

# the Village Voice

Issue No 7, Volume 23

Lanchester, July 2023



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## Solicitors forced to close by the regulatory body

On 13th June 2023 the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) decided that it needed to intervene in the practice of Mark Davies of Bennett Richmond solicitors who are based in Consett but also had an office in Lanchester. Many Lanchester residents would have used the practice over the years and their documents were stored there.

The SRA decided to intervene into the practice for the following reasons:

*The panel is satisfied that it is necessary to intervene to protect the interests of clients (or former or potential clients) of Mr Davies, and;*

*The panel is satisfied there is reason to suspect dishonesty on the part of Mr Davies in connection with his practice at the firm.*

This clearly was a shock to all their clients and social media was alive with comments! For those for whom the solicitors were acting on a current issue, this is very worrying. The estate agency business had already closed.

If the solicitors were holding your documents (wills, deeds, etc) on your behalf, these have been collected by the SRA archives team who can be contacted at [iaf@sra.org.uk](mailto:iaf@sra.org.uk) or 0204 525 0250 to arrange retrieval. They have warned that this may take some time due to the volume of documents.

If Bennett Richmond were acting on your behalf on a current matter, then you will need to instruct a new solicitor and request the ongoing files from [intervention@gordonsllp.com](mailto:intervention@gordonsllp.com).

Subsequent to the closure announcement a small convoy of vehicles arrived in Lanchester. They had apparently been told to clear the offices out. This was at 9pm on Friday 23rd June. A group of men loaded two small flatbed lorries at great speed with furniture, filing cabinets etc. A resident reported that the convoy, consisting of the two lorries, a van, two taxis and a large black BMW then shot away at high speed. Very intriguing! A further consequence of all this is that there is another empty shop in the village.



Right: high speed removal!

## Summer Special – Seaside Rock

Exciting news! Summer Special will be taking place again in the last week of the summer holidays at Lanchester Methodist Church.

This popular annual event is running from Tuesday August 29th to Saturday September 2nd 9:45am to 12:15pm. There is a family celebration on the Sunday, 10am for a 10.30am start, followed by a picnic and outdoor games, to which all are invited.

It is for children ranging from those about to go into reception all the way up to those about to enter year 7. It only costs £20 for the whole week and bursaries are available.

The theme this year is the seaside, and it will be hosted by Lifeguard Claire, and you can spend a week by the sea. In the Bible, Peter met Jesus by the sea – and so can you!

There will be funky songs, inflatable games, craft activities, challenges, “the drama”, meet Grumpy, magic tricks, jokes and fun.

**Places are already going so make sure your child doesn't miss out! Registration forms are available from Kath at [kathfamiliesnwdc@gmail.com](mailto:kathfamiliesnwdc@gmail.com).**

**Claire Earl**



## An orchid in a Lanchester garden?

A reader sent in a photo for “30 days wild in June” for the Wildlife Trusts. This was about getting in touch with something wild each day, including the wonderful plants and more unusual ‘orchids’ that sometimes occasionally grow in our gardens in Lanchester (if we are very lucky).

We’ve asked a few people what it is and have had different answers!

**Any ideas, please get in touch.**



## A Call Out to all Landowners in Lanchester Parish

The Trees for Lanchester group are still active in the parish even though it's not tree planting season! We are currently nurturing over 250 tree saplings growing in our tree nursery. Come the autumn most of these will be ready to move home and set down roots. The trees are grown from local seeds and are mostly oak and hawthorn, with a few dog rose, guelder rose, holly and horse chestnut as well. If you have a small patch of land or a field edge and would be happy to give a home to any of these please do get in touch. The trees and the planting are free but a donation towards canes and guards would be welcome. We are also able to order packs of trees from Ovo energy for those landowners who need different varieties or larger numbers.

**For more details text: 07817369160**

**Trees For Lanchester is supported by the Lanchester Partnership.**





## Wildlife notes

### The Wren

Troglodytes, what a name! Possibly suited to a Disney Marvel character? Is it surprising that the name belongs to a tiny bird? Aptly a bird with a powerful voice. Listening to a Wren's loud song, its scientific name of Troglodytes seems to suit it, though in Latin it means 'cave dweller' and reflects the habit of hunting out yummy insects from holes/nooks and crevices in tree trunks.

The loud song of the male announcing his territory always contains a 'trill' sound within the song, the cascade of loud notes usually ends with a 'trill'. The RSPB's A to Z of birds website is helpful. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/>

The "Merlin" app by Cornell Lab is free and suggests birds your phone detects. Bird detection is often more about bird listening than watching!

Wrens are usually a skulking bird, low in the undergrowth and disappearing into bushes/brambles. However, in breeding season, the males seem to throw caution (and their voices) to the wind and sing in prominent spots to impress a Mrs, revealing themselves to us humans walking along the 'Line'. They often sit with their small tails cocked above their back. Mr Wren's efforts to impress don't end with his ample operatic performance. He woos by building up to 8 nests for her to choose just one! He lays the nest foundations of moss, leaves and grass in a domed, round structure in holes in trees/holes/crevices or more obscure places like mailboxes, garden pots, even walking boots. She adds finishing touches, a lining of

feathers. They do this twice a year; each brood has up to 6 fledglings.

They live around 2 years. They usually defend their territories throughout the year but will form communal roosts to stave off cold e.g., 63 found roosting in a nest box and 100 in an attic. The wonderful Wren!

***The wonderful photographs of the Wren (including the photo on the cover) were provided by Ian Appleby – we'll feature more of his photos in later editions.***

***From Our Wildlife Correspondent***



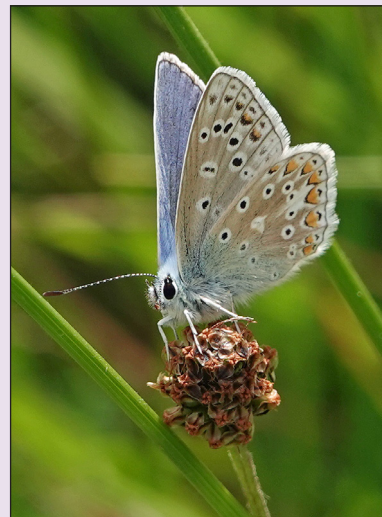
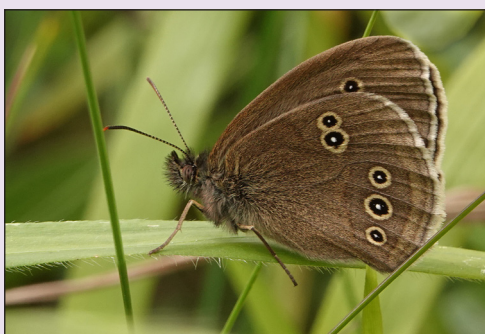
### Lanchester Wildlife Group's latest outing

Thrislington National Nature Reserve was Lanchester Wildlife Group's latest foray into the wild, we were invited to join Weardale Wildlife Group's field trip on 25th June. Over recent years we've arranged a few joint field trips, we all benefit from a wider range of knowledge on different wildlife and learn from each other. Thrislington is renowned as a Magnesian Limestone grassland. It boasts a couple of specialist butterflies, in particular the Northern Brown Argus and the Brown Argus, which are difficult to tell apart in the North East where they share the same habitat, they are also tiny, which make the challenge more interesting! (a little smaller than the Common Blue you might have noticed on a wander through Malton Nature Reserve). You'll also see a lot of larger brown butterflies near Lanchester, worth closer inspection as the photos show, they are quite attractive too, the Meadow Brown and the Ringlet. The Fragrant orchids were just starting to flower, they are as fun to sniff as to stare at, hence the apt name. Dark Red Helleborines were another exciting find, flowering earlier than expected. If you enjoy lots of different flowers and attractive insects then Thrislington is worth a visit, as is Bishop Middleham Quarry, a Durham Wildlife Trust reserve fairly close by.

***From our Wildlife Correspondent***

Front cover: Northern Brown Argus, fragrant orchids

Top right: Meadow Brown butterfly  
Top left: Dark Green Fritillary  
Below right: Common Blue  
Below middle: Dark Red Helleborines  
Below left: Ringlet Butt



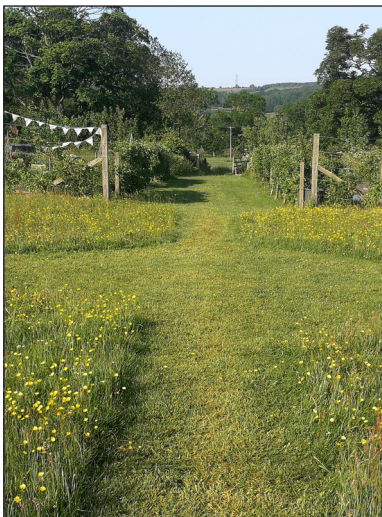


## No Mow May

This year the Orchard group decided to follow the advice of nature conservation groups and cut down on the mowing. We still kept paths cut and framed the large square by trimming the edge and mowing a small square at the centre. The result helped to make the orchard look even more attractive to humans and I'm sure more appealing to the wildlife. The longer grass soon became home to clover and buttercups, an ideal habitat for bees and other insects, which in turn encourages more birds.

Perhaps other people in the village did the same, as we all grow more conscious of our need to re-wild our landscape. It would be great to see any photographs if you did.

**Lanchester Community Orchard is supported by the Lanchester Partnership. For more details email: [lanchesterorchard@outlook.com](mailto:lanchesterorchard@outlook.com)**



## Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

There will be no official meeting of the Friends in August, but that doesn't mean we're not doing anything! Investigations continue trying to resolve the problem of how the Romans managed to get water from the Low Dam, uphill, to the fort. We're currently helping the Friends of Ebchester Roman Fort, Vindomora, in locating the various bridges and other crossings of Dere Street over the River Derwent. Please contact Mrs M. Williams on 01207 520065 or Rodney Hawkins at [hawkins\\_15@sky.com](mailto:hawkins_15@sky.com) for further information or if you can help.

**Rodney Hawkins**



## Lanchester Vintage Tractors Club meet the Little Grey Fergie Challenge

Following on from the Vintage Tractor Club's recent fundraising on behalf of the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA), some of the members of the club set off on four tractors to meet the "Little Grey Fergie Challenge" as it passed through County Durham. The challenge was to travel from John O'Groats to Lands End in the little Ferguson tractor and was also in aid of MNDA. The Lanchester group met the tractor and its driver, Pete Burdass, at Kiln Pit Hill and travelled in convoy with them until they parted company at Tow Law.

The Lanchester MNDA fundraiser had started at David Hopps' farm (David's brother Ernie had MND) so it was appropriate that David was there, and he can be seen on the left in the photograph. This shows some of the Vintage Club members with Pete Burdass and the Little Grey Fergie of course.

## Lanchester Flower Club

### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS 1973-2023

#### Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

Lanchester Flower Club's June meeting was held in Lanchester Community Centre on Wednesday the 28th. Glynis Grainger gave us a wonderful talk on an unknown hero from World War 2, "Life in a Jar", a most entrancing story about Irana Sendler. Glynis is a born storyteller. We were all engrossed from beginning to end. We look forward to Glynis returning with other stories to one of our meetings.

We carried on enjoying our 50th Anniversary celebrations by cutting into a lovely cake and enjoying a glass or two of non alcoholic fizz. The front cover picture shows the present committee members.

A big thank you to all for their continued hard work in keeping our club going. I am sure some villagers may remember some of the ladies in the other pictures, these are the women who had the foresight to start a Flower Club in Lanchester (pictured right). I think they would be very impressed to see we are still flourishing. Ethel Richardson was the lady who came up with the idea supported by Mary Matthews who was Chairperson from 1973 until 2005. The other women are Helen Tomlinson (who is still now our Chairperson), Maureen Clarkson (who is still a committee member today) and Ishbel Eggleston. (Over the years we have had many club officials, too many to mention individually, but we would extend a big thank you to all.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th July 2023 at 1.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre Main Hall. All are welcome. Our demonstrator will be Heather Curry, her theme "Watch with Mother". We do not hold a meeting in August. The next meeting will then be Wednesday 27th September in Lanchester Community Centre Main Hall at 1.30 pm. The demonstrator is Wendy Smith, her theme "Golden Anniversary". Please come and join us for a lovely, interesting and relaxing afternoon with old friends and maybe make new friends.

**Lestrine Kelly**

*The final celebrations for 50 years of Lanchester Flower Club meeting in Lanchester Community Centre.*

*Front Cover: Left to right: Sue Jones, Rosemary Wilson, Pat Spencer, Lestrine Kelly, Kathy Smith, Maureen Clarkson and in the front Helen Tomlinson. Above right: Pictured left to right, Helen Tomlinson, Mary Matthews and Ishbel Eggleston. Right: The cake!*





## Lanchester WI

Lanchester WI met on Monday 3rd July. Marie, our President, welcomed 27 members and gave information about upcoming events.

The raffle was won by Tina Naples, Monica Murfin and Valerie Johnson; prizes were donated by Phyllis Reed and Diane Oram.

Entertainment was provided by Benfieldside and Durham Rams Morris Men. The origins of Morris dancing are unknown but thought to be a derivation of Moorish dancing from the time of the crusades, it was mainly found in the Midlands and each village had their own traditional dances. After a few different dances members joined in trying out some of the moves.

The evening finished with refreshments and a chat with friends.



Above: Benfieldside and Durham Rams Morris Men

## Village Bus

A great group all came out to the chapter house at the parish church in Lanchester on Thursday 22nd June in aid of the village bus – a happy time was had by all.

It was organised by Margaret Brown and assisted by her good friend Mary Richardson. Raffle tickets with wonderful prizes were snapped up as they all enjoyed a social coffee event. They raised over £410.

Margaret Brown adds "Thank you so much for your support, donations and raffle prizes given to me for the coffee morning. This service is a great support to the many people in our village and I urge you to use it as much as possible, otherwise we could lose it. Thank you to the ladies who worked so hard in the kitchen (you know who you are!!). The Lanchester Partnership organises the bus services. The people of Lanchester are fantastic supporters and contributors, and we hope it will continue well into the future. **If anyone wants to try the bus or start to use it contact Paul on 07957871106.**



## Lanchester Local History Society

At the last meeting of the Society, we were enthralled by Gordon Henderson sharing many finds from his walks around his home territory of South West Durham. His knowledge of antiquities and ability to bring the items to life with anecdotes had the members gripped for the evening. There was no shortage of questions and the rush to take a closer look and handle the finds was a clear indication that everyone had enjoyed the evening.

This image is a portable altar that a Roman traveller would carry with them.

One of the artefacts we looked at was a portable altar that a Roman traveller would carry with them. On it was an image of a sun, so from the pre-Christian Roman period. This little amber toggle would be attached to a leather thong on the hilt of a sword. It worked like a sea sickness band rubbing on the wrist of a soldier as they were sleeping while still clutching their weapon.



Above: An amber toggle would be attached to a leather thong

## End of an era at Lanchester News

An era ends for Lanchester Front Street this month with the well-deserved retirement of Gillian and Tony Morland. The couple ran Lanchester News for 20 years until bowing out on June 10. The shop will become a Premier store. The family run business has been popular amongst both customers and staff over the years. So much so that three of the staff, Denise, Debbie and June, total more than 55 years service between them while Tony and Gillian have been running the shop.

Tony, 64, and Gillian, 61, are moving to Stillington, near Stockton-on-Tees to retire, but Gillian said: "We have family and friends here so we will be returning often no doubt. We will certainly miss the customers who have been lovely." Tony added: "I certainly will NOT miss getting up at 3.30 every morning. That was the time I had to get the papers ready before the shop opened at 6am. You get used to it I suppose, it becomes a way of life, but it is obviously time consuming running a business like this."

Lanchester News was open from 6am until 8pm most days but the opening hours will actually be extended under the new management until 10pm. The shop also housed the Post Office from 2006 until 2019 when it moved over the road to SPAR.



Above: Tony and Gillian from Lanchester News. Photo taken by Pam Thompson who works there.



## KoGs' Trip to Flamingo Land June 2023

On Sunday 25th June KoGs headed for a day trip to Flamingo Land. It was an absolute blast!! Leaving from the Methodist church at 8:30am we had a mixture of weather starting off lovely and sunny, very hot and ended with a huge thunderstorm and torrential rains making us all run to take cover! First ride of the day was "Sik", the park's brand new rollercoaster (only our bravest rode it!). It featured five different types of inversion including an enormous 25m loop, a cobra roll, a corkscrew and a dizzying five heart-line rolls! We worked our way around the park stopping around midday for our picnic before heading on to a KoGs favourite, the log flume!

We then headed over to the zoo sections and gift shops before the huge storm hit that sent us running for cover. Once it had eased up a little the members managed to convince the leaders to let them text their parents to tell them we would be staying a little longer to catch some more rides before our journey home. We all had an excellent day full of laughter and memory making.

If you'd like to join us at KoGs on a Monday we are open from school years 4 – sixth form and meet at Lanchester Methodist Church. We start at 5pm to 7.30pm, Monday during school terms. We offer a range of activities including: 2 course meals, games, messy games, day trips, evening trips, residential weekend trips, crafts, drama, cell sessions and much much more!

The cost of the sessions is £3 per person but your first week is free!

All activities and your weekly meal are included. For more information contact

Laura & Peter Cole on 07428500059 or email

[kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk)

All of our leaders are DBS checked, have safeguarding and creating safer spaces training, have food hygiene certificates and are first aid trained.

***We hope to see you soon!***



*Fun day out for the KOG's...  
a little wet for some!*



## Lanchester Partnership AGM

On July 1st the Partnership welcomed over 70 members and guests, including many new faces to the new Community Café and Warm Space at the Community Centre for a celebration brunch prior to the Lanchester Partnership AGM. The Community Café proved to be an excellent venue in which members and others could socialise informally prior to the meeting itself. We were joined by County Councillor Doug Oliver and Derek Snaith from the Mid Durham Area Action Partnership (AAP) – both the County Council and the AAP have been very helpful over the last two years in supporting a range of projects managed by the Partnership.

The Community Café started in November 2022 and was set up as one of five Warm Spaces across Lanchester and Burnhope – part of a local Partnership set up to provide a warm welcome for residents during the cold winter months. It is an excellent example of local partnership working – firstly a partnership between the Community Centre and the Community Interest Company run by Stuart Martin and his team of volunteers – and then with The Lanchester Partnership which was able to support by securing AAP funding for the Warm Spaces. Those attending were in complete agreement that this innovative development has long term potential to support social cohesion across the village.

After the excellent brunch, members moved into Hall 2, where Lanchester Partnership working groups had mounted excellent displays illustrating the activities that had taken place over the last twelve months. Each group gave a short talk explaining the challenges they had faced, and the very real achievements made on behalf of our village.

At the AGM we:

- Welcomed a new Trustee (Helen McCree)
- Approved the accounts noting that finances were healthy in spite of the challenges presented by Covid and more recently the cost-of-living crisis
- Thanked all those who had donated to support our activities – including the AAP and the County Council – and businesses and individuals who had donated most generously to put Village Bus finances in a stable position
- Approved our action plan for 2023-4, noting that 2024 will be the 25th anniversary of the Partnership
- Approved a special resolution formalising our role in providing relief to those in need through the coordination of voluntary activities to provide support

At the end of the meeting the Chair (on behalf of the Trustees) thanked all those who had supported the Partnership in any way. Over the coming year we'll be working hard to consult across the village on how we can further develop our activities, encourage participation and ensure that we remain a supportive and vibrant element in village life.

Finally, a lady in a very fine hat spontaneously thanked all those who over the years had worked through the Partnership to enrich the village. A nice thought to end on.

**Henry Edwards**



Left: Good attendance at the AGM

Below: Stuart Martin and his team of volunteers at the Lanchester Community Café provide the refreshments.



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## Ian and Tina Knight's 50th Wedding Anniversary

On the 17th June Tina and Ian Knight celebrated their 50th anniversary, having married at Wickham in 1973.

Friends and family came from across the country to join in their celebration of this momentous occasion at the Old Mill Knitsley. An amazing time was had by all revellers with the weather adding to the beautiful occasion. Tina, Ian and their two sons would like to thank all those who made the journey to join in their celebration.

A thank you must be given to the staff of the Old Mill for their help in organising the celebration and the excellent bbq, after stepping in at short notice following the unfortunate closure of Crinnions.



Above: The happy couple, June 1973  
Right: The happy couple, June 2023



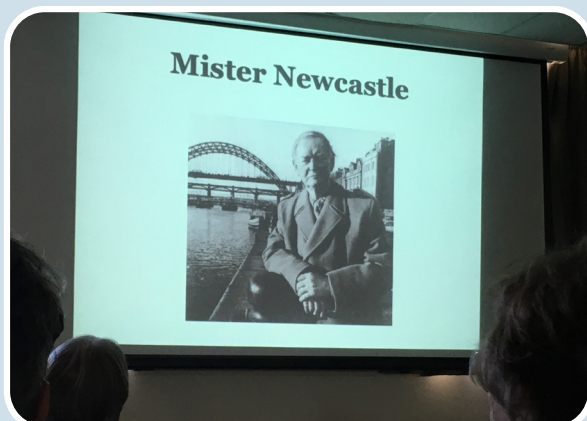
## Thursday Club

At our last meeting we had invited Anthony Atkinson to come and give us a talk and slide show on T. Dan Smith - 'Mr Newcastle', no less. On the surface this may come across as a bit of a dry subject - possibly not widely entertaining - but how wrong that would turn out to be! Anthony presented the talk as if in a courtroom - with us as the jury. We were hooked - from start to finish. The presentation went from early life, through adolescence and on to the man T. Dan Smith became.

He was a seemingly religious, devoted family man who was also devoted to the betterment of Newcastle. Also making sure that along the way, that aim led to the betterment of T. Dan Smith himself was what led to his downfall. But really, as was pointed out, many others live their lives in exactly the same way and don't get caught out. T. Dan Smith appears to have been the scapegoat for many others.

After hearing all the fascinating evidence our speaker said it was up to us to make up our own minds - as he also said - for all the good that T. Dan Smith did - he left Newcastle in a much better state than the one he found it in. Members of the jury - the verdict rests with you! Our afternoon closed with the usual coffee/tea and biscuits and lots of heated discussion as opposed to the usual chatter.

**Next month we shall be up, off and away out - no meeting in the Community Centre until September.**  
**Olive Simpkins**



Above: controversial figure, T. Dan Smith

## Sea Sunday at All Saints Catholic Church

Every year churches around the world celebrate Sea Sunday, remembering and praying for seafarers everywhere, and giving thanks for the vital roles they perform for the rest of us. On 9th July 2023, and as has become his tradition, Mike Stoddard, a resident of Lanchester and a retired Captain of the Merchant Navy, brought one of his display scale model ships into church, seen here in front of the altar with the merchant navy ensign flag in the background.

**Thank you, Mike, for your years of service and now for helping us to remember.**

**Heraldo Biasi**





## Ladies who lunch

There was no lunch in sight last time out - one of us had reached the magnificent age of 90 - and we were out enjoying a celebratory afternoon tea down at Knitsley Mill.

If it's afternoon tea you're after then Knitsley Mill is the place to go because, as the song says, "nobody does it better" - and nobody does it better than Pauline.

We were in the conservatory- the sun was splitting the skies - we were all dressed up to the nines just waiting for the feast to begin. Tables were laid with pristine tablecloths and napkins, we had lovely spotty tableware - teapots, water pots, milk, sugar, clotted cream and jam and cups of coffee very quickly arrived followed by the main event.

Three-tiered cake stands arrived piled high with delicious looking scrumptious goodies. There were delicate finger sandwiches of ham; cheese and pickle; smoked salmon, cream cheese, and cucumber; all in a mixture of brown and white bread - and we each had 2 of each. Following on, there were delicious scones - a cheese one (which was to 'die for' gorgeous) and a fruit one to which we added lashings of strawberry jam and clotted cream.

We were by this time feeling a little full, but heavens, we had the top layer to attack, obviously time for some tea/coffee and then onwards and upwards!

The top layer of the stand held a tiny wine-type glass which was filled with a creamy raspberry mousse topped off with a raspberry and a piece of mint which we ate using tiny Alice in Wonderland-type spoons - it was delicious. Then there was a small strawberry tart, a small éclair, a small cream slice and a full-size cream filled, chocolate tipped brandy snap.

Everything was totally SCRUMPTIOUS.

There were a few doggy bags to take home - we really were absolutely stuffed! It was a delightful afternoon full of good food, good company and many, many reminiscences of times gone by.

Not on our to do list anytime soon - 90th birthdays don't come around that often - having said that we are hoping that there will be many more - we'll all aspire to reach such a grand age - and of course, there's the 100th to look forward now.

## The Gourmet Girls



### NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by **Tuesday 1st August 2023**  
The deadline for advertisers is **Tuesday 1st August 2023**

### APOLOGIES

*Due to unforeseen circumstances, this month's edition of the Village Voice has been published a little later than usual, for those entering the crossword competition, please note the entry date.*

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## Dear Village...

**Dear Sir,  
Remembrance Sunday**

The County Council advises me that the request for this would have to come from the Parish Council, since it is their event. We now have the Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the correct time in Lanchester, a hard-won fight on the part of some of us. Now we just need all traffic to be redirected along the bypass rather than through the village between 10:45 and 11:30 on the morning of Remembrance Sunday. Let us hope that the Parish Council will make the necessary arrangements with the County Council and with the Police.

Yours faithfully,

**David Lindsay  
Foxhills Crescent,  
Lanchester.**

### Dear Village Voice

In "Memories of Lanchester", page 9, there is an old photo of Front Street before the bypass and present day shopping facilities.

There is one parked car and a belisha beacon crossing. I think that the volume of traffic is much greater now, especially at peak times. We do not have a pedestrian crossing.

There have been letters in the Village Voice raising concerns about crossing the road.

I think it's time we had a crossing.

Thank you.

**Alan Williams**



### Police Report

Hello, here is an update from PCSO 8725 Jonathan Rutherford on what has been happening recently in and around Lanchester.

This month, there has been an increase in road related jobs and Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs). Whilst thankfully

no one has been severely hurt and the majority have been accidents, there have been a few incidents involving drunk drivers.

On the 20th an RTC occurred when a drunk male crashed into the front garden of a resident and tried to make off. The suspect was detained and arrested for drunk driving after failing a roadside breath test.

On the 23rd a male was arrested for drunk driving and possession of an offensive weapon. This resulted in a search of the suspect's address where further offensive items such as knuckle dusters were located. Alcohol and drugs both affect your ability to judge speed and distances accurately and slow down your reaction time. Anyone caught drink driving faces a minimum 12-18 month ban. However, deciding to drink and drive could cost you more than just your licence. Our message to drivers is simple. If you take the risk of driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs, you could kill someone, and yourself.

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

**PCSO Jonathan Rutherford**

## LANCHESTER CHURCHES TOGETHER Prayer Card Delivery

Over the next 3 months, prayer cards will be delivered to the following areas.

<b>26 June</b>	<b>Pear Tree, Holmside</b>
<b>10 July</b>	<b>Hollinside, Hurbuck, Malton</b>
<b>24 July</b>	<b>Maiden Law</b>
<b>7 August</b>	<b>Cadger Bank, West Drive</b>
<b>21 August</b>	<b>Humberhill Drive</b>
<b>4 September</b>	<b>Ford Road</b>
<b>18 September</b>	<b>Front Street</b>

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## Poppy's walks

Good day readers. In this month's edition I am going to tell you about a welcome sight for us dogs in warm weather. As you will know, I am Poppy, a Patterdale terrier who enjoys sharing with readers the walks around Lanchester and district on which I lead my

Humans. This one takes in the cricket club off Kitswell Road, where the kind staff always leave out a doggy bowl filled with water. In the summer months it is particularly welcome, let me tell you!

Starting from Station Road we walk along the Lanchester Valley Railway Path past the Station House and then across Newbiggin Lane.

We continue to walk along the path, where the verges are particularly overgrown during the summer and where there are all sorts of smells to explore.

If we – I in other words – are feeling energetic we walk on past Lizard Cottage and continue in the direction of Hurbuck. We don't go that far, however.

After a while we come to a point along the railway path

where we see stiles on both our left and our right. We take the right hand stile and cross a field to a fence where we encounter two more stiles in quick succession. The Human pants across those while I slip underneath. We then reach yet another stile which takes us through some undergrowth and out at the other side which is Low Meadows.

We turn right and through a gate next to a cattle grid. We walk along a lane where we often have to stand to one side to let traffic past, before, eventually passing the cemetery on the left and onto Kitswell Road.

We turn left into the cricket club and walk alongside the field to the clubhouse where there is a cold drink of water for yours truly. If there is a cricket game on – a pointless exercise in my opinion – the male Human insists on stopping to watch. While doing so he quenches his own thirst with something stronger than water.

If I can eventually persuade him to leave we walk back towards the practice nets then through a narrow path which takes us onto Victoria Terrace, then right along Millfield back to Kitswell Road, and from there home.

The walk without the cricketing break takes just over an hour, but if there is a cricket match on it can take three times that amount of time!

A letter from Chelsea the assistance dog to Poppy the Patterdale

**Dear Poppy,**

I love your monthly letter in the Village Voice, with all the suggestions for walks. I look forward to it each month. It's great to have a canine conversation in our village magazine. I have taken my humans on quite a lot of the walks, but as one of my humans uses a wheelchair, and the other has a gammy knee, we avoid the ones with steps or very steep hills!

I am writing now to suggest that we might meet for a date!

Each year I do a sponsored walk to raise money for the charity that trains assistance dogs like me. The charity is called "Dogs for Good", and it costs several thousand pounds to train a dog to my standard. I even help Mum in church, and with volunteering in school.

This year the walk will be on Saturday 14th October starting at 10.30am at Hownsgill car park (Consett). We will walk to Knitsley farm shop for lunch, then on to finish at Lanchester Gallery coffee shop at about 3.30pm for tea. Durham shopmobility have kindly offered their accessible minibus (and driver) to get folk back to Hownsgill to collect their cars.

I am hoping that you might be interested in Companionable Canine Cavorting as we exercise our humans on a wheelchair accessible route. Everybody is welcome to join us, walking, scooter/buggy-ing, sponsoring, or just saving the date and spreading the word.

My best regards, Chelsea the assistance dog.



**LANCHESTER  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

## Community Centre News

## Celebrating our 55th Birthday in 2023

### Did you know that your Community Centre is self-funding?

It belongs to Lanchester residents and is not backed by any organisation that can step in with financial support when needed.

The activities we organise to raise funds, income from bookings, and applications for grants (which are getting very hard to acquire) have to cover all costs including staff, utilities, repairs and maintenance. Improvements to the Community Centre are continuing as it is vital that the Centre is future proofed as an attractive, safe and relevant venue.

This year new CCTV, smoke detectors and electronic door entry systems have been installed. Over the coming weeks roof repairs and replacement ceilings in both halls are being undertaken. This is extremely expensive and the Committee and staff have worked hard to gain funding from our local councillors, other agencies and through fundraising.

The Centre is grateful to all our users who, by using such a great resource, will make sure it is there for the next generation.

Please come along and see what activities are on offer, have a drink and something to eat in the Community Café, buy tickets for the Garden Open Day on 29th July, take part in the Fun Dog Show on September 17th, become a gym member, hire the hall for parties..... It's a great venue and it's right on your doorstep!

The office is staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-1.15pm. On Tuesday and Thursdays, it's 9am-3pm. 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.

*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/>*





## Notes from the House

It's happening. News finally came last week that the Boundary Commission confirmed their proposal to split North West Durham up into four separate constituencies, abolish the seat and displace me as your local MP.

While I knew it likely, given the previous iteration of the review, it was still deeply disappointing.

The towns and villages of North West Durham are my home. With the help of hardworking local Councillors, like Doug and Mike, I have campaigned relentlessly and successfully delivered for the people I have had the honour to represent. While it is an undeniably sad moment, it is a good opportunity to reflect on the achievements that have been made since you chose me to be your local Member of Parliament.

We have secured the new community hospital to replace Shotley Bridge, with tens of millions set to pour into a state-of-the-art facility around the corner from you. Across North West Durham there has been record investment in our local schools, but this has been felt particularly in Lanchester EP Primary, where I helped secure millions through the School Rebuilding Fund.

I signed off on £163 million for our region's buses, the highest of anywhere in the country. In addition to record jobs growth, falls in unemployment and in the benefits claimant count and more, there is a lot to be proud of.'

The link between constituents and local MP is one to be cherished, and it is not something I have taken for granted. While I've enjoyed leading changes to the law on landmark legislation, like banning so-called virginity testing, what I have enjoyed most is being out and about in North West Durham.

Through apprenticeships fairs down the road in Consett and Crook, public meetings where bus operators felt your fury, visiting schools, supporting local businesses, pensioners' fairs, constituent surgeries— I have been fortunate to see a unique cross-section of North West Durham.

Although it is sad news, it will not stop me working as hard as ever to deliver for you. You elected me to represent you until the next General Election, and no sooner will I stop. My popular summer surgery tour is upcoming, in which I will be in every town and village in North West Durham - including in Burnhope and Lanchester. Stay tuned to my Facebook page for the dates. It has been the privilege of my life to represent you. I will miss it dearly. But until the next general election I'm here for you 100%.

**Richard Holden**



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## Willow Burn Hospice

Once again local businessman Kristo, chef and owner of Ravello's restaurant, presents a cheque to the Willow Burn chairman Paul Jackson to help the good work and services carried out at the local hospice.

Work continues at his new restaurant, Rosa Luna, in the former Deanos premises which has been delayed by technical problems.



## WHAT'S ON

### WI

The next Lanchester WI meeting is Monday August 7th, Main Hall Community Centre at 7.00pm.

The speaker is Carol Dean talking about "Life in the 50's".

Visitors are always welcome to come along, meet friends and chat over tea and biscuits.

A coffee morning will be held on Friday 15th September, 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Community Centre. There will be several stalls including homemade cakes, scarves, jewellery and a raffle and bottle tombola to try your luck.

### City Theatre

The City Theatre Durham, DH1 3RA presents "LITTLE GEM" by Elaine Murphy, director Kate Lawrie (studio production) from 9-12 August at 7.30pm. Love, sex, birth, death and salsa classes. Three generations of women give a frank account of their lives over a year. (PLEASE NOTE humour and strong language. Adult material.) Tickets £8.50 from the Gala, Durham 03000266600, or [www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk](http://www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk) (follow the link) or on the door.

### Parish Church Summer Fayre

Saturday 22nd July, 10.00am - 12 noon £1.50, free drink and treat for children. Stalls will include cakes, jams, tombola, handcrafted goods, books and jigsaws, and a raffle.



## Lanchester Medical Group: Patient Participation Group - July 2023

At the June meeting of the group, representatives of Willow Burn Hospice were invited to tell the group about the hospice. Carol Hagri (Head of Clinical Services) and Rachel Todd (Head of Fundraising and Marketing) were guest speakers at the meeting, giving an in-depth and informative talk.

This article is the first of two which summarises what was discussed at the meeting.

**History-** Willow Burn Hospice was founded by Irene Mortimer and Valerie Davison who identified a gap in provision in Derwentside for people living with life limiting conditions.

**Today-** Local support for Willow Burn has continued through generous donations and the service has expanded to include in-patient care, Health and Wellbeing Centre, six-bedded hospice and a café. Here, patients and carers find peace and tranquillity when it is most needed; the hospice focuses on individual needs through the provision of high-quality care.

This year it will cost £1.4million to operate Willow Burn Hospice. It is a misconception that hospices are fully funded by the NHS, the hospice receives 44% of its funding from this source. For every £1 they spend, they need to raise 56p via community fundraising, retail, donations and grants.

### Guest speakers- How would you describe Willow Burn Hospice?

Willow Burn's role is to:

- treasure lives helping people living life limiting illness to live well though our day services and symptom management in the in-patient unit.
- to provide holistic support to achieve a good death.
- to support relatives and friends to live through and beyond bereavement through counselling and volunteer opportunities.

### How many day patients? Role of day care?

Willow Burn Day Service supports 10-12 people to live well at home, focusing on wellbeing and condition management in friendly group sessions on Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays.

We meet in the purpose-built Sir Tom Cowie Health and Wellbeing Centre, with designated treatments and therapy rooms, surrounded by beautiful gardens with views across Derwentside.

### How many in-patient beds?

Within the Helen McArdle wing, we have six individual rooms for in-patient care.

We manage symptoms and give emotional support through compassionate holistic care, towards and through end-of-life. Patients may be referred for symptom/ pain management to enable and support them to return home. All referrals are from a healthcare professional who is involved in their care, with an anticipated length of stay of approximately 15 days.

### How are patients admitted?

Patients for in-patient care, day services or bereavement counselling must be referred to Willow Burn Hospice by a healthcare professional. This can be a hospital doctor or nurse, or a member of the community team such as a district nurse, GP, or Macmillan Nurse.

*To be continued next month*



### Paradiso Film Night

There will be no film in August but we look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

### Lanchester Library Library Book Club

On Monday August 21st at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing 'How to stop Time' by Matt Haig, a Sunday Times Bestseller, 'An uplifting, time-hopping romance' (Waterstones). Will this book be a good holiday read? We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

### Thursday Book Club

On Thursday August 17th, from 5.30-6.30, the group will be reviewing 'A Gentlemen of Moscow' by Amor Towles. After the revolution a Count is ordered to stay in the Metropole Hotel, despite this limitation he has a very interesting life. I hope the group enjoys this 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 August 3rd from 10-11.30am. Bring along your wool, thread, needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Everyone welcome, enjoy.

### Scrabble Group

meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30 pm. Do you enjoy this word game and want to get on the Triple Word Square? Come along and enjoy the company.

**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.

### Musical Memories

Join us to enjoy music with a "Places" theme. 2nd August 2023 at 2PM

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](mailto:lanchesterdfc@gmail.com)

### Lanchester Methodist Church Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday between 10 and 12 in Lanchester Methodist Church. Who is running the August coffee mornings is not firmed up yet; if you would like to run a coffee morning on behalf of your organisation or charity, please ring Judith Brown 07947600415.

### Thursday Club

Our next meeting will not be in the Community Centre, we shall be off, going on our annual outing. Leaving the village at 10.45am from the bus stop near Cooplands, on July 20th.

### 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 August - Jade  
12th August - David Bryan  
19th August - Fred Chyke  
26th August - Lisa Marie  
All acts are subject to change at short notice. We open at 5pm on Fridays and Saturdays

### Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

The next meeting of the Friends will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th July, in the Community Centre. Please note that we will not be holding a meeting in August. Research is ongoing into various aspects of the Romans in the area, including the aqueduct at Longovicium and how it operated. The feature south west of the fort, historically identified as a reservoir, is probably not a reservoir and research is being conducted to determine what it might be. Further information is available from Mrs M. Williams, 01207 520063, or Rodney Hawkins at [hawkins\\_15@sky.com](mailto:hawkins_15@sky.com).

### 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](http://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 9th August and 23rd August). 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](mailto:hdbthomas@live.com)).

### Vintage Tractor Club

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

### Flower club

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th July 2023 at 1.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre Main Hall. All are welcome. Our demonstrator will be Heather Curry, her theme "Watch with Mother". We do not hold a meeting in August. The next meeting will then be Wednesday 27th September in Lanchester Community Centre Main Hall at 1.30 pm, the demonstrator is Wendy Smith, "Golden Anniversary". Please come and join us for a lovely, interesting and relaxing afternoon with old friends and maybe make new friends.

### Lunch Club

The next meeting of the lunch club held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 8th August 12pm start, all welcome.

### Willow Burn

Clarty Bairns | Throughout the summer  
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£11 | Fundraising  
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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. Sign up with Ali at [aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk](mailto:aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk) / 01207 529 224.

### History Society

The next meeting will be Friday 4th August however I have just had a cancellation so can't say who will be talking to us but I will find someone rest assured and will let everyone know via the email list when I know who it will be. 1st September meeting will be Paul Heatherington talking about the Revd John George Gibson, 1857-1927, rector of Ebchester and a talented self-publicist. Plus a quick AGM to keep the books right and let you know what happens to your money. New members to the committee would be welcome.

### Wildlife Group

There will be no meeting in August



## Lanchester Parish Council Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 7.00pm

**Minutes** – Annual Meeting, Ordinary Meeting 9 May – approved.

**Police Reports** – The PACT report for May was received.

### **Correspondence**

- **Northumbrian Water** – Benn Elsey is taking over from Clair Richardson

**Durham County Councillors** – An update was received on:

- The lease agreement for the Solar Planet Walk
- Malton Nature Reserve
- The broken fence at Victoria Terrace
- A meeting with enforcement officers

**Lanchester Cricket Club** – The Councillors were given an update on the signage situation.

**Kitswell Park Play Area** – Two more quotes are to be requested and then a decision is to be made.

**Supplementary Planning Documents Consultations** – Cllr. D Friesner to draft a response to two consultations – Draft Solar Energy and Parking and Accessibility

**Lanchester Solar Planet Walk** – Notes from the working meeting 19th April and 20th May were approved.

**Football Pitch** – Permission was granted to Durham County Football Club to use the pitch for their matches.

**Financial Year 2022/23 End of Year Accounts** – The Annual Governance Statement, accounting statement and the financial position for the end of the year were approved.

**Financial report** – approved.

**Accounts for Payment** – approved.



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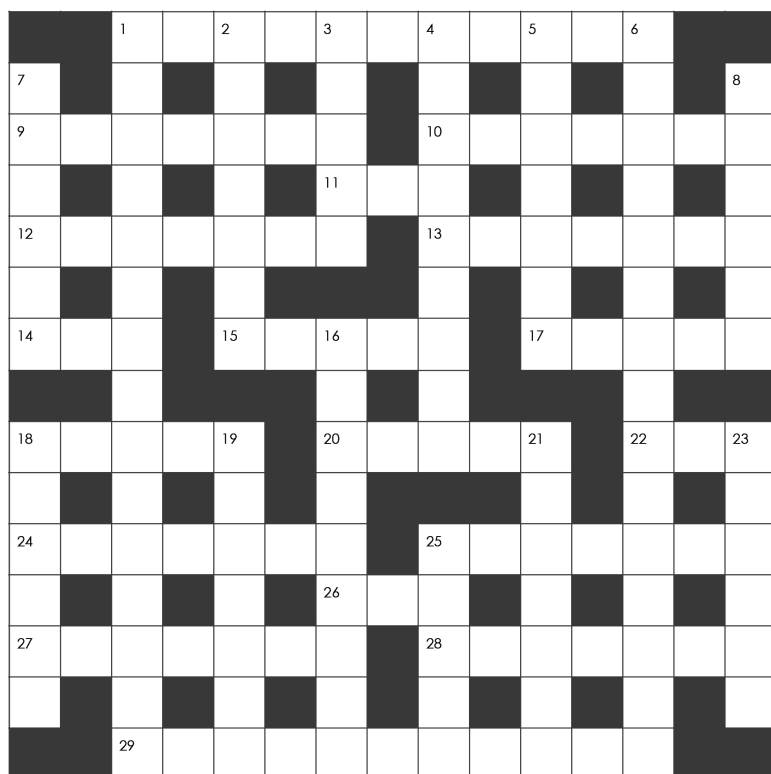
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## CLUES CROSSWORD 187



### Across

1. International tennis tournament (3,5,3)
9. Foes (7)
10. Brand of sticking plaster (4-3)
11. Meadow (3)
12. Ask (7)
13. Type of bird (7)
14. Type of beverage (3)
15. Colour worn by Robin Hood (5)
17. Stage name of Graham McPherson (5)
18. Type of musical theatre
20. Trap used in plumbing (1-4)
22. Worn on the head (3)
24. Term for the first letter of a name (7)
25. Shy (7)
26. Mr Levin, American novelist (3)
27. Final stage of a chess match (7)
28. French word used in English to mean 'newly arrived' (7)
29. Description of a popular hitch hiking route, a bit like our dictionaries (4, 7)

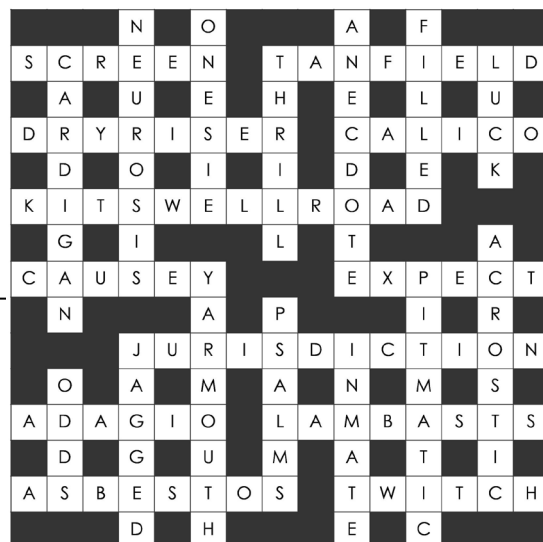
### Down

1. You might have looked through this when watching 'Play School' (3, 6, 6)
2. Preparing a text for publication (7)
3. Passageway (5)
4. Lack of proportion (9)
5. Savoury appetisers (7)
6. Courting several partners with out a firm commitment (7, 3, 5)
7. Win a victory over (6)
8. Short statements expressing general truths (6)
16. Cheerful and full of energy (9)
18. Dickensian character (6)
19. Mike Leigh wrote about her party (7)
21. Interrupt or worry (7)
23. Body of Jewish civil and ceremonial law (6)
25. Group of African languages (5)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by the **3rd August** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



### Winner of Crossword 186

There were 16 entries this month, 14 of which were correct.

The winner drawn out of the hat was **Sarah Sunley.**

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## All Saints' Primary School Lanchester

As I write this article, we are heading on a whole school trip to Druridge Bay tomorrow; the forecast is good, and we always have a wonderful time each year! When visitors come to All Saints', colleagues in education or prospective families, I always explain how we are a family, in more than name. The pupils and staff in All Saints' know and appreciate each other; we genuinely like to spend time together as a whole school, learning from each other, celebrating achievements and enjoying special experiences. Anyone is welcome to visit us and experience this – please just get in touch!

In a number of days, as part of our Health Week, our Sports Day will take place on our great school field. Families are invited for the afternoon and in the morning, all pupils work together, in their House Teams (Aidan, Bede, Cuthbert and Hilde). Our youngest pupils to our oldest work together and support each other. Our House Values (perseverance, learning, peace and wisdom) are in abundance when the Houses are together.

Last week, we had a wonderful summer fayre. Apart from raising an outstanding profit of £1821.63, our whole community was treated to a range of stalls and entertainment. Our Year Six students worked hard to plan, set up and lead stalls for others

to enjoy, helping to raise money for school funds. As Head Teacher, it was a moment of pride to hear numerous families and visitors compliment the Year Six children on their manners, sportsmanship and positivity that they showed our community (particularly our youngest children).

Family is important; in my opinion, it is actually the most important thing in the world. All Saints' is built on family, community and love. We never take for granted our unique, thriving school family. On that note, we all hope you, and the people you love, have a safe, happy and productive summer... see you in September!

**Frances Stephenson**  
**Head Teacher**



## Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of another academic year. This time of year is always emotional as we say goodbye to some of our oldest children. Our Year 6 children have spent 7 years with us being nurtured, loved, educated, and supported. We are so proud of the super young people they have turned into and delight in the knowledge that they have had some great experiences at our school and leave us ready for their next step into the big wide world! Good luck and all the best to each and every one of them!

However, this year, we are also saying goodbye to one of our most experienced and long-standing teachers, Mrs Helen Startup, who has been at our school for 34 years. I know many of you will have passed through the caring hands of Mrs Startup, either as pupils or as parents. She started at Lanchester E.P. School as teaching assistant back in 1989 and was just a complete natural. In 2008, she decided the time was right to train as a teacher – her dream job! At that time, training on the job was still fairly unique but we realised she had great potential and the governing body agreed to allow her to do just that. What a great decision that was! She repaid our commitment to her by teaching for the next 14 years at our school.

Mrs Startup is passionate about every single child in her care. She wants the best for all the children, is highly dedicated and committed and she has ensured that all the children make some excellent progress under her direction. She has been responsible for leading the Rotakids and Eco Rangers for many years too and has done so with such great dedication and enthusiasm!

Mrs Startup will be a huge miss to us all – parents, staff, and pupils alike. However, I know she has lots of plans for her retirement and know you will join with us all in wishing her a very long and very happy retirement. Thank you, Mrs Startup, – you have worked so hard – now enjoy a rest!

**Mrs Jane Davis**  
**Head Teacher**



Above: Mrs Startup who will be a huge miss to everyone at the E.P. School



## Cricket Club

*We have opened our 'Hall of Fame' where plaques recognising the contributions of individuals to the club over the past 50 years will be displayed on the walls of the club. Here are our first five inductees.*

### George Wilkinson

A founder member of the club and Chairman for many years. George continues to be a loyal worker and supporter of the club. Now in his early eighties George rarely misses matches whether they are home or away. George's continuing willingness to generously support many projects is greatly appreciated by the club.

### Bob Gardiner

Bob joined Lanchester in 1993 and immediately felt at home, so much so he moved his family to Kitswell Road. Bob made immense contributions to the club, whilst playing, establishing a third team, and also in leading several successful Junior teams. He proudly played with both sons Alan and Andrew and Alma his wife was always there to help and support him and the club.

### Billy Young

From the 1970s for over four decades Billy was a very active club member. Initially as Treasurer and later as an outstanding scorer, which was recognised as he regularly scored for inter league matches. All of Billy's family (Jean his wife, and children, Jeff, Karen, and Andrew) played active roles in the club. One of his more popular successes was an annual tour match at Skipton, with a reverse match at Lanchester.

### Bill Underwood

Bill became involved with the club when his son Paul played Junior and Senior cricket. Bill soon became involved with the club and his major role was as Club Steward. For fifteen years Bill was the welcoming face at the club. He was respected by all club members and only retired from the position at the time of COVID and is now spending more time with his wife Pauline.

### Billy Bell

An experienced fast bowler who had previously played in the Northumberland Senior League. Living in Lanchester Billy switched allegiances and in 1974 joined his local club. His contributions with ball and aggressive batting enabled the team to achieve instant success. He was supported by his wife Pat and son Steven who in turn played for the Juniors. Until illness Billy regularly watched home matches.

## Lanchester Bowling Club

### What's a Hotshot? A Great Shot

June has been an extremely busy month for the bowls club with league matches continuing in all six leagues we are involved in as well as a couple of cup games. Some members have also been playing in pairs and triples competitions organised by the leagues with varying degrees of success, on top of in our own club run competitions.

The sunny June weather has firmed up the greens and helped us to play the matches although, ironically, two of the Derwentside League Tuesday games had to be cancelled because of rain!

It's been a mixed month for results. In the Derwentside League, Lanchester remains mid-table in both the rinks and triples leagues. Some progress has been made in the Saturday and Wednesday evening NW Durham leagues, although White-le-Head did knock us out of the cup. Our two teams in the South West Durham League have continued to travel the County. The B team sit third in division two having dropped off the pace slightly in recent weeks, whilst the A team still fills the bottom spot of division one despite breaking their duck by beating Cockton Hill. Beating division one opposition in the first round, the B team progressed to the second round before succumbing to one of the best teams in the league.

Rinks bowls is played by a four man team bowling two woods each so the maximum score possible on one end is eight. This is known as a hotshot and is the equivalent of a 147 in snooker or a nine darter. This month one of our rink's teams - David Friesner, John Sanderson, Adrian Evans and Richard Hall - achieved this feat against Leadgate and await their certificates. Well done, lads!

Sadly, June saw the passing of two of our members: Roy Stewart, a former member and friend of the club, and Gordon Laurie a current member. Both will be sadly missed and will be remembered with a minute's applause before our games on Wednesday 5th July.

Finally eight new players took the opportunity to begin learning the game in June, two of whom have already played in league matches. If you wish to try out bowls now is a good time to learn - quick rinks and good weather. What more could you ask for? Come along to the bowling green on a Thursday at 1.45. All you need is to wear flat soled shoes and you'll be made more than welcome.

**Bob Cuthbertson**



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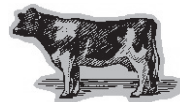
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## Cricket News

The great news is that the first team sit proudly on top of Division 1 with four straight wins in the month. Willington were dispatched for just 91, Pasindu taking 3-20 and then 16 year old Ethan Connolly scored an unbeaten 42 in the 8 wicket win. Crook were next, Lanchester declaring on 224 with Kieran Gohery and Luke McCabe both scoring 58. After being 103-0, Crook were then dismissed for 175, Callum Barnes and Kieran Gohery taking four wickets each. Seaham Park were then dismissed for 175 with Kieron Taylor taking 5-41 and Kieran Gohery top scoring with 51 in the 3 wicket win. Most recently, Washington were bowled out for 96, all five bowlers taking wickets again but Pasindu scooped 4-31.

The second team have won three of the four month's matches and sit in fourth spot. Against Willington, Ben Rayner had 3-22 and John McGilvray scored a maiden senior league half century finishing unbeaten on 63. In a 2 wicket win over Seaham Park, Ibs Khan took four wickets before Jack Slane with 71 and Jack Ramshaw 44 saw the team home. Jack Slane then scored 72 against Washington with 50 by Josh Cottom. Five bowlers picked up wickets in the 31 run win, Cameron Metcalfe taking three.

The thirds fielding very young sides have lost their three matches this month. Jack Ledger was unbeaten on 34 against Crook, Toby Somersall took three wickets against Willington with John McGilvray scoring 45. Bailey Allison batted through the innings for 51 out of 120 against Eppleton. Jack Morris and Joe Malone took three wickets each in the 4 wicket defeat.

Sadly, in May, former member Ian Hole passed away but his son Craig who played here wanted a legacy for his Dad and has bought a seat to go on the ground and a trophy for the Junior presentation night.

We thank him and mourn the loss of Ian.

### Junior Cricket

First a quick reminder that our Dynamos programme is due to start on August 1st and is 4 two hour sessions over a two week period. It is for 9-11 year olds and you can sign up through Club Spark.

Late June and still our under 18s are chomping at the bit to play. They have had their first two matches rained off, seems like no one wants us to play.

The 15s on the other hand have played 5 matches since the last report, winning a cup semi final with Annfield Plain to set up a final with Burnopfield. Batting, Toby Somersall retired on 52 and Mae Deaville had an unbeaten 39 in scoring a season best of 146. They won by 12 runs with Mae also the pick of the bowlers taking 3-13 and Fergus Foster took 2-14. Two matches have been absolute nailbiters beating Shotley Bridge off the final ball and losing at Blaydon off the final ball. At Shotley, James Leary made his 50, whilst at Blaydon Nathan Watson with 4-6 and Fin Burnett with 2-4 almost pulled off the win.

The under 13s continue to exceed expectations and won both matches that got played beating Consett and Beamish. Against Consett in the 5 wicket win, Daniel Finlay took 3-13 and Jay Rushton scored an unbeaten 27. Against Beamish in a 6 wicket win, Jay Rushton took 4-8 and Nathan Watson 3-6 before Lenny Rushton, Daniel Finlay and Nathan Watson all got 20s to wrap up the win. The under 11s beat Blaydon and Greenside but lost to Leadgate and Burnopfield.

**Andrew McConnell**

## Tennis Club News

Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club held two of their annual events in June and July.

Firstly, the barbeque took place on Saturday 10th June and was greeted with superb weather and a new barbecue to boot! The cooks performed heroics in the heat to produce terrific BBQ fare for over 50 adults and children to enjoy. During the event, the club unveiled a new storage shed, which had been very kindly donated by one of the member's grandmothers and appropriately named after her, "Betty's Shed". The picture shows Betty's two great grandchildren, Jessica and Abigail, unveiling the shed.

On the second of July, members and guests held their Strawberry Tea. Held to coincide with the Wimbledon championships, this year's event attracted over 40 adults and children who enjoyed strawberries and cream and a cooling glass of Pimm's or elderflower cordial. Thanks are extended to all the volunteers who worked hard behind the scenes preparing these events and the pictures show members and guests enjoying the strawberry tea.

On the coaching front, numbers attending are high, with the adult group now fully subscribed. The purchase of a new ball machine has been achieved with the help of a contribution from the Area Action Partnership, and the club would like to thank the partnership for their continued support. A modern, multi-function machine, it enables players to practise and improve, alone or in groups, without the need for a coach to "feed" the balls to them.

Both teams, mixed and ladies got off to a winning start at Burnmoor and Wylam respectively.

**As always, if any further information is required about the club, please don't hesitate to contact Dennis on 07960494442 or email [den.lizjane@gmail.com](mailto:den.lizjane@gmail.com) or follow us on Facebook.**  
**Dennis Laycock**

*Right: Jessica and Abigail help Dennis with the unveiling of Betty's Shed  
Below: Members and guests enjoy the strawberry tea.*



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