none have. I find it shocking that in 2023 neither the shops nor the parish council have addressed accessibility which is a flagrant disregard of the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act). I noted that to cross the road to or from the SPAR this can only be done by entering a car access zone putting myself at risk. Worse still if I were to cross from the hardware store side to the SPAR, I am likely to be hidden behind parked vehicles and road users would not be aware of me. Not having a clearly marked crossing area adds further risk, not just to disabled people but also to small children.

I also noted that many areas of the village have no, or few dropped kerbs. Many mobility scooters have a maximum clearance of 50mm. There were so many cars parked so far over the path (which is illegal), that I could not pass. In a few areas I could pass but still had to venture into the road to avoid the dog foul on the path! Heaven forbid I would want to venture out on bin day.

This may all seem trivial, but I can assure you that these issues impact not only the mental health of disabled people but cause a huge amount of stress when a person is just trying to go about daily activities that most people are able to take for granted.

Regards

Bekki Melantha

Dear Village...

This is the first time I've contacted the Village Voice. I am writing to you to point out the disgraceful amount of litter on both sides of the road on the way to St Bede's School. The photo shows the mess. I hope that by drawing attention to it, the school will take some action. Thank you and keep up the great work.

Yours sincerely,
Andy Monaghan

(Editor. We contacted the school for comment and hadn't received a reply as we went to print.)



Liz retires from delivering for over 20 years

Many thanks to Liz Hall for being a stalwart deliverer since the very start of the Village Voice. Also, many thanks to Zoe Barron who has also 'retired' from deliveries.

We welcome our new deliverers, Sue Harkness and Tina Patterson, who have taken over the round delivering to Deneside.



One of our readers, Keith Gibson of Ladie Garth Cottage, Village Green, took this photograph of a large tree which fell over on the night of the 11th February. It blocked the road leading to the bowling green and the Bridge school. It took out a streetlight and the telephone cable. No one was injured as it happened during the night. It was cleared the next morning.



NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by
Tuesday 7th March 2023
The deadline for advertisers is
Tuesday 7th March 2023

Wildlife notes

Otters

You will be lucky to see an otter, the chance increases as hours of darkness decrease into summertime.

If you would like to find out how to look for signs of otters along watercourses and help with an annual otter survey, see below.

A female is referred to as a bitch otter and male a dog. Otters lead solitary lives, if you see them together it's probably a bitch and cub/s.

Ripples in the water? Keep watching. Watch for the very pointed tail tip as they dive under the surface, otter tails are wedge shaped and taper to a point.

They differ from the non-native American mink in size, colour, and tail. Mink tails do not taper to a point and are a similar width along the length (beware the wet tail end which might look pointed). Mink are a more chocolate brown colour and usually have a white spot under their chin, they have more pointed faces and are smaller than otters (though they won't conveniently line up for comparison of size or pointiness!).

Otters are territorial, a single territory can be 20 to 30 kilometres of river, females have smaller areas and male territory may overlap with several females. A bitch may tolerate grown daughters or siblings when food is plentiful, but grown cubs are normally forced to move to find their own territory. Otters mark their territory by leaving poo, so even if you don't see one, you will know there is an otter using that river. They leave distinctive 5-toed paw prints.



Enquire about the otter survey on 22nd and 23rd April (must be available both days). Contact Vivien Kent: otters.northeast@gmail.com. Training events for Low Barns on the 18th and in Allendale on the 25th March (booking required).

From our wildlife correspondent

Lanchester Local History Society

Some past and future for the history society.

We met on Friday 3rd February where Maurice Ward, one of our members recently moved to Lanchester from Wolsingham, shared with us a fascinating cine film about Wolsingham from 1964. He had saved it from a skip in true history hero style.

Whoever had made the film had cut modern shots of Wolsingham with old pictures and paintings from earlier making a very interesting account of the age of many of the buildings and farmland in the valley. Maurice was able to bring some great research information to the clips.

Now for the future: as our April meeting falls on Good Friday we won't be meeting but we hope that everyone will be looking forward to our May meeting. That falls on Friday 5th of the Coronation weekend. We have plans for a Coronation themed evening. Everyone is going to hunt out any coronation memorabilia. I have approached George Nairn for any suitable postcard themes and now am asking for any memories you may have from your life at the last event in 1953. It's to be an informal evening similar to our successful Show and Tell winter meetings. Looking forward to seeing you all in March and May.

Photo courtesy of 'Lanchester in Times Past' by Lilian Dixon (1987). Guides and scouts outside the Deanery for King George V's coronation.

What photos will we have of this King's coronation?



Health and Hope...what a generous village!

On a frosty Saturday morning, the week before Christmas, the Methodist Church Coffee Morning was alive with the sound of music! From the famous Foxhills Brass Band Ensemble (see photo) to the Scratch Choir of Carol Singers (see photo), the atmosphere was better than any of your favourite Christmas films! Combine that with the delicious homemade treats and festive cuppas and a great time was had by all.

A take-away service was even provided for the hard working village shops' staff, who were very appreciative! So why all this effort? Well, the Coffee Morning was in aid of Health and Hope UK (healthandhope.org), a charity doing just that, bringing health and hope to people in Myanmar. The founder member of the charity has stayed in the village many times with the Andrew family and many Lanchester residents are faithful supporters.

You may remember almost two years ago there was a military coup in the country and life has been unimaginably difficult for its people since. Then you can picture just how delighted the Health and Hope workers were to hear that the generous folk of Lanchester had raised over £600 from just drinking coffee! One of them wrote... "We are so grateful for the love and continued amazing support for us and our work at this extremely difficult time for our people. Without it we could not continue to provide hope and comfort when there is so much suffering. Please convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation."

So a HUGE, BIG, THANK YOU to everyone that came (or had takeaway!) and donated. And what if you missed out? Don't fear, we'll be back! The charity is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, so we'll be hosting a whole series of events including an Easter Coffee Morning in the Methodist Church on Sat 1st April (it's not a joke we promise!) 10am-12:30, delicious homemade treats and a warm and friendly atmosphere guaranteed!

Inga Andrew



Above: The world famous Foxhills Band
Below: The Scratch Choir!



Lanchester Orchard's Group Wassailing Event - 14th January 2023

A beautiful clear and sunny, albeit rather chilly, Saturday morning and many members from all age groups of the Lanchester Orchard group, and a few musicians, assembled for our annual wassailing event.

For those of you that do not know what Wassail is, it can briefly be described as the blessing of the fruit trees in the hope that they will provide a good harvest in the autumn. It involves making lots of noise by clashing pots and pans to chase away bad spirits and the playing and singing of songs to waken up

the trees ready for the spring, and we certainly followed tradition and made lots of noise!

Part of the tradition involves placing cider-soaked bread into the trees to aid the blessings and drinking warm mulled cider and generally having a good time, which we did! Led by our own Green Man, we moved from tree to tree, singing, clanging pots and reading poetry to bless the trees in the orchard, and generally having a wonderful time!

It was a thoroughly enjoyable morning and hopefully we will reap the rewards in the autumn with a bountiful harvest of fruit!

If you would like to find out more about the Lanchester Community Orchard, or become a member, then please email: lanchesterorchard@outlook.com

Above: Lanchester Orchard group
Below: The Green Man



Notes from the House

As both Member of Parliament for North West Durham and Minister for Roads and Local Transport, I know how important buses are to our everyday lives here in Lanchester. However, we all know bus services in our area have had a tough time recently as they try to recover after Covid.

Passenger numbers have struggled to reach pre-pandemic levels and operators have also

had difficulty getting the drivers they need. Having got the X5 into Durham myself, I know that reliability has unfortunately dipped as a result.

Buses improve social inclusion, providing access to education, employment and healthcare to those who do not own or cannot use their own car. They are, therefore, invaluable in connecting people that would otherwise be isolated.

Since I've been appointed, I have been intent to make sure that they're as reliable, affordable and welcoming as possible. One way towards this is through the £2 bus fare I have introduced until March 31st to help people in these difficult times.

Despite nearly £2 billion input to the bus network to support services and keep many routes operating, the truth is that, without greater ridership, many routes will just not be viable in the long term. Ensuring people can get around for £2 makes the bus more accessible, more appealing to more people and encourages operators to continue running regular services. I want Lanchester's abundant talent to have access to reliable travel and maximise opportunities, with bus services getting better and better at an affordable price. The 'Get around for £2' scheme is one small step to achieving this.

The word bus comes from the Latin 'Omnibus', meaning 'for all'. I want to make our buses as useful and reliable to as many people as possible. I will continue to fight to improve our buses and transport infrastructure to ensure that we can reap the many rewards right here in Lanchester.





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Good day readers.

This time I am going to share with you a rather strenuous walk with quite a lot of climbing, but starting and finishing in the centre of Lanchester.

You will know by now that I am Poppy, a Patterdale terrier who writes of walks

in the area on which I lead my Humans. This particular walk starts, for the sake of argument, outside the Kings Head and follows the railway path towards Malton. We leave the path at Oakwood – next to a seat and a doggy bin - and walk along that road until we reach Durham Road, which we cross by a traffic island and walk along the pavement out of the village.

Soon after leaving the Lanchester boundary, we see a public footpath sign which we follow across a stile and diagonally across a field, climbing a fairly steep incline. This eventually brings us out at another stile onto a country track near some farmsteads called Manor House. There is a Private Road sign ahead of us then, but we can pause to look back at a scenic view over Lanchester before continuing on our way following arrows to the right of the Private Road sign. At this stage I am kept on my lead because we pass a field full of goats on our right and poultry on our left. The path leads us

between fenced enclosures and we follow the arrows until we reach yet another stile which we cross to enter a wood, where I can be let off my lead to explore.

We continue to follow the path through the wood, climbing all the time until we reach a junction where we can see the Burnhope television mast looking quite close up ahead. We follow arrows to the right and by this stage we have climbed as high as we will on the walk, which comes as some relief to the Humans. We follow the path to the right, again through woods with the mast above us on the left, until we come to another fork. This time we turn right between some standing stones and begin the descent which will eventually take us to Malton.

By following the footpath, we go between another pair of standing stones and walk through a wood until we see a stile on the right with arrows on it advising us to cross it. I have to be on my lead again because once over the stile we cross diagonally a field of sheep, downhill all the way until we come to yet another stile next to High Burnhopeside House. Crossing this stile takes us back onto the main Durham Road which we have to cross with care before following the road down to Malton picnic area. From there it is a straight walk back to Lanchester.

The walk, which was muddy in parts, took us just under two hours and was highly satisfying.



Community Centre News Celebrating our 55th Birthday in 2023

Spring is on its way and your thoughts may turn to gardening. Can you help us by becoming a volunteer gardener? Just as and when you can spare a little time. Contact the office for details.

Warm Space

Our 'Warm Space' initiative is ongoing, Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm. As part of this we also have the Community Café on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9am to 2pm. Please call in, have a chat, enjoy a free hot drink or treat yourself to some of the tasty, warming meals and snacks that are on offer.

Fundraising for Insulation

We are hoping to improve insulation at the Centre to keep our running costs down and to improve the comfort of our clients. There are ways you can help us: fill a loose change box, become a 'Friend' of the community centre, have a sponsored event for us, or buy our books.

New Interest Group

'Pimms and Needles' is a monthly craft and social group for women meeting at the Centre on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm to 9pm. Contact us for further details.

Community Association Birthday

We are celebrating our 55th Birthday this year; watch out for more information!

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 website - <https://lanchestercc.co.uk/>

Ladies who lunch

For our first outing of 2023 we decided to pay a visit to the nearby Pavilion Restaurant and celebrate the start of the Chinese New Year which is now the Year of the Rabbit, predicted to be a Year of Hope.

For those of you who have never been to the Pavilion it is conveniently situated just over a mile from Lanchester and has a very good reputation in the area. On arrival welcoming staff ushered us to our large round revolving table where prawn crackers were already awaiting us as nibbles whilst we perused the extensive menu.

We opted for chicken and sweetcorn soup and Peking hot and sour soup served in pretty little porcelain dishes with matching spoons. Following that we had delicious appetizers of salt and pepper spareribs, crispy wontons and tasty curry triangles.

Our main courses consisted of beef in black bean sauce, chicken in lemon sauce, sweet and sour chicken and chicken in orange sauce. Complementary dark chocolate squares were served with coffee to complete our lunch.

We all agreed it was a thoroughly delicious choice of food from the menu served by polite and courteous staff.



The Gourmet Girls

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Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School & Nursery

Last month, 16 children and 5 members of staff took part in the school trip of a lifetime to Rajkot in India. This opportunity was funded by The Turing Scheme. In this month's Village Voice, Year 5 children Oliver, Daisy and Kate share their experiences:

When I left, it felt weird because it was the first time I've ever been away from home. I wanted to jump off the minibus to hug my mam, but I pushed through and travelled to Newcastle Airport. The airport was massive and it took 1 hour to fly to London. Heathrow Airport in London was even bigger! That night, we flew overnight to Mumbai. Luckily I managed to sleep for a little bit on our 9 hour flight. When we arrived in Mumbai, we hopped onto another plane for the one hour flight to Rajkot. We were shattered when we arrived, but I noticed a big difference: there were cows roaming on the street because they are a sacred animal in India.

In India, we visited two schools: Sunshine School in Chotila and Panchshil School in Rajkot. At Sunshine School, we visited their classrooms and played

some local games. I noticed that the teachers used chalkboards and stand on a stage to teach, while the children sit on the floor with a small desk and lots of books. At Panchshil School, we were treated to a fantastic show with lots of traditional singing and dancing. We all got mehndi patterns on our hands, which is a type of temporary tattoo. Fun fact: it costs a lot of money to buy land in India, so they build the schools high rather than wide!

When we weren't in school, we had the opportunity to visit some local palaces, where we met members of the local royal families. We also visited the zoo, where we saw animals that are local to that particular region of India, including leopards, tigers, lions, hyenas and sloth bears. We had a lot of new foods in India, including curry for breakfast! The thing I liked the most was a type of bread called puri. We also visited the oldest ice-cream shop in Rajkot. I had chocolate chip cookie flavour and it tasted really good.

Jane Davis, Head Teacher



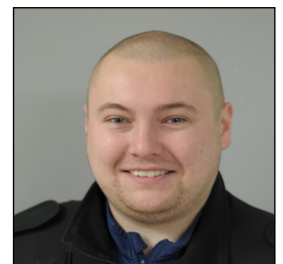
Police Report

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

Officers have assisted with Durham County Council and Lanchester EP school staff and pupils to issue tickets to those picking children up from school. Red tickets were given to those who were parked on double yellow lines, dropped kerbs, keep clear signs etc. Green tickets were given to those parked appropriately. This was to highlight the problems parking can cause and to teach the children around road safety and the problems it can cause if vehicles are parked where they shouldn't be.

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

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



Lanchester All Saints' School

At the beginning of February, we took part in Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week in school. Although we discuss diversity, similarities, differences and respect each week in school, we took this chance to focus on how we connect to one another. Primarily, through stories, assemblies, lessons and workshops, we looked at how we can celebrate our differences. On Wednesday, we took part in a Dress to Express day where the children filled our corridors with wonderful washes of colours and patterns! Two of the books we looked at as a whole

school were: *I Talk Like a River* (Jordan Scott) and *Out of the Blue* (Robert Tregoney, who lived in Lanchester when he was younger). Most weeks we read a story or enjoy a picture book as a whole school which reminds us of the need to celebrate differences, how to keep ourselves and others safe and also about our role in society. Most recently, we have enjoyed *The Proudest Blue* and *The Word Collector* which focused upon how we can empower ourselves to live the way we wish and how, by doing this, we can have a positive impact on the world around us.

Our Year Six eCadet leadership group took the opportunity this week to give an assembly to the whole school, linked to online safety, and our swimming team kicked off the week with enthusiasm and determination, winning gold in the Durham Swimming Gala. Our Year Four and Year Five classes spent time preparing for their residential to the Youth Village where they will continue to celebrate their unique gifts whilst our Year Three children enjoyed getting extra time enjoying the outdoors with our Sports' Coach. Our weekly Forest School sessions with Nursery and Reception ensure our youngest children always get the benefit of fresh air whereas our Year One and Year Two classes spend time, each week, learning how to play board games and traditional games against each one another.

There are many ways in which we connect at All Saints', after all, we are one big family!

Frances Stephenson

Head Teacher

All Saints'



Below: The All Saints' swimming team which came first in the Key Stage Two Derwentside Swimming Gala.

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Paradiso Film Night

Sunday 12th March:
Rocketman
A musical fantasy about the fantastical human story of Elton John's breakthrough years. After completing his studies, Reginald Dwight (Elton John) begins to perform rock music at local pubs. Later, he meets John Reid, a music manager, who helps him rise to fame, but also creates chaos in his life. Starring Taron Egerton, Jamie Bell, Richard Madden and Bryce Dallas Howard.
Lanchester Community Centre, 7pm for drinks, nibbles and raffle, film starts at 7.30pm.
Members: £3, Non-members : £4. Annual membership £5.
NOTE There will be no film in April on Easter Sunday. Look forward to The Duke (14th May) and Ghost Town (11th June).

Lanchester Library Library Book Club

On Monday 27th March at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing 'The World at my Feet' by Catherine Isaac. 'Beautifully written and an incredibly moving story' (reviewed by Beth O'Leary), it is also a novel from Richard and Judy's book club. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday March 16th, the group will be reviewing 'The Hunting Party' by Lucy Foley. 'A modern thriller with an appeal of Agatha Christie' (Waterstones). It will be interesting how this group reacts to this recent novel. 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 March 2nd from 10-11.30am. Bring along your wool, thread needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Everyone is welcome, enjoy.

Children's 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 on Wednesday 22nd March 2023. Philieda Irvine will be giving a talk on "I am a Plant Hunter".

Musical Memories

Join us to enjoy music with a spring theme on 1st March 2023 at 2pm at Lynwood House, Durham Road. 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

The Lanchester WI's next meeting is Monday 6th March in the main hall, Community Centre, 7pm. The speaker is Mike Fisher from the television show Police Interceptors. Come along to meet new friends for a chat, tea and biscuits. We also

organise various craft sessions, outings and coffee mornings, you will be most welcome.

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:

18th February Village Bus

25th February Methodist Wives and Friends

4th March Women's world day of prayer

11th March Foxhills House Group

18th March Boys' Brigade

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be held in the main hall of the Community Centre on March 16th at 1.30pm. Our speaker will be Gary Bankhead talking about South America. We shall also be eating cake - birthday cake - it will be our 43rd birthday!

Folk & Acoustic Music & Song Evenings

The monthly acoustic sessions are going well and normally take place in the rear dining area of Crinnions. Last time we migrated to the front of the bar, due to some improvements taking place. It was nice to see a good audience who had come to support we troubadours! We meet as usual on the 3rd Sunday of each month, next being 19th February, and will start at the usual 8pm. Hopefully catch you then. Ian Tute (07889 037102)

Lanchester playgroup

Every Friday 9:30 at Croft View halls.

Vintage Tractors

Meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm in Lanchester Social Club. There will be a Charity Tractor Run on 9th April 2023 in memory of the late Ernie Hopps, one of the founder members of The Lanchester Vintage Club. The money collected will be donated to The Motor Neurone Disease Charity. The Tractor Run will start at Moorside Farm, Lanchester at 10 am.

Lanchester Social Club

4 Mar – Sophie Danielle
11 Mar – Sam Naylor
12 Mar – Spring Market, 12 – 5pm, lots of Mothers Day gifts plus the Coffee Den in the car park
18 Mar – Shaun Keelan
25 Mar – Nicola Brown
All acts are subject to change at short notice.

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

The Friends of Longovicium will be holding a meeting on 23rd February at 7.30pm in the upstairs conference room of the Community Centre. The next meeting will be on 23rd March, same time, same place. We continue to investigate various aspects of the Romans in the region, and we are currently preparing a new website for publishing shortly. Watch this space! Anyone interested in the Romans is welcome, further details from Mrs. M. Williams, 01207 520063, or Rodney Hawkins, hawkins_15@sky.com.

Lunch Club

The next meeting of the lunch club held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 14th March 12pm start. All welcome, any queries call Jackie on 07908 838452.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 14th March at 7.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre small hall. Paul Atkinson (Project Officer, Wear Rivers Trust) will be speaking on "The Ecology of the River Wear & catchment".

Local History Society

LLHS will be meeting on Friday 3rd of March at 7pm in the Community Centre where our speaker will be Richard Pears. He will be telling us about "Margaret Farrington, Sociability and Society in Georgian England". Margaret was from Newcastle and joined London High Society in 1700s until in 1764 she sadly was given a diagnosis of Lunatic so returned to Newcastle where her family looked after her. She was related to the Claytons and Richard has used inventories of her belongings to piece together this talk about her life.

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.

Northumbria Lacemakers

Northumbria Lacemakers Lace Day is on 18th March, 10am - 3:30pm, at Lanchester Community Centre. The cone exchange (selling fabric, wool, buttons, etc.) will be part of the lace day from 12 - 3pm. There will be a talk by Chris about the cone exchange at 1pm. You are invited to join the lacemakers at this event. For further information, please ring Elaine on 01207 520065.

Christian Aid

A soup and traybake lunch will be held at the Methodist Church on Friday March 10th, 12-2pm. Tickets £5 from Judith 521898, Dianne 520817 or Kathleen

521793.

A "Swish Night" will be held at the Methodist Church on Wednesday May 17th. This is a fun night where you can exchange your preloved clothing/accessories. More details to follow.

Haystax Inclusive Farm Experience Open Day

On Sunday 26th March from 10am-4pm, we are holding an open day to offer a taster of what we will offer once we are fully open later this year. Come and try our coffee, cakes, and ice creams. Meet some of our animals and try a Forest School session. Explore our accessible lodges and much more. We are located on Longedge

Lane, DH8 9BY. Call 07596 856654 or email enquiries_haystax@outlook.com for more details.

Orchard Art Exhibition

An Easter art exhibition will be held at Lanchester Community Orchard, Newbigen Lane. It will be open dawn till dusk 1st April till 16th April inclusive. The exhibition is open to everyone. Come and enjoy a stroll around the orchard, admire the art and look for bunnies hidden in the long grass.

Play Your K.o.G's Right!

Join KoGs at 6pm on Saturday 25th March in the Methodist Church, for a fundraising spectacular with the

chance to take part in some of your favourite TV game show games, with of course our very own KoGs twist! The evening will conclude with a live musical performance courtesy of one of our original KoGs Members, the one and only - "Matthew Grimes". We will also have some stalls selling a wide variety of goods. Table nibbles will be provided and drinks will be available to purchase. For tickets (£3 per person) please see or contact:

Laura Cole - 07428500059
Kath Jones - 07704160449
Mervyn Burdon-07776307729

Choral Society Concert

On 28th April the Choral Society will present a sung concert version of the comedy 'The Mikado' by Gilbert and Sullivan. Rehearsals are starting on Fridays at 7.15pm at Croft View halls. Why not come and join us?



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Lanchester Medical Centre Welcomes Dr Kalra

Daily the media reports strike action, unrest and exhausted staff from the very services we rely on, the National Health Service.

This is the difficult national health climate into which Dr Kalra commences his new role as sole partner at Lanchester Medical Centre.

BMA reports a significant decline in GP partners across the country.

Lanchester Medical Centre (LMC) is one of many GP practices experiencing significant and growing strain with declining GP numbers, rising demand, exhausted staff, and the knock-on effects this has for their patients. They have one GP partner and two salaried GPs, both of whom are on long-term sick leave. To alleviate this shortfall in clinical sessions, locum GPs are sought as cover. This is not ideal, as locum GPs dictate their terms of service, do not complete any administration, do not review any investigation results, and do not perform home visits. This in turn adds significantly to the workload of the permanent clinicians.

An empty waiting room is not an indication of activity.

Thankfully the days of a packed waiting room with long delays to be seen are a thing of the past; the appointment system has meant that the average time anyone spends in LMC is twenty minutes. The practice has two waiting areas, one upstairs and one downstairs.

Appointment system

Lack of GP appointments is a national problem that escalated during COVID-19. Surgeries began to triage appointments, offering telephone consultations with a clinician at an appointed time. The clinician then arranged a face-to-face appointment if necessary. LMC also used this system. The need for a telephone consultation has now been discontinued in many cases and replaced with an increased number of face-to-face appointments. To make an appointment, please contact the surgery on 01207 520877 at 8 am; your call will be triaged by our Reception Care Navigation Team and booked with the appropriate clinician either face-to-face or by telephone, at the patient's request.

Not happy, what to do

If have an issue that you are unhappy about, please contact the practice via telephone/email, or by asking at reception for a complaints form. Any concern the admin team cannot facilitate will be passed to Joanne, Practice Manager, who is friendly and approachable; if you do not tell her your issue, she cannot do anything about it.

Why not come along to the bi-monthly Patient Participation Group and hear first-hand what is happening. The next meeting is 1st March at 10:30 in LMC meeting room.

The future

Since February 2020 LMC have been at the forefront of the NHS's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, delivering vaccines whilst maintaining non-COVID care for patients. There has also been the turmoil of the selling and buying of the practice and staff sickness. Throughout it all, clinicians and support staff at LMC continue to strive to be a practice with a caring beating heart for the population it serves.

Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group Stop Smoking and Vaping

At present the overall smoking prevalence in England is 14%, however this masks the prevalence in some areas where smoking is still seen as the normal thing to do. There are over 4,000 chemicals in cigarettes and cigarette smoke.

Vaping products have become the most popular aid to help smokers attempting to stop smoking with many thousands of people in the UK having stopped with their help.

Although vaping is not completely risk free, it poses much less harm than smoking tobacco. According to Public Health England vaping is 95% safer than smoking. They work by allowing the user to inhale nicotine in a vapour rather than smoke. There are only 3 contents to vape fluid: propylene glycol or vegetable glycerine, nicotine and flavourings.

Nicotine is a very addictive substance and as such it is essential that vapes are only used by people who smoke and should not be sold to anyone under the age of 18 years. Recommendations are that no one should use a vape for longer than 1 year, and they should always comply with the Tobacco Products Directive. They should only be purchased from a reputable vendor.

Evidence has found that people who used vapes to help them to quit smoking with specialist support were twice as likely to stop smoking than those using other products such as nicotine replacement therapy to help them to stop.

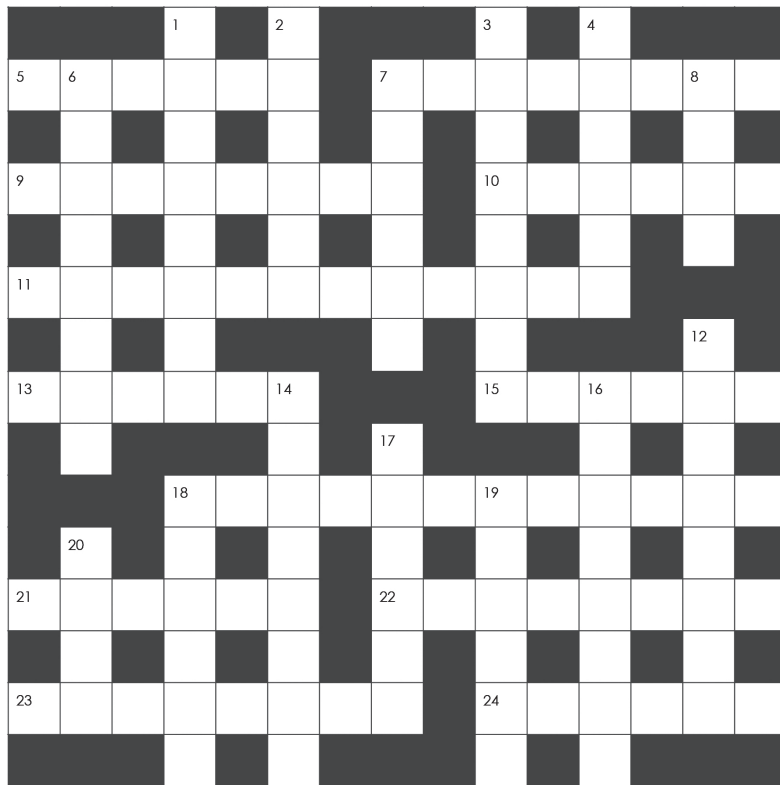
Smokefree County Durham currently offer 12 week telephone/face to face support for anyone living, working or are registered with a County Durham GP practice.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the team to arrange an appointment with a practitioner.

Tel: 0800 772 0565, office hours Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm.

Samantha Cumming, Administrator

CLUES CROSSWORD 182



Across

5. Take for granted (6)
7. Collection of recipes (8)
9. Boxers for instance (8)
10. Greek god of practically everything (6)
11. Finding out with certainty (12)
13. Type of straw hat (6)
15. Drunk by the likes of 10 across (6)
18. County Durham waterway (5,7)
21. Strong beer enjoyed in Bil lingsgate (6)
22. Unfancied competitor (8)
23. Someone or something that is intensely disliked (8)
24. Different from (6)

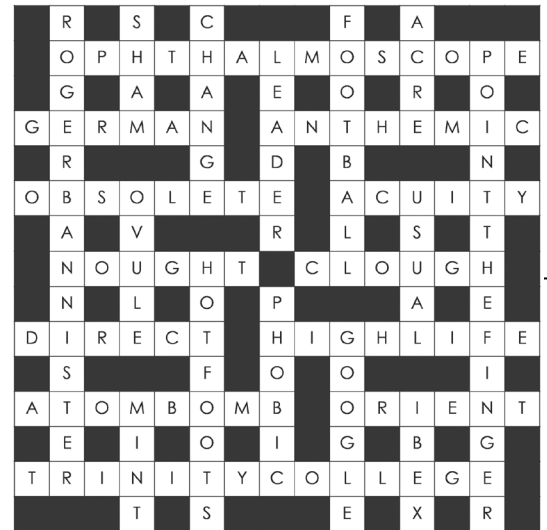
Down

1. Saint, who gave his name to Cuddy ducks (8)
2. Turn from sin (6)
3. Contribution to charity (8)
4. Rectangular shape (6)
6. Done with little care or effort (8)
7. Relating to the universe (6)
8. They get together in a parliament (4)
12. Doctor Finlay used one (8)
14. Turned round or inside out (8)
16. Lacking courage (8)
17. Emotional response to terrible event (6)
18. Spin round (6)
19. Three times winner of the Grand National (3,3)
20. Larger than a village but smaller than a city (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, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY
Please submit by the deadline.
Any received after the deadline will not be considered.



Winner of Crossword 181

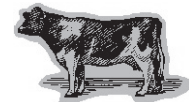
There were 24 entries and 22 were correct.

This month's winner, drawn from the hat, is Margaret Westwater.

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Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 14 December – approved

Police Reports – The report for December was received.

Correspondence

Letter of thanks, Lanchester Choral Society - received

Bruno Peek – Pageant master – Information was received on the following past and future events:

1. Thanks was sent to the Parish Council for their involvement in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon event in 2022
2. Confirmation was received that there will be no national beacon lighting event for the King's Coronation in 2023
3. Advance notice was provided of a national beacon event to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings on 6 June 2024.

Royal Garden Party 2023 – agreed that Councillor Keith Harrison and guest be nominated for the county draw.

Clerk Magazine January - received

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

A cabinet report on the County Council mid-term financial plan is due and work continues on a number of road matters. County councillors confirmed that the planning application for a solar farm at Burnhope is still in process. The timeline has moved due to the applicant making changes to the plans.

Outgoing Clerk – pension arrangements – it was agreed that the necessary paperwork is completed and submitted.

Precept Report 2023/24 – It was agreed that the precept be set at £73,487.21 for 2023/24

and the precept requirement be forwarded to the County Council.

Financial report - approved

Accounts for Payment – approved

Grass Cutting – it was agreed that tenders are sought for the grass cutting for 2023 and presented to a future Parish Council meeting.

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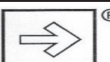
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karen.topping@travelcounsellors.com

Win a diamond pedant worth £5295 with Hospice raffle, sponsored by Berry's Jewellers, Newcastle.

This February, Willow Burn Hospice is giving you a chance to win a diamond pendant in its Diamond Raffle to be drawn on 10 March 2023 at the Willow Burn Hospice Glitter Ball.

Worth £5295, the 18ct white gold diamond cluster pendant with pear, marquise and round brilliant cut diamonds has been donated by Berry's Jewellers, a luxury, independent and family-owned top quality retail jewellers with a store on Grey Street in Newcastle and across the UK in Leeds, York, Nottingham, Hull, and Windsor. This is the second year the jeweller has supported Willow Burn's Diamond Raffle, raising over £4000 in 2022. The prize has been donated by the Newcastle store, located on Grey Street in the city centre. Store manager, David Nicholson has been a long-term supporter of Willow Burn following the care his mam received at the hospice. David said: "Willow Burn will always hold a special place in my family's heart, and I am proud to be able to support the annual ball in this way to raise as much money as possible so that other families can receive the care and support that mine did."

Tickets can be purchased online at: <https://willow-burn.co.uk/willow-burn-diamond-raffle> or in person at the hospice. Every two tickets sold in the Diamond Raffle will pay for one hour of vital nursing care for people living with a life limiting illness in Derwentside.

Rachel Todd, Head of Fundraising and Marketing said: "The Diamond Raffle is just one of the fundraisers which will be taking place at the Willow Burn Glitter Ball in March, but we wanted to launch the raffle early to give as many people as possible the chance to win this beautiful pendant. The whole team would like to say a huge thank you to Berry's for sponsoring this raffle. We would also like to offer our gratitude to David Nicholson for his ongoing support and dedication to Willow Burn."



Paul Jackson (Chairman of Willow Burn) and David Nicholson (Store Manager, Berry's Jewellers)

Village Bus

The Village Bus is a service close to many hearts here in Lanchester.

The purpose of the bus is to offer accessible transport to all members of the village, allowing them to shop and socialise locally and regularly.

Over the past few months trustees of The Lanchester Partnership have been in negotiations regarding the contract for the Village Bus. The contract with Stanley Travel expired in Dec 2022.

A great deal of effort was made into looking at alternative providers or solutions.

We are pleased to have reached a compromise, whereby Stanley Travel will continue to fulfil the contract, and we are able to keep a regular though reduced bus schedule running. Users of the Village Bus have been kept informed throughout and are aware of changes to the schedule.

We encourage people of all ages to use the Village Bus. Anyone who would like to sponsor the bus for a day can do so, more info from Laura on 07967597949 or

Make your payment of £25 for a day by:

Standing order or BACS transfer to:

Account Name The Lanchester Partnership

Sort Code 20-27-41 Account No. 93238067

Please use reference BUS and your Name

PayPal Giving Fund – The Lanchester Partnership

(<https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3178079>)

Or cheques made payable to The Lanchester Partnership

Please deliver or send your cheque to David Smith, 53 Humberhill Drive, Lanchester, DH7 0HH (Please write your contact details on the back of the cheque).



Diamond Wedding celebration for Eric and Hazel Gaskill

We were happy to announce the diamond wedding celebration of Eric and Hazel Gaskill in February. Unfortunately we did not have a photograph at the time, but here it is: their wedding photograph from 60 years ago.



Lanchester WI

Lanchester WI's meeting on Monday 6th February was attended by 33 members and 1 visitor. President Marie reminded us that there are a lot of interesting things coming up including a Synagogue visit, Chairman's Lunch at Ramside Hall, cookie decorating and craft sessions, to name a few. There was a very good speaker, Carol Marley, a WI advisor, who gave an amusing talk about the history of allotments. There was also a cuppa and catch up with friends at the end of the evening.

Tracey Dobson



Carol Marley

NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by **Tuesday 7th March 2023**
The deadline for advertisers is **Tuesday 7th March 2023**

Cricket News

Winter nets are well underway, happening every Thursday evening at the Louisa Centre. Juniors net between 7 and 8 and there are still opportunities for anyone who is interested. We would like to encourage year 4/5 All Star graduates to come along and hopefully enjoy our fantastic game. We are well stacked with qualified coaches, having one level 5 performance coach, six level 2 core coaches and 3 level 1 foundation coaches. The Club has provided financial support to help get our coaches through their courses. The nets run until the end of March, so there's plenty of time to join in. Our senior players net in the hour that follows the juniors. We are delighted to say that Pasindu Madushan will be returning for a third season after a winter playing cricket in Australia and that will please all the young players who have been coached by him. There are no new faces to add to the squad but similarly there are no departures, and our senior juniors are knocking on the door of the first team.

In case it had passed you by, the bar is open every Friday from 6.30 during the non-playing season, all welcome.

All Stars and Dynamos

Our tremendously popular All Stars programme starts on Friday 19th May, at 5.30 each week for eight weeks, except for a gap for the beer festival. The price remains at £40 and the booking process should be available in mid-February. We do have to limit the numbers due to the popularity of the event, so book early so you don't miss out. Led by Fiona and Ben Holden, the entertaining programme is for 5-8 years olds and whilst they are enjoying themselves, you can enjoy some cool refreshment in the biggest beer garden in the village.

We will run Dynamos as we did last year, with 4 two hour sessions over a two week period in the summer holidays. Dynamos is for 9-11 year olds and we have seen some children move from Dynamos into proper cricket.

Andrew McConnell

Bowls News

We are fast approaching the start of the outdoor bowls season with the green opening in mid-April and the league season starting on the 26th April and continuing until the end of September.

Lanchester Bowls Club are always looking to attract new members so you are cordially invited to attend our spring meeting in the clubhouse on the 30th March at 7.00pm or you can visit our website Lanchester Bowls Club where you will find all the details you need to join the club. Fees for new members are £15.00 and all you need to start is a flat pair of shoes, as you can borrow bowls from our store until you are confident enough to purchase your own bowls.

We play in three different leagues playing throughout the county and have roll ups every Thursday and Sunday.

Following the success of our team in the South West Durham Vets League we will be playing two teams in this league in 2023.

Bowls is a great way to exercise and meet new friends so please come along and give it a go.

Stuart Lee

How to contact the Village Voice

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