

# the Village Voice

Issue No 6, Volume 23

Lanchester, June 2023



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# Volunteer for Lanchester, with the Lanchester Partnership

## Annual celebration get together, and AGM

There is an open invitation for anyone in the village to call in to our open morning on Saturday 1st July. We've organised a Partnership Brunch which will be held in the new Community Café at the Lanchester Community Centre. This will be followed later in the morning by our Annual General Meeting. Events kick off at 10.30am with refreshments (including free bacon butties, coffee, tea and juice) and an opportunity to meet with trustees and working group leads. There will be displays about the work we have undertaken in the village during the course of the last year and a chance for people to think about how they might like to get involved with our projects even in a small way.

County councillors and a representative of the mid Durham Area Action partnership will be in attendance. Over the last year they have been very helpful in enabling us to attract grant funding for voluntary activities which support village life.

In the last twelve months alone we have:

- *Funded and helped to organise the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations*
- *Organised the Lanchester Family Fun Run*
- *Re-opened the Paradiso Club (Film Club)*
- *Held a Ceilidh*
- *Organised a successful funding campaign (including a race night at Crinnions) to maintain the Village Link Bus against a background of very severe rises in costs*
- *Organised the annual village litter pick through our Environment Group and the Lanchester Wombles*
- *Held a very well attended seminar about the selecting the most appropriate type of electric vehicle*
- *Opened our wonderful Community Orchard on several occasions to local people and outsiders including asylum seekers*
- *Responded to planning applications which fundamentally affect the village*
- *Coordinated a successful funding application on behalf of Churches Together and the Community Centres in Lanchester Burnhope to set up six "Warm Spaces"*
- *Continued to support activities to promote knowledge about the Roman Fort*

**Everyone in the village is welcome to call in from 10.30am. We'd love to see you there.**



Top: Volunteers providing company and conversation at one of our Warm Spaces  
Above: Young volunteers from the Lanchester Wombles clearing litter from the Village  
Left: Volunteers explaining how to build a bug hotel at the Coronation Event at the Community Orchard

## LWUG Inaugural Rally

Saturday 27th May saw the first ride-out of the Lanchester Wheelchair User Group. We exist to give a voice to everyone with safety, access or mobility concerns in and around the village – you don't have to be a wheelchair user to join us!

This was the first time most of us met and we came from all over the village riding our various machines ranging from Mary in her fully road-legal Class 3 scooter to Liane in her hard-core manual wheelchair with no power-assistance. Nigel's power chair broke down thankfully before we met so avoided becoming stranded!

Apart from the beautiful weather it was great to be with like-minded people who share the same problems and concerns about access in the village. We know that many buildings are old and wheelchairs won't fit - that's okay – but where a business has made "reasonable accommodation" for wheelchair users then we want to promote that business and shout "Yay" and say "Thank you".

After a trundle up and down Front Street, where there was much discussion about the lack of pedestrian dropped kerbs (they're virtually all for vehicles) and the difficulties camber and slopes present to different members of the group including the alley access to the Community Centre, we all then finished with a refreshing beverage and so our first big



"Yay" and "thank you" goes to the staff and management of the Kings Head who accommodated us magnificently. Our next rally / ride / roll / wheel is Saturday 24th June on the green from 2 to 4pm where we hope you'll join us and maybe try the 'wheelchair experience' for yourself.

**Glen Collins**

**PS Lanchester Wheelchair Use Group (aka LWUG) has a Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lanchesterwheelchairusergroup>**

**Contact details via e-mail: [lwug2023@gmail.com](mailto:lwug2023@gmail.com)**

**Co-founders: Liane Collins, Nigel Burns, Glen Collins**

**Admin: Glen Collins**



## Wildlife notes

### Roe Deer

The 'rare' Roe? Sightings are infrequent and more reason to admire Ian Appleby's photos. "I know they are here, but I never see them", I hear locals comment. In the 18th century, they weren't here. Hunted since prehistoric times, they became extinct in England, Southern Scotland and Wales. They have spread back from Scotland and re-introductions in East Anglia and Dorset. Still exploited as game, acts of parliament impose closed seasons on hunting.

Roe are the only deer species found in our area. They moult from grey/brown winter coats to a tan colour, have a white/cream rump patch (shape differs between males and females) and a distinctive black moustache stripe. Females usually have a tuft of hairs on their rear (not a tail). Males grow antlers from buds over winter, the velvet rubbed off for spring, dropped by December.

They are most active at dawn and dusk, but feed at any time of day. Occurring in woodlands (particularly woodland edges), arable land, heathland, even urban/garden settings. Unlike

Red Deer (our other 'native' species) they are solitary, forming small groups in winter. The fawns remain with the doe until the following breeding season. Females are more tolerant of siblings or young close to their range. During early spring into summer, you might hear a strange 'barking' sound from the woods, a male Roe proclaiming his territory. 'Barking' is also an 'alarm' call.

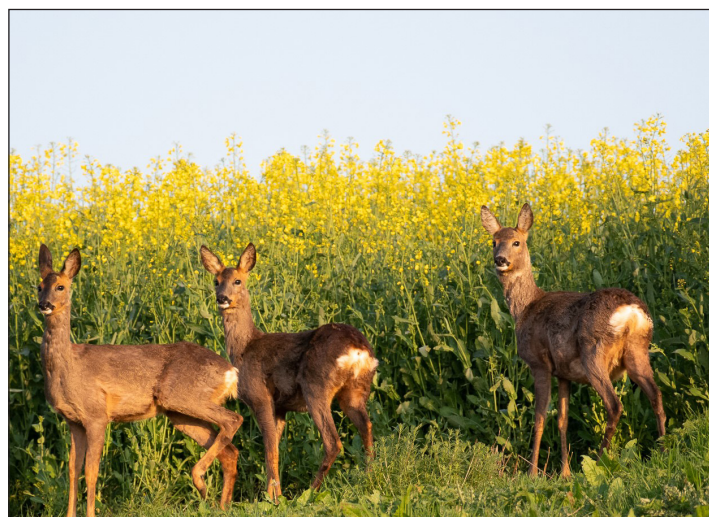
The rut is from mid-July through August. The female holds fertilised eggs in her uterus, undeveloped until January (delayed implantation). Fawns are born mid-May/June, up to three, dappled with white spots/stripes for camouflage whilst lying in vegetation.

Deer have no native predators, so population management can maintain a sustainable, healthy population and protect the surrounding environment from over browsing, particularly the understorey of native woodland and commercial interests of farmers/foresters.

#### ***Our Wildlife Correspondent***

**We are featuring these superb photographs taken by local photographer Ian Appleby.**

We have more of his photographs for later editions.



*Roe deer captured on camera by local photographer Ian Appleby.*





## My Journey to Recovery From Cancer – a warning about the dangers of too long spent in the sun.

It was back in February this year that I noticed a strange lump on my right forearm, but only thought it would end up being a cyst. Following an ultrasound scan the week after Easter at Durham University Hospital, I was quite amazed to be referred to the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle for a biopsy, especially as the ultrasound result showed up inconclusive.

The following week I was shocked to receive a telephone call to be informed that early results showed signs of cancer.

Following this, I had an MRI Scan. The type of cancer I have been told I have got is a myxofibrosarcoma, which is a cancer that begins in the connective tissue, it tends to happen in the arms and legs. MFS, as it is known for short, starts as a growth of cells that can grow into healthy body tissue and might cause a lump under the skin that grows slowly but is not often painful.

While I await the news of the CT scan to find out if the cancer has spread, at the same appointment to get the result, I will have a pre-operation assessment. I will then begin two stages to have the cancer removed.

Stage One: On Monday 5th June, I go to the RVI Hospital in Newcastle, I will either be put to sleep

or just have my arm numbed. I will have the operation to have the lump/cancer removed, and have to stay in overnight. My arm will have dressings put on it but the wound will be left open, this is so the doctors can determine they have been successful in removing all the cancer. It will remain like this for one to two weeks, during which time I will have to have my dressings changed every two days. Stage Two: After one to two weeks, I will then go for the second and final stage. This operation will be the one in which my arm is reconstructed by taking a bit of skin from another area of my body and putting it on my arm. After this, I will need to spend a week in hospital and also have rehabilitation.

As things stand, I have been told that I luckily don't require any chemotherapy or radiotherapy, pending the result of the CT scan.

***Please everyone, be aware of the dangers of the very hot sun in the coming weeks and get, if possible, a factor 50 sun lotion.***

**Lee Morris**

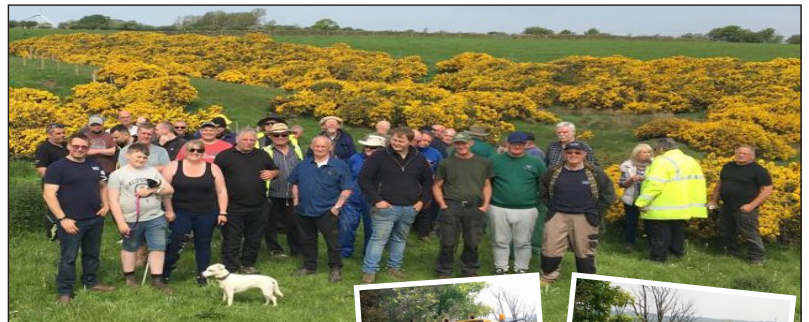


## Tractor Rally

The Lanchester Vintage Tractor Club held a rally on May 21st at Dyke Nook. This is one of a series of rallies which the club organise to raise funds for charities. Over 40 tractors took part in the rally which started at West Newbiggin Farm and called at the Roman Dam at Dyke Nook.

The dam is a very important historical feature as it is one of two sources of water for the Roman fort in Lanchester, the other being a spring at Sawmill Wood. The water flowed via channels and two aqueducts to the fort. The dam, which is 3.5 miles from the fort, is the oldest arch dam in the world and the only remaining Roman arch dam in the world.

***Quite unique!***



Above: The tractor club at the dam.

Right: Forty tractors took part in the rally.



## Lanchester Flower Club

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

Lanchester Flower Club enjoyed a lovely afternoon on Wednesday 24th May celebrating their 50th anniversary in the lovely Garden Room at the Derwent Manor Hotel. We all had a lovely meal, enjoyed a couple of quizzes and a raffle of the table flower arrangements.

Then lots of laughter and chatter.

Helen Tomlinson, our founder member, was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. She made a lovely speech saying how she has loved being a member of Lanchester Flower Club and looks forward to her next 50 years!!! That sure is positivity Helen.

A big thank you to all the efficient and pleasant staff at the Royal Derwent who looked after us all so well.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 26th July at 1.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator will be Heather Curry and the theme will be "Watch with Mother".

***Everyone is welcome so come and join us.***





## Lanchester WI

29 members and one visitor attended a lovely meeting on Monday 8th May to celebrate the Coronation. Marie, our president, updated us with future events: cookie decoration on 24th May, summer outing to Hartlepool Marina, and "painting for the terrified" in September.

Members were also asked to indicate if they are willing to help out at events and meetings when needed. Ann Carr read out a poem written by a WI member about joining the WI and the friendships they made. We then sang the National Anthem.

Raffle prizes were donated by Janis Suddis and Maisie Raine, the lucky winners were Tina Naples, Maisie Raine and Brenda Branscombe. A buffet supplied by members was enjoyed while trying to identify royal babies in a quiz. Next a lively game of card bingo was played which everyone enjoyed.

*Tracey Dobson*



## Local Lacemakers Create Unique Bunting

For their 2023 members' competition, local group Northumbria Lacemakers enjoyed a fitting theme of "bunting" as part of the coronation festivities. Members were tasked with making a piece of lace to fit inside a predetermined bunting flag size and shape, to be submitted and judged at the group's Lace Day and AGM on 20th May 2023.

Northumbria Lacemakers' presiding Chair Diana Blackburn announced the winners on the day and presented the Junior trophy to new member Libby Brooks. The overall winner in 1st place was Marina Callaghan, and the group's prized Louise Earnshaw trophy (a beautiful wooden piece created for the group by Derek Earnshaw) was presented to Marina by Louise herself.

The competition entries featured 27 wonderful examples of unique handmade lace, in a number of different styles and colours (pictured). Pieces included a colourful butterfly, a St Cuthbert's cross and a lace version of St Mary's Lighthouse complete with seagulls.

The bunting will now be sewn together to create an attractive visual display to represent the group at future lacemaking demonstrations and other events.

### Winners:

**1st place – Marina Callaghan**

**2nd place – Helen Purvis**

**3rd place – Margaret Corbett**

**Junior winner – Libby Brooks**

The group brings together lacemakers from across the north east right up to Berwick-upon-Tweed and welcomes new members of all skill levels from absolute beginners to experienced lacemakers. Lace Day meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of every month (except August and December) and the group welcomes visitors and would be delighted to hear from anyone with an interest in this beautiful heritage craft. (The group meets regularly in the Lanchester Community Centre. Please check our What's On pages for details.)

For further information, visit [www.northumbrialace.org.uk](http://www.northumbrialace.org.uk), email [northumbrialacemakers@hotmail.com](mailto:northumbrialacemakers@hotmail.com) or visit the Northumbria Lacemakers page on Facebook.



## Monday Art Club

Members of the Monday Art Club had a very pleasant morning recently painting and sketching outdoors, in lovely May weather, at Brancepeth Church.

Most of our efforts were focused on the church itself, which has been beautifully restored after suffering a disastrous fire.

Afterwards the group had lunch together in the octagonal room in Brancepeth Castle which is very close by. It was such a good day we may do it again!

**If you are interested in joining the art group, you will be very welcome. Contact [tojimrafferty@yahoo.com](mailto:tojimrafferty@yahoo.com)**

**Jim Rafferty**



## Tennis-a-thon

### Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club are taking on the Tennis-a-thon this July to support families facing dementia.

Dementia UK is the specialist dementia nurse charity. The nurses, called Admiral Nurses, provide life-changing care to families affected by all forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease.

If you would like to support our effort to play continuously from 11am-5pm on the 23rd July, please come along and cheer us on, or alternatively we have a dedicated JustGiving page set up for donations:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lanchester-lawn-tennis-club](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lanchester-lawn-tennis-club)

**Thank you!**  
**LLTC**



## Remembering

### Obituary, Brenda Winifred Craddock 22 September 1938 to 19 April 2023

Brenda Craddock moved to Lanchester in 1972 with her husband Stephen and baby daughter Philippa, joined the year after by her second daughter Stephanie. For 51 years she has been active throughout the Lanchester community, particularly with the All Saints church family where she ran the Sunday School for 27 years, led the Church Wives Group for c.50 years, organised weekly church room lunches, was a member of the Parochial Church Council, a Lay minister and on the Deanery Synod.

In her professional life, she had a true vocation, initially as a primary school teacher after qualifying in 1957 with a distinction in Education Principles and Practice. She worked in two Newcastle schools before having children. She took on the extra challenge of a secondary school in 1978, eventually becoming Head of Religious Education at Tanfield Comprehensive until retirement in 1998 following treatment for a brain haemorrhage. During her school life she was much loved by teachers and pupils alike, particularly her choir 'The Christian Singers'. Despite her small stature and sunny demeanour, she was still able to square up to the most unruly teenagers to get them to behave.

Following retirement in 1998 she used her time to gain new skills and learn, including graduating with a degree in Religious Studies from Newcastle University at the age of 62. Among other things, she learned to play the euphonium in the Lanchester Brass Band, took art and writing classes and wrote for the Village Voice.

She was born and raised in the High Heaton area of Newcastle and her strong connection to the area was clear in a series of novellas she wrote between 2016 and 2021 that included detailed accounts of the history of Newcastle. Proceeds of the sale of the books were donated to charity, adding to the tens of thousands she has raised over the years for The Children's Society as a local representative. Nearly £700 was also raised at her funeral.

Her 84 years of life were full of service to others, but many remember her most for her kind blue eyes, her infectious smile, her joy in life and her wonderful outfits. She was a stylish lady and spent countless hours in the shops of Newcastle and London pursuing her passion for fashion.

Brenda died at Willow Burn Hospice overlooking the village she loved. Brenda's death will be mourned by the hundreds of people whose lives she touched, not least her loving husband Stephen, her devoted daughters Philippa and Stephanie, and adoring grandchildren Annabel and Adam. Her funeral on 17 May was attended by close to 200 people, in person and by Zoom, and the Church Wives Group and Mothers Union performed a guard of honour for her at the entrance to the All Saints Church.

**Stephanie Martin nee Craddock**



### Christian aid

Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to Christian Aid week 2023. The coffee morning raised £324.58; the Swish evening £512; a retiring collection at the Coronation service, held at the Parish church, raised £396.18; together with other sundry donations of 184.05, raised a grand total of £1416.81.

**Thank you one and all!**

**Judith Brown**



### A retirement thank you from All Saints R.C. Church

All Saints R.C. Church would like to wish Rosemary Armstrong a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Rosemary has worked for over seven years as the Administrative Secretary at the church Presbytery office doing a multitude of different jobs. Some of the parishioners who do many volunteer roles in the church, and who have worked closely with Rosemary, popped into the Presbytery and surprised Rosemary on her last day and we all enjoyed a lovely cake and cuppa together.

Front row: Father Charles, Jean Suddess, Rosemary Wilson, Julie Leckenby, Mary Pitt  
back row Alan Kelly and Deacon Peter Smith.



## The Big Help Out Day

It might have been the wettest day of the Coronation weekend, but it didn't dampen the spirits of those families and local villagers who made their way on bikes or foot to the Big Help Out Day. The Lanchester Partnership hosted the event in the Community Orchard, leading people up from the village centre by following the "Bees to the Trees". The orchard looked splendid, wearing its best spring blossom and adorned with bunting and a newly erected flag pole.

About 20 children and even more adults came and participated in the activities: making bug hotels with members of the Wildlife Group; digging, wheel barrowing and building a new coronation bench at the top of the orchard; painting ladybird pebbles; and skipping and wandering around the orchard to complete their treasure hunt. There were plants and seeds to swap and blackcurrant jam available made with fruit from the orchard. Well done to everyone, but particularly Chris and Henry, who put the work in to make this an enjoyable and successful day.



Top left: Flag in the rain  
Top right: Seed and plant swap  
Above: Bug hotel  
Above right: Coronation bench  
Far right: Painting pebbles

## Changes proposed to the County Council Divisions

The Local Government Boundary Commission has been reviewing the local authority divisions in County Durham and these will affect the way in which Lanchester is represented within the Durham County Council.

The purpose of an electoral review is to examine and propose new electoral arrangements for a local authority. They propose how many councillors are needed, how many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called, and how many councillors should represent each ward or division.

When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations: improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents, ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity, providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government. They try to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making their recommendations.

Currently the Lanchester Ward is represented by two County Councillors and the ward goes as far as Muggleswick and Wakerley in the west and Holmside in the east. Under the new proposals, the new Lanchester Ward will essentially constitute Lanchester and Burnhope parishes and Maiden Law will become part of the Consett North ward. The Lanchester ward will be represented by one councillor in the future.

Councillor Doug Oliver has commented "Mike (McGaun) and I are currently reviewing the proposals, but our biggest concern at the moment is the removal of Maiden Law from Lanchester ward and putting it into Consett North, which we don't feel is a natural fit."

The full document, and how to comment, is available on the Commission's website [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk).

The direct link is: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/county-durham>.

**The closing date for comments is 10th July 2023.**



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## News from All Saints Parish Church

As the country celebrated the coronation, so did All Saints! The beginning of May saw us holding a coronation lunch in the Chapter House. As you can see, the Chapter House looked suitably patriotic, and over 40 guests sat down to delicious plates of salmon or ham, salad and new potatoes. The Eton mess that followed stuck to the red, white and blue theme, and was made by our team in the Lower Vestry!

On 7th May All Saints hosted one of our Churches Together Songs of Praise- this one entitled 'Sing for the King'! A full church sang hymns based on the theme of service woven throughout the Coronation liturgy, with accompaniment by the Lanchester Brass band, appearances by the Lanchester Choral society, the EP school choir, and a magnificent scratch choir and music group. A retiring collection raised over £300 for Christian Aid (*front cover photograph*).

Sarah, Bishop of Jarrow, came to Burnhope on 23rd May to bless and commission a new banner for the school made by the children. Supported by banners from the Morrison Banner Group, Craghead and Southmoor, we had great fun parading from school to church, and returned to a picnic in the school grounds.

And finally- an appeal for your support. Our Curate, Rev'd Stephen Martin, writes; 'On Saturday 8th July 2023 Anne Whiteley and I will throw ourselves out of a plane from 15k to help raise much-needed funds for two local charities which offer an amazing service to our area, Willow Burn Hospice in Lanchester, and St Cuthbert Hospice, Durham. We are personally covering the cost of the skydive meaning every penny generously sponsored will be shared equally between both charities.

Sadly, many don't realise the wealth of support offered by hospices until they require their services; this care and support is offered not only to the individual but extended to their loved ones. For more information on Willow Burn and St Cuthbert's please do look at their websites and thank you from both of us for your support.' You can find Stephen and Anne's GoFundMe page by visiting our Lanchester Parish Church Facebook page- or if you pop in to church you'll find a sponsorship form there. We'll let you know how the skydive goes in a future issue of the Village Voice...

**Rev'd Lesley Sutherland**



Right: Sarah,  
Bishop of Jarrow



Below: Anne Whiteley,  
Rev'd Stephen Martin



## Thursday Club - May 18th meeting in the community centre

The Kiddars Luck trio, who are almost all Geordie guys, (one is from just north from here but is now well localised), entertained us with a variety of songs based around mining, sailing, allotments, and life generally.

There was much toe tapping and humour and banter and as we joined in with some of the songs and choruses, we were praised for our harmonies. There were familiar songs, "The Blaydon Races" and "Keep your feet still Geordie hinny" and many more songs and tunes.

The guys played guitars, tin whistle, and banjo expertly and sang in harmony. Colin wrote some songs which were funny, with familiar themes. His story telling about the Ringtons man was a great hit. Mike sang the song Clementine to an alternative but familiar tune, and John picked Northumbrian rants on the banjo with the whistle accompaniment. Their harmonies and playing were wonderful and made for a very enjoyable afternoon.

We had tea and biscuits in the interval and then the time flew until it was time to go.

**Jan Vasey**

Below: The Kiddars Luck trio



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## Ladies who lunch

It's a while since we've been, but last time out we made the journey to the middle of Ebchester Bank to visit the Derwent Walk Inn. The weather was amazing, as were the views from the windows  
- it was all looking good!

The staff were most welcoming, and we were soon settled with what turned out to be a really good menu - very varied - we were quite literally spoilt for choice. There was a two-course traditional roast Sunday lunch, all week, a main menu, a light and low menu - all dishes coming in under 400 calories. There was a grill, jackets, sandwiches, and burgers. Quite a number of dishes could come as a half portion - ideal for smaller appetites.

The service was excellent, the plates really hot - we were soon sampling piping hot meals.

Starter was delicious homemade vegetable and lentil soup.

Mains were: braised lambs liver and onions with crispy bacon in a red wine gravy with mash and vegetables (a light and low option!); Thai Katsu chicken curry with coconut milk, chillies and garlic with rice and chips; chilli con carne served with rice, spiced potato wedges and sour cream; pan roasted pork loin steak in a creamy peppercorn sauce with crisp battered black pudding served with fresh veg and mash; mince and dumplings with potatoes and vegetables; tandoori chicken tikka masala curry infused with cream and mango chutney served with rice and chips and garlic naan bread.

Desserts were Belgian waffles with butterscotch sauce, cream and ice cream, and ice cream.

It's been quite a while since we've been out, and everyone has enjoyed every single thing that has been ordered. We were most impressed! If the Gourmet Girls gave out stars from 1-5, the Derwent Walk would have received 5. 5. 5

recurring. To be recommended and we shall most definitely be going again!

## The Gourmet Girls



## Police Report

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

This month, due to intelligence provided by the public, a warrant was conducted at an address near Kitswell Road where a cannabis grow was located within the property.

Officers worked with Northern Powergrid to make the property safe, at which point CSI took over and looked for forensic opportunities. The grow was quickly dismantled and disposed of. A great result.

Increasing reports have been received around the quality of parking particularly around Millfield and Kitswell Road, particularly around school pick up and drop off time. Parents are again reminded to park considerately for the residents in appropriate areas and off road parking so as to not prevent access to properties or access to pavements. Thank you.

*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**

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## Dear Village...



### Dear Village Voice,

The family of the late Allan Rowe would like to take this opportunity to thank family and friends for their continued support and love when Allan suddenly died. To name a few: Stuart Wright Funeral Directors, Cyril Robinson, David Williams, and the ladies from Annfield Plain Chapel for looking after us at the wake - and many more.

The family paid their tribute to Allan by wearing shorts and it was lovely to see so many people joining us in this tribute; a work colleague wore his kilt - very fitting. As many will know Allan wore his shorts in all weathers doing his paper round in various parts of the village. £200 was collected at the funeral, split between Great North Air Ambulance and Deerness Kennels, Durham. His dog Storm will be coming to live with me and Harris in Leadhills, Scotland.

Huge thank you again from Ann, Barnaby, Zoe, Storm, and Harris Rowe.

**Ann Rowe**

### Dear Village Voice,

Green energy for all.

I believe that the people of Lanchester are very keen on good, planet saving green energy, but at what cost does this come? In our area we have solar panel farms at Morrison Busty, Burnhope, Upper Houses, and Greencroft - there is currently another one being considered. We are also surrounded by over 30 wind turbines. It could be said that we are approaching saturation point, with little or no benefit to our local communities.

Reviewing the technical information on these two forms of green energy it is obvious that wind turbines are almost twice as efficient as solar farms.

One of the recent developments in the UK is to have community groups working together for a common goal such as purchasing and running a community pub. Many people join forces in these not-for-profit companies to support their local community for the long term.

Currently there are a few individuals looking at how it could be possible for a small sustainable "green energy" wind turbine scheme to work for the benefits of the Lanchester population.

**M Carr**

## Brenda Beveridge Wills and Trusts Gives Gift of Day Care to Willow Burn Hospice this week

In 2022, Brenda Beveridge Wills & Trusts Ltd committed to supporting Willow Burn Hospice by matching any donations made by clients to the charity. So far Brenda and Karen have raised £665, which will fund a day of day care at the hospice.

When a client makes a will or puts other planning into place, they will be offered the opportunity to make a donation to Willow Burn and Brenda Beveridge Wills and Trusts will match a donation to the maximum amount. Many clients have also used the opportunity to leave legacies and memorial contributions in wills as they want to ensure that their donations are used for the benefit of their local community. Brenda Beveridge said, "It's a great pleasure for us to support such a wonderful organisation, providing much needed services within our community."

Head of Fundraising and Marketing at Willow Burn, Rachel Todd, said: "It has been wonderful working with Brenda and Karen over the last year. As well as raising vital income for the hospice, they have also attended events and volunteered too. Committed support like this makes an incredible difference to the services we are able to provide. Brenda is also part of Durham Rock Choir who will be performing at Let's Rock for Willow Burn in July.

Brenda Beveridge Wills and Trusts is a family run business based in North West Durham, covering the UK and even internationally (for those with assets in the UK).

Because there's not a 'one size fits all' solution to your planning, they offer an hour of their time, free of charge and with no obligation, during which they'll discuss your individual requirements and provide recommendations specifically for you.

**For further information, please contact Karen Robinson on: 07485619415 or email: karen@brendabeveridge.co.uk**

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## Poppy's walks

Good day readers and for this edition I am going to tell you about a walk my female human learnt when she joined her walking group. They meet weekly but she won't take me along because she claims I am a Disruptive Influence,

whatever that means. She did, however, agree to lead both myself and my male human on the same route one Sunday afternoon recently.

As you will know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale terrier who enjoys sharing her walks with Village Voice readers. This one starts in the car park of Ushaw College, not far from Lanchester. And by the way, the rhododendrons in the grounds there are quite spectacular at this time of year. We walk to the end of the drive and turn right, on the road leading back to Esh Village.

There is a footpath alongside the main road but after a few hundred yards we turn left at a junction opposite some derelict farm buildings which leads us downhill. On this part of the walk, I am kept on my lead because there is no

footpath. This road is known as Broadgate Road. After another 200 yards or so we see a public footpath sign on the right, which we follow.

There I can be let off my lead if there are no livestock about. We walk across about four fields with spectacular views of the Deerness Valley on the left. I am more interested in sniffing the ground than admiring the views of course. After a while we reach a farmstead which is known as Hagg House farm. We turn right there, following the footpath signs, and follow a footstep which takes us on quite a steep climb which brings us to another footpath on the edge of Esh Village. We turn right there, walk through another farm, Low Esh Farm, and continue to follow the footpath over fields until we get back to the road between Esh and Bearpark. We cross that and go along a road called College Road until we reach a junction, which we take to the right and leads us alongside a wall back to the main road again, but this time nearer to the main entrance to Ushaw College. From there it is a five minute walk back to the car. The walk is timed to last 90 minutes and is about three miles long.

It certainly did my appetite no harm for I was ravenous when I got back home and quickly wolfed down my dinner!

## Lanchester Local History Society

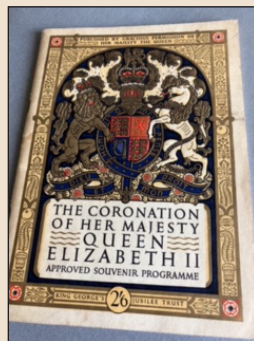
*Our report from the last meeting.*

We met on Friday 5th May to celebrate coronations as it was the eve of the Coronation of Charles III. The evening took the format of our "Show and Tell" with many interesting items brought in by members.

We also had several collections of photographs and postcards compiled by Dorothy Hall and George Nairn from Chester le Street. One thing that was interesting was the large quantity of coronation commemorative items from Edward VIII who abdicated before his coronation took place. The evening concluded with a coronation themed quiz, as you would expect, which kept us all entertained.

Two of the items brought to the meeting are shown right.

**Marian Morrison**



## Community Centre News

## Celebrating our 55th Birthday in 2023

This month we will have a look at some of our regular monthly groups that are available for you: WI meets on the first Monday at 7pm, check out 'Lanchester WI' on Facebook.

**Pimms & Needles**, women's social group meets on the first Tuesday at 7pm, check out their website for details.

**Flower club** meets on the fourth Wednesday for flower demonstrations.

**Thursday Club**, ladies group meets on the third Thursday.

**Wildlife Group** meets on the second Tuesday.

**Friends of the Fort** meets on the fourth Thursday, check out 'Friends of Longovicium' on Facebook.

**Local History Society** meets on the first Friday.

**Paradiso Club**, film club meets on the second Sunday at 7pm.

*What's coming up:*

**Car Boot Sale** - 16th July open from 2- 4.30pm, book your place early!

**Garden Open Day** - 29th July, tickets £7.50pp. A wonderful day out with over 20 gardens participating.

**55th Birthday Celebration on 23rd September.** Keep a look out for more information.

PLEASE NOTE - To keep the building, staff and users safe, from 1st June we will have a secure fob access entry system on the doors when staff are not in the building. Groups and users may purchase a fob from reception for £5. This will not be in effect from 9-2pm.

The office is staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-1.15pm. On Tuesday and Thursdays, it's 9am-3.45pm. If you have any enquiries about any of the activities or clubs available or you want to know more about hiring our brilliant venue, please get in touch on 01207 521275 or drop in and have a chat it will be good to meet you!

*To keep up to date with what's going on check out our Information Point; follow us on Facebook 'Lanchester Community Centre' or check out our new website - <https://lanchestercc.co.uk/>*





## Notes from the House

Since being elected, reversing the decades of slow decline and movement away of healthcare services in North West Durham has been one of my biggest priorities. Shotley Bridge Community Hospital, just round the corner, in particular has been beset by rising

costs of maintenance and downgrading over decades.

Just last month, following years of campaigning by community groups, the money needed for the construction of a brand-new, cutting-edge community hospital to replace Shotley Bridge was confirmed in full as part of the Conservative Government's £20bn Hospital Building Programme.

This money is a game-changer. When I was elected it was clear a downgrade to a zero-bed facility was on the table. Now with this unprecedented investment there will be a doubling of the current capacity to the new 16-bed hospital. Chemotherapy services will be dramatically increased, making Shotley Bridge the county's lead for chemotherapy. In addition to this, there will be a state-of-the-art diagnostic hub, with a brand-new mobile CT and MRI scanner that will encourage easy access to early diagnosis, saving lives across our area.

The Urgent Treatment Centre at the new facility will not only

be maintained but expanded. Furthermore, there will be an improved provision of women's services, primary and community care facilities on top of a better family health service provision all round.

Better still, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust are to use local apprentices for good, high-skill, high-wage jobs for local people in the hospital. Moreover, local builders and suppliers will be used as far as practicable in the construction. This means the new facility will provide a massive uplift before, during and after completion, felt right across our area. Despite the clear need for this investment, Shotley Bridge had only been mentioned twice in the previous 20 years in Parliament. I was determined to change this. Since my election it's been talked about 24 times and had its own debate after I secured time for it; I've had more one-on-one meetings with ministers about it than I can remember.

Thank you to the Government for this vote of confidence in our community. More importantly though, thanks to everyone who campaigned over the years and those that backed this campaign. I look forward to "spades in the ground" within the next 12 months.

While it is fantastic to see hard work pay off, what I will enjoy more is seeing the huge impact this will undoubtedly make to Lanchester and the surrounding area, both in its construction phase and also upon completion.

**Richard Holden**



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## The HUB Consett: Former Public House in Consett Transformed into Thriving Community Space

Nicola Jane Little, founder of the Mint Business Club, envisioned a new purpose for an old hotel in Consett, County Durham. Now known as The HUB Consett, the building has undergone a remarkable transformation, offering a range of facilities including a shop, hot-desking, event space, and office spaces. In addition, it serves as a vibrant community hub for individuals with neurodiverse conditions. Since its opening, The HUB has become a welcome fixture within the local community. Regular patrons fondly reminisce about the building's past, sharing stories of their visits to the former pub. Several visitors have even discovered personal connections, with some families having owned and operated the establishment during the 1980s. Nostalgic photographs adorn the walls, capturing the building's rich history. The Commercial Hotel, as it was originally known, held a significant role in Consett's heritage from 1837 to 1960. Later, it underwent a name change to the Braes Hotel until its recent revitalisation. As the first building in Consett to offer running water, it served as accommodation for individuals connected to the Consett Steel Works.

Over the past 12 months, The HUB has undergone an extensive renovation, with an investment of £50,000. The project received support from Durham County Council, which granted funding for essential exterior upgrades, including new windows, render, paint, and guttering. Notably, a talented local artist has contributed a captivating mural on the shutter, depicting the building's appearance in the 1900s.

The establishment now serves both the community and the business sector, operating under the umbrella of MINT Business Club Ltd and its associated social enterprise, Celebrate Difference Ltd. The top floor, once a flat and office space, has been thoughtfully redesigned to house five offices, a training suite, a media room, a small private meeting room, and a well-appointed kitchen and bathroom.

The HUB has fostered numerous partnerships with local businesses, which utilise the space on a weekly basis. Notable collaborators include Durham Enable, Durham Works, and Villa Real, a local special education needs school. In addition to providing valuable resources and opportunities, The HUB also welcomes the community for daily shopping experiences.

Exciting events are on the horizon for The HUB. Furthermore, enquiries for the upcoming Autumn and Christmas Markets are now open, promising a seasonal experience for all. Small traders and artists from Lanchester are very welcome to join the markets.

As the manager of The HUB, Donna Tunney spearheads the operation, ensuring a seamless and fulfilling experience for all visitors.

**For all enquiries and further information, please contact:**

**Donna Tunney at [donna@thehubconsett.co.uk](mailto:donna@thehubconsett.co.uk).**

## WHAT'S ON

### Wildlife Group

Sunday 25th June, 10 to 1pm: Field Trip – Joint with Weardale Wildlife Group at Thrislington National Nature Reserve.

Sunday 16th July 12 noon: Field Trip – Malton Nature Reserve Visit with Michael Coates to find Dragons/Damsels.

### City Theatre

Durham Dramatic Society proudly presents "Deliver us from Evil" (drama/thriller) at The City Theatre, Durham, DH1 3RA, from Sun 25th June until Saturday 1st July.

"Ben Seaton, the new rector is settling in but his wife feels decidedly out of place. A strange woman keeps walking into the rectory and church bells ring at odd times..... then the unthinkable happens. A murder! Skeletons surface from the village's recent past and it appears not everyone is who they claim to be. Then a second person is attacked!"

Performances: Sunday and Saturday matinees at 2.30. Monday-Friday 7.30. Tickets £8.50. Concessions £7.50 on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Tickets available from Durham Gala 03000266600 or [www.galadurham.co.uk](http://www.galadurham.co.uk) or on the door.

Anyone who has a keen interest in theatre, either acting, prompting, sound and light, props, set building, front of house, wardrobe etc. but doesn't know where to start, contact Lesley Anderson on:

07531858341/  
01207521149 for more information. No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn. (Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate under 18's). The City Theatre is Durham based and run by volunteers, and is a registered charitable company.

## Lanchester Parish Council

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

**Minutes** – Ordinary Meeting 11 April – approved

**Police Reports** – The PACT report for April was received

#### Correspondence

**Society of Local Council Clerks** – annual membership renewed at a cost of £237.00

**County Durham Association of Local Councils** - annual membership renewed at a cost of £579.65

**Clerk Magazine May** - received

**To consider the grass being rolled at the football pitch at Kitswell Park** – permission granted

**Gate between Ashdown Grove and the bike track** – the gate will remain, unlocked and accessible to all

**Installation of dog bag dispensers** – after careful consideration it was decided the Parish could not be responsible for such a request

**Beamish Football Club** – permission was granted to the girl's football teams to use the pitch for their matches

**Damaged grassed area Village Green** – a quote for a bollard to be requested

**Durham County Councillors** – An update was received on: The County Durham boundary review

**Lanchester Cricket Club** – Members of the Lanchester Cricket Club Committee attended the meeting to discuss the difficulties they are facing with dog fouling and damage to the playing area – the Clerk will be working to create signage

**Kitswell Park Play Area** – information from the site visit was received, a quote for new equipment to be requested

**Tanfield Lea Banner Group** – approval of the loaning of the Lanchester Banner was given

**Office Computer Equipment** – permission to order the office computer equipment was given

**Grants / Donations** – the following donations were approved

**Lanchester Methodist Bowls Club**

**Lanchester PCC – Church Clock**

**Lanchester Partnership**

**Lanchester Kogs Club**

**Insurance Renewal 2023/24** – reviewed and approved

**Internal Audit Report 2022/23** – considered and approved

**Financial report** – approved

**Accounts for Payment** – approved



### Paradiso Film Night

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

### Lanchester Library Library Book Club

On Monday July 24th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Millar, a New York Times Bestseller. Though it gets mixed reviews, will our group also have different opinions on this book? We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

### Thursday Book Club

On Thursday July 20th the group will be reviewing *Trust Me* by T.M. Logan, a Sunday Times bestseller thriller. It sounds intriguing and it is given 4 stars by [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com). 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 July 6th from 10-11.30am. Bring along your wool, thread needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Everyone is welcome, enjoy.

### Scrabble Group

meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30 pm. This month it will be Thursday July 13th and Thursday 27th. Do you enjoy this word game and want to get on the Triple Word Square? Come along and enjoy the company.

### Children crafts

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

### Musical Memories

Join us to enjoy music with a "Summer Holiday" theme on 5th July 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](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 July 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.

### Folk & Acoustic Music & Song Evenings

Sadly, as everyone will know, Crinnions has closed, which is a great loss to the village. The monthly acoustic and folk session is thus homeless for the time being. Hopefully we will find a new home soon. I would meanwhile like to thank everyone who came to perform and to listen and support us. I would also like to thank Fiona and the staff for accommodating the group for the last few months. Good luck to everyone concerned. Best wishes, Ian Tute.

### 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

1st July - *Lance Newman*  
8th July - *Michelle B*  
15th July - *Mark*

### McCann

22nd July - *Beth Bruce*  
29th July - *Ellie Ramano*  
*All acts are subject to change at short notice.*

**Non-members welcome.**

### New Opening Times:

Mon - Thurs 19:00 - 23:00  
Fri & Sat 17:00 - 00:20 (doors close at 23:00)  
Sun 12:00 - 23:00

### 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 12th July and 26th July). 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 Wednesday 26th July at 1.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator will be Heather Curry and the theme will be "Watch with Mother". Everyone is welcome, so come and join us.

### Lunch Club

The next meeting of the lunch held at Lynwood House will be 11th July, 12pm start.

### Willow Burn

**Rock for Willow Burn**  
Join Rock Choir North East for a special performance for Willow Burn Hospice at Stanley Masonic Hall on Saturday 8 July at 7.30pm. Led by Rob Slater, the incredible sound of Rock Choir will fill the beautiful historic hall with uplifting harmony. The team at Willow Burn would be delighted to see you, your family and friends at this special event. As well as uplifting music from Rock Choir NE there will be refreshments available at the bar and the opportunity to win yourself a canny little prize on our tombola. Tickets are priced at £8 per adult and £5 per child. To find out more or to reserve your tickets, please contact Ali English on 01207 529 224 or email [aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk](mailto:aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk)

### Clarty Bairns | Throughout the summer

Registration Fee: £11 | Fundraising Minimum: £50  
Clarty Bairns is a properly muddy obstacle course for all the family! It's a fun fitness event where families tackle challenges together and is suitable for bairns and big kids aged 5 - 80! Held at Hedley West Farm in County Durham, the muddy obstacle course takes place in a glorious countryside environment. Challenging but quite achievable, Clarty

Bairns is not a race. The emphasis is on finishing rather than speed, so you don't need to be a super competitive gym junkie to take part. Sign up with Ali at [aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk](mailto:aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk) / 01207 529 224.

### History Society

We will be meeting on Friday 7th July in Room 3 at the Community Centre for 7.00 start. Please remember there will be a new arrangement for entry to the centre when the office isn't manned. There will be somebody on the door to let you in as the door will be locked. Our speaker will be Fred Crowell from Leadgate speaking on the history of the Tyne followed by the story of The Peggy. You may have seen this boat as she is at the side of the road at Leadgate. Please come and join us.

### WI

The July meeting is on Monday 3rd July, 7pm, Main Hall Community Centre. The entertainment for the evening is the Durham Rams Morris Dancers. If you would like to learn about the history of Morris Dancing and maybe give it a try, please join us. The evening ends with tea and biscuits and a chance to catch up with friends.

The August meeting is on Monday 7th August, 7pm, Main Hall Community Centre. Our speaker will be Carol Dean telling us about "Life in the 50's. Please come along to reminisce or learn about that time, and chat with friends over tea and biscuits.

### Lanchester Partnership AGM

The Partnership's annual celebration get-together and AGM will take place on Saturday 1st July at 10:30am at Lanchester Community Centre in the Community Cafe.



## Lanchester Medical Centre:

### Power Nap: Is power napping an effective and under-used tool?

Ever felt guilty when your eyelids start to droop?

You are trying to concentrate but your eyelids don't agree.

Research tells us that a short sleep during the day leaves us more alert, reduces stress, and improves cognitive functioning.

This one 10 to 20 minute nap perks you up with little to no grogginess.

**Get comfortable to nap, consider:**

**A cool, dark space**

**A restful position**

**Quietness or music, whichever you prefer**

**If possible, turn your phone off**

**Set a timer**

**Napping offers various benefits for healthy adults**

As well as feeling refreshed and more awake through the rest of the day, power napping can:

**1. Improve productivity**

Worn out? A nap can fix that

**2. Increase creativity**

A nap wakes up the brain cells

**3. Boost alertness**

A nap perks you up

**4. Lifts your spirits**

Power nap your way to a smile

**5. Stressed?**

10 to 20 minutes of me-time works wonders

However, naps should not replace the recommended 7 to 8 hours of sleep.

Power napping is not for everyone, it is a skill and it takes some practice to train yourself to do it. Even if you didn't fall asleep during these minutes, a brief period of shut-eye can also help to relax and de-stress you.

Overall, a 10-20 minute of me-time can be an effective way to enjoy boosted energy, heightened focus, increased attention, and mental clarity.

*History's most notable power nappers include Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, and Winston Churchill, so treat yourself to a power nap, you will be in good company!*



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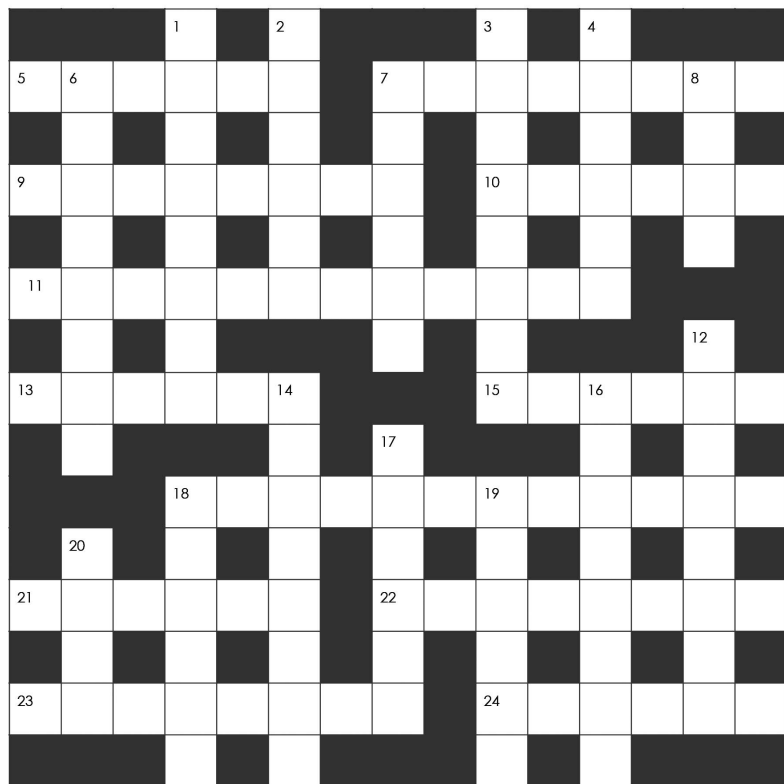
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# CLUES CROSSWORD 186



## Across

5. Part of a television (6)
7. Location of a heritage railway in County Durham (8)
9. Empty pipe running up through a building (3,5)
10. Type of cotton fabric (6)
11. Where you will find Lanchester CC. (8,4)
13. Historic railway arch near 7 across (6)
15. Anticipate as likely (6)
18. The extent of the power to make legal decisions (12)
21. Term for music played in slow time (6)
22. Criticises harshly (8)
23. Construction fibre that is no longer used (8)
24. Sudden jerking movement (6)

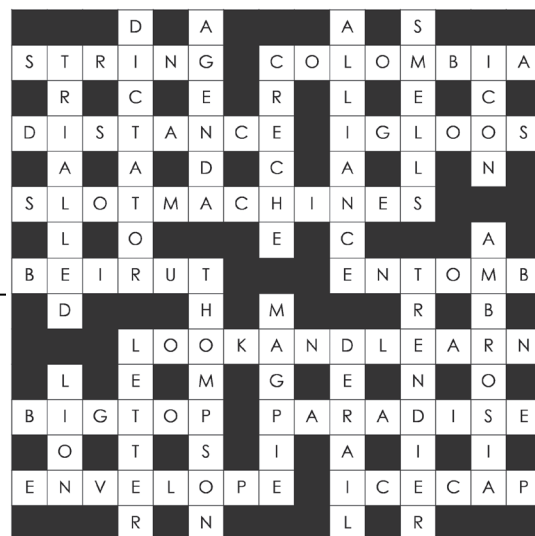
## Down

1. Anxiety related disorder (8)
2. Loose fitting jumpsuit (6)
3. Interesting or amusing tale (8)
4. Loaded up (6)
6. Item of clothing (8)
7. Excite (6)
8. Fortune that may be good or bad (4)
12. Type of word puzzle (8)
14. 'Great' east coast resort (8)
16. Dialects of the Northumberland and Durham Coalfield (8)
17. Biblical songs or poems to be sung (6)
18. Rough edged (6)
19. Prisoner (6)
20. Measure of how much you can win when gambling (4)

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

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

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



## Winner of Crossword 185

There were 26 entries for crossword 185.

All were correct! The winner, drawn from the hat, was Jane Pegram.

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## All Saints' Primary School Lanchester

We always want to keep families and friends up to date with the fantastic learning taking place across All Saints'. We have our Twitter (@AllSaintsRC) and have recently set up a Facebook Page (follow us and share our page by searching All Saints' Catholic Primary School, Lanchester) but at All Saints', we really love our weekly class blogs on our website because they give a detailed overview (including photographs) about what our children have been learning that week. From our most recent blog:

**Nursery:** It's been lovely to swap puddle suits for sun hats and sun cream in Forest School this half term. The children have continued to enjoy 'The Very Lazy Ladybird' story this week. Following the story, the children used trowels to collect mud to mix their own mud paint then they used sticks to apply spots to their ladybird pictures.

**Reception:** Last week we explored our planet using Google Earth. This week, we have been learning how the Earth moves around the sun to create day and night. In pairs, the children took turns to demonstrate how the Earth not only orbits the sun, but spins as it does so, meaning when we are facing the sun it is daytime and when we spin away from the sun it is night time. Interestingly, it is not daytime for everyone in the world at the same time!

**Year One:** We have been focussing on saying sorry this week. We acted out different situations that involved a wrong choice. Some of us thought of wrong choices like stealing another child's toy and destroying it, breaking personal equipment, physical harm and calling each other names. We then thought of ways of how to say sorry and how to show that we are sorry, just like Zacchaeus did in the Bible story (Luke 19: 1 – 10).

**Year Two:** In Computing this week, we have used our music knowledge to make digital music. We used Chrome Music Lab to explore pulse and rhythm using the rhythm app. We know the pulse was the heartbeat of the music!

**Year Three:** To conclude our Greek work in History, we learned about the origin of the Olympic games. We discovered that the games began around 2,700 years ago and that events included discus, long jump, running, wrestling and chariot racing. We also found out that many of these events had no rules and competitors could be quite brutal! After that, we held our own Olympic games (with rules!) on the field. Everyone showed some fantastic sporting skills, and I spotted some potential Olympic athletes: well done to our worthy winners Luka and Emily. Their prize was a wreath of leaves, just like it would have been 2,700 years ago!

**Year Four:** In R.E. this week we have been learning about Islam. We read how Muslims have many different names for God and that their holy book is called the Qur'an.

**Year Five:** We have begun the design process for our CO2 powered cars in D&T on paper, ready to use TinkerCam to design 3D vehicles. We tried to keep every aspect of our vehicle as streamlined as possible!

**Year Six:** This week, some Year Five and Six children took part in a cricket competition. They all showed excellent sportspersonship, encouraged each other and demonstrated their outstanding cricket skills. I am thrilled to share with you that we won the whole competition and are now through to the next round which takes place after half term. On Wednesday afternoon, Year Six went to Shotley Bridge Tennis Club to take part in a skills afternoon. It was great fun and everyone loved being outside in the sunshine!

**Please do keep up to date with our blogs at: <https://www.lanchester.durham.sch.uk/> to see how proud we are of our lovely children and school!**

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

## Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

'History is not was, it is.' I have spoken to our children on numerous occasions about how they are part of history in the making. They have all lived through some significant historical events during their short little lives already, including Covid, the death of the Queen, her funeral and now the coronation of King Charles III. All these are huge world events and they have been part of them all.

As a school, we felt that the coronation of King Charles III needed to be marked in a significant way. The week leading up to the coronation, our Eco Rangers spent time (with help from some parents), digging up our gardening areas and planting some wildflower seeds to make it into a commemorative wildflower garden for the King. We are currently waiting for a plaque to go in the garden to commemorate the coronation. It was quite interesting that the weekend following this, the Department for Education announced that all primary schools would receive some free wildflower seeds to plant for the occasion – we had already purchased ours unfortunately!

We have also commissioned the Crushed Chilli Gallery in Durham to create a large, special piece of glass artwork designed by the children. We will be working with them during June with designs from the children used to create it. This will be displayed in school for years to come and hopefully for our children's children to be able to see and share in too!

The day prior to the coronation, we enjoyed a special assembly led by our worship leaders, with the whole school singing some special coronation songs, finishing with the National Anthem.

The weekend of the coronation finished on a high with the choir singing in the special service at All Saints' Church, 'Sing for the King'. They performed three songs, all very appropriate for the event: Message for the King, Long Live the King and New Life Has Begun. They were all sung beautifully by the small number of choir members who could make it at 6pm on the Sunday evening. They were wonderful, even though I say it myself and I would like to thank all parents and carers for allowing their children to come. It was the perfect end to an extra special weekend.

**Jane Davis (Head Teacher)**





## Teenage Kicks for Cancer and Mental Health Charities

Whilst many may be quick to criticise when it comes to the younger generation, a Lanchester teenager is proving the doubters wrong.

Daniel Zettle (aged 14) of Mount Park Drive, Lanchester, was lucky enough to win an Epiphone Les Paul electric guitar in a raffle held by his local climbing club. The club was raising money to purchase a defibrillator.

Not fancying the rock n' roll lifestyle, the generous youngster decided he would like to sell the instrument to raise money for charities, Mind and Macmillan.

His father reached out to a musician friend about how to best go about selling the guitar. Following this, the guitar was featured on a number of Facebook selling pages across the UK, along with Daniel's story.

Many comments praising Daniel's generous gesture were forthcoming from all over the country, but

as fortune would have it, the guitar ended up being sold to another Lanchester based teenager, Jay Bowman.

Jay was also impressed with the gesture and had been looking for an Epiphone Les Paul to complement his instrument collection, so the decision to buy it was a 'no-brainer' (after persuading his mother to help out with the funds).

After a successful transaction, both Mind and Macmillan will benefit from £175 each thanks to the lovely nature of a local lad.

Well done Daniel - the whole village is proud of you!



Right: Daniel Zettle  
Above: Jay Bowman

## Football Focus

Hi all, not much to report in terms of football news as the football season comes to a close for many, however there has been some football activity in and around the village. Starting with St Bede's sixth form team who have played a handful of games this year with a variety of results. Both year 12s and year 13s played in the sixth form football team this year. Earlier this year they beat Consett during their league campaign but more recently were defeated by Framwellgate. They were beaten in a hard-fought game away from home as part of their league campaign this season. The first game that the sixth form played in was a cup game at home which they lost but altogether a credible performance as this was their first game as a team. The sixth form team has not played many matches this year however overall, they have had some decent results facing some tough opponents. On weekday nights there have been various football matches and training sessions taking place on the football pitch at the cricket club. Often there has been a mass amount of spectators watching the games and sessions on sunny nights at the cricket club. The cricket club has become especially busy over the past few weeks with both football and cricket games taking place, the hot evenings meaning various parents can watch their children play football in lovely weather. There have been various age groups participating in training sessions, especially younger age groups. For many it looks like an enjoyable first experience of football, certainly more enjoyable than being defeated on a rainy morning on a soaked football field. There have been both boys' and girls' teams playing at the cricket club.

**Matthew Walker**

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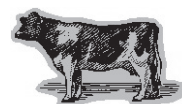
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## Cricket News

Finally! Some cricket and then some good weather. The first team have managed six games and won five of them, beating Gateshead Fell, Shotley Bridge and Eppleton in the league and Crook and GEMs in cup ties. On a damp pitch, Kieron Taylor took 5 wickets, and the opposition were beaten by 4 wickets.

They lost the following week at Tynedale, where again losing the toss was crucial with Lanchester dismissed for 107. Pasindu Madushan took 4 wickets in a losing effort. Finally on a good dry pitch, Lanchester scored 242-4 against Shotley Bridge, Kieran Gohery top scored with 89, but he had good support from Luke McCabe with an unbeaten 52 and 46 by Greg Patterson. Shotley were bowled out for 159, Gohery and Renton taking three wickets each, 2 for Taylor and Pasindu. Most recently Lanchester racked up 250-9 against Eppleton with 79 by Graham Brinton and 49 by Luke McCabe before bowling them out for 236, Pasindu again taking 4 wickets with 3 each for Taylor and Renton.

The results have put the team in second spot at this early stage. There have been comfortable cup wins over Crook and GEMs. Against Crook, Greg Patterson scored an unbeaten 78 in quick time, then against GEMs Graham Brinton scored an unbelievable 100 not out off just 38 balls in chasing down 117. This was Graham's sixth century at Lanchester. The seconds have won their two most recent matches in exciting fashion. At Shotley they won it with two balls remaining and then it was a last wicket win over Eppleton. The thirds have won one and lost one in the league and beaten Newcastle in the cup. Against Newcastle, 15-year-old Toby Somersall with 65 and 16 year old John McGilvray with 50 put on an opening stand of 116.

### Junior Cricket

Due to some bizarre planning, the under 18s have yet to play. The 15s have only managed one game but it was a win over Ryton. Fergus Foster and Toby Somersall took three wickets each and then Toby scored an unbeaten 51 to ensure the win.

The under 13s have been the most fortunate of the junior teams having played three games. They lost to Annfield Plain and Leadgate but then beat Burnhope. Against the Plain, Nathan Watson scored 25 and George Tilley 3-7. Leadgate were very good, Nathan Watson and Daniel Finlay took a couple of wickets each whilst Harrison McCourt did well with the bat with an unbeaten 27. In the win over Burnhope, Daniel Finlay became the first Lanchester under 13 this season to reach the retirement score when he made 31. The under 11 side have won one and lost one, while our very young girls under 11 side have lost both their games but had a great time doing it.

All Stars has got under way and been blessed with two glorious Friday nights so far, may there be many more to come.

## 2023 British Tennis Weekend and more!

On Saturday 13th May, Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club held the annual British Tennis Weekend at their courts on Ford Road. An initiative of the Lawn Tennis Association, it enables the general public to enjoy the different types of tennis activity available at clubs all over the UK. Over 60 people took part in various activities such as the "Tennis Factory", Ball Machine and Cardio Tennis, and families were not forgotten with action taking place on Mini Tennis, Free Play and "Family Time". A raffle and refreshments completed a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon's tennis.

New members were welcomed and some of them even signed up to coaching sessions! Picture (below) shows "Tennis Dennis" putting the players through their paces!

On bank holiday Monday, 29th May, the postponed "Coronation" tournament took place. In contrast to the original date, the matches were played in glorious sunshine, and it was Michelle Ridley and James Gray who triumphed in the round robin format. Followed by a terrific tea, a good time was had by all! The photograph (bottom) shows the participants in the event.

Coaching is continuing on Monday evenings at the courts from 4pm and full details are available from below.

With the annual events, barbeque, strawberry tea and games night, to take place this summer, it promises to be a busy time for the social committee.

A mixed team and a ladies team have been entered into the Sunderland and District league for 2023.

All we need is some more good weather!

**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**



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### NEXT DEADLINE

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

**Tuesday 4th July 2023**

**The deadline for advertisers is Tuesday 4th July 2023**

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