

the Village Voice

Issue No 3, Volume 23

Lanchester, March 2023



Spring snow for Lanchester

photographs by local photographer, Stephen Pattison



Making memories in Dubai, Lanchester EP School page 10

All Stars, Under 9 team with their silver medals page 16



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Solar farms

Arguments and discussions over the pros and cons of solar farms are growing in Lanchester following the latest proposal by a firm called Solarig.

Villagers were invited to the Community Centre earlier this month to learn more about the proposed Annfield solar farm which – if given the go-ahead by planners – would be practically adjacent to another proposed one near Chapman's Well, Burnhope which would cover 215 acres of land.*

Following an influx of wind farms and turbines across the surrounding countryside during the past couple of decades it would appear that solar farms are now going to be the subject of much heated local debate.

While residents appear to recognise the environmental benefits of solar energy the feared visual effect is causing great concern, as well as the effects on wildlife and local archaeology.

And there are likely to be plans for more solar farms on the outskirts of Lanchester submitted in the none-too-distant future.

Solarig, the firm behind the Annfield proposal at a postcode of DH7 0EF, say the development would "create enough renewable energy to meet the annual electricity needs of approximately 17,000 homes."

Neil McKay

***Postscript. The Burnhope Solar Farm was approved by planners on March 7th after being recommended approval by the County Council planning officers.**

Letters to the Village Voice

In our May 2022 edition, we printed a letter from Sonny Shepherd from the Lanchester Environment Group, in relation to the Burnhope Solar Farm, in favour of solar farms. We publish below a letter from a local resident who opposes the latest proposal called the Annfield Solar Farm. (This is named Annfield as that is the substation into which the proposed farm will feed.) We welcome further correspondence for and against – please send them in.

Dear Village Voice,

We attended a public consultation event at the Community Centre on 2nd March regarding the proposal for the Annfield Solar Farm. This project is named Annfield Solar, but is within the boundary of Lanchester Parish and will undoubtedly have a major negative impact on the village and its neighbouring hamlets.

The Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan (Durham County Council approval 23/6/21) includes as Objective 4: Green Spaces and the Rural Environment: "To protect and enhance the attractive rural setting of Lanchester, the open green spaces within it and the quality of the wider countryside". The Annfield solar panel project appears to be at odds with this.

This area already supports sustainable energy: it is identified in the Durham County Plan as suitable for the largest wind turbines, and we already have at least 11 in the immediate vicinity.

On 7th March 2023, Durham County Council planning department approved the Solar Farm at Burnhope, despite the protestation of nearly 500 residents. How many more of these projects will be approved? Where will it end? How long before our beautiful valley turns black? We need to respond to this very real threat.

E Jordan



Left: visitors to the consultation event on March 2nd 2023

Right: Map of the two solar farms produced at the consultation. The area shaded in red is the Burnhope Solar Farm which has just been approved by the planners. The area shaded in green is the proposed Annfield Solar Farm. Please note, these show the whole areas of the farms as one block, but individual features, eg the actual farm and trees etc will be retained.



Thursday Club

At our last meeting in February we were entertained by 'home grown' talent. Three of our members - Judith Collins, Liz Smith and Jan Vasey held a 'Call my Bluff' session. We heard three different explanations/meanings of various obscure words and had to decide which one was true.

All the ladies gave such meaningful and believable accounts as to why their version of the truth was the 'real deal', that it was very difficult to decide who to believe. It all led to a most amusing and enjoyable afternoon in which everyone could take part. A big thank you to the three of them for providing such an entertaining afternoon.

Our meeting closed with the usual chat, coffee/tea and biscuits.

Olive Simpkins



Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

On Wednesday 22nd February we held our 50th Annual General Meeting.

The usual reports were read and the end of year accounts had been prepared and audited. The election of committee members: thankfully the existing committee members agreed to stand once again. It was proposed by Pam Fry and seconded by Angela Breeze. The formal part of the meeting was over quite quickly.

We did not have our usual speaker or demonstrator so we enjoyed a quiz.

We then had a game of old fashioned bingo with lots of fun and cheeky banter. All in all an enjoyable afternoon. Finishing with the usual tea/coffee and biscuits with lots of friendly chatter.

Our next meeting will be a flower demonstration by Jean McClure. Her theme will be "Frameworks". It will be held on Wednesday 26th April 2023 at 1.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre in the main hall.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us. It is always a lovely friendly relaxing afternoon. Annual membership is £30, visitors are £7.

Lestrine Kelly

Dave Donnelly

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The bus timetable has been revised and now operates on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays only. It does not operate at weekends or on Bank Holidays. On "bus days" it makes a total of four trips around the whole village. Each round trip takes an hour. On the red parts of the route just hail the bus and it will stop for you if it is safe.

FARES AND CONCESSIONS

Normal concessions apply. Each journey costs £1.50. Passengers can pay in cash on the bus or can make a standing order to "The Lanchester Partnership" if they use the service routinely.

FUNDING THE BUS

We have an amazing group of local funders and donors. We have recently obtained grants from mid Durham Area Action Partnership and County Durham Community Foundation. Our County Councillors are very supportive. Particular thanks must go to the newly opened Kings Head who have donated 20% of the monthly cost over the last few months, and many others who have helped maintain the service through difficult economic times.

We want as many villagers as possible to know about and use the service. We're interested in your views. If you have any comments on how we can help you or how you can help us, let us know.

For further information contact Paul (Bus Development) on 07957 871106; Laura (Fundraising) on 07967 597949; or email the Partnership at contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk.
Lanchester Partnership

Monday, Thursday & Friday only			
Kitswell Road (Cemetery) Depart	09:30		12:30
Newbiggin Lane (Library)	09:32		12:32
Brook View	09:35		12:35
Foxhills Crescent	09:37		12:37
Alderside Crescent	09:39		12:39
Front Street (Vill.Green) Arrive	09:43		12:43
Front Street (Vill.Green) Depart	09:45		12:45
Lynwood House	09:48		12:48
Ford Crescent	09:51		12:51
Colepike Road	09:53		12:53
Station Road	09:55		12:55
Fenhall Park	09:57		12:57
Front Street(Vill.Green) Arrive	09:59		12:59
Front Street(Vill.Green) Depart	10:01		13:01
Burnhopeside Avenue	10:04		13:06
Deanery View	10:06		13:05
Deneside	10:08		13:08
Oakwood	10:12		13:12
Valley Grove	10:15		13:15
Lynwood House	10:18		13:18
Front Street(Vill.Green) Arrive	10:20		13:20
Front Street(Vill.Green) Depart	10:22		13:25
Kitswell Road (Cemetery) Arrive	10:25		13:23

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Wildlife notes

Signs of spring – have you noticed many? As the weather warms and the days lengthen tree buds begin to bulge and the first leaves appear. As the snowdrops are replaced by anemone, celandine and the bluebells beckon us to explore our woods. The white blooms of blackthorn will be replaced by mayflowers (hawthorn).

Birds not seen for months will return to breed, listen out for the first chiffchaff, watch for the first swallow.

As you notice spring progressing, why not record your 'firsts', note the date your favourite tree's buds burst and its very first leaf unfolded. Has the pond you pass finally filled with frog spawn? You can be a citizen scientist and help demonstrate earlier signs of spring, with a trend towards increasing temperatures. The Woodland Trust has created 'Nature's Calendar', an online space to record events for certain species. Your records help to predict some of the ways wildlife might be affected by trends in our climate. There is lots of information about what to look for and when. There are 'live maps', so you can check when some species were first or last seen in the UK – you might be the first to record a peacock butterfly this year! <https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk> for 'seasonally specific' wildlife sightings.

Other general wildlife sightings can be recorded too, there are several apps and websites allowing you to say when, where and what you noticed. These sites also help with identification if you are unsure what just flew by.

The Mammal Society has their own app "Mammal Mapper" = <https://www.mammal.org.uk/volunteering/mammal-mapper>. Irecord website is = <https://irecord.org.uk> and we have our own Environmental Records Centre in the North east (ERIC North East) = <https://www.ericnortheast.org.uk>

From our wildlife correspondent



Above: Images of wood anemone near Waters Meeting, Malton and wood sorrel, both something to look out for in April. The flowers look a bit similar, but the leaves are very different, wood sorrel has leaves that resemble clover or shamrock.

First anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine

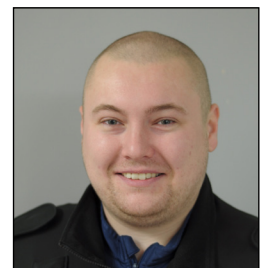
Three Lanchester Ukrainian residents, left to right, Oksana, Svetlana and Vira, at a gathering for the first anniversary of the beginning of the Ukrainian war. They, along with other Ukrainians, met in the Market Place in Durham to remember their country.



Police Report

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

There has been an increase in the number of reports about off-road bikes and quads. If these are sighted, we would encourage people to report them to us with as much information as possible, so that relevant enquiries can be made. These vehicles can be dangerous and cause problems to other motorists and pedestrians. They should only be used on private land with landowners permission.



If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to get in touch via email, andrew.tonge@durham.police.uk or you can call 101, select option 1 and enter extension 208722. This is for general use and incidents shouldn't be reported this way. Please report any incidents via 101 (or the online report form) or 999 in an emergency.

Dear Village...

Dear Village Voice,

Following a recent letter about access to shops in the village, I would just like to publicly thank the greengrocer for, on two occasions, going out of his way to help me when visiting his shop with my mobility scooter.

Thanks

Keith

(Full name and address supplied)

Dear Village Voice,

I am writing to add my support to the letter written by Bekki in your February edition. I echo her points and feelings and would like to add my own wheelchair experiences.

The single 'disabled' parking space on the road is regularly occupied by other drivers. I need to be able to park and assemble my wheelchair while protected from other road users.

There are no safe places to cross any roads. Level areas for crossing over the street are for vehicle access, not intended for pedestrian crossing. The dropped kerb at the crossing between the Green and the King's Head is very steep, with the risk of rolling into the road.

There are no dropped kerbs from the pet shop towards Durham Road causing an independent wheelchair user to push in the road towards busy traffic.

Prior to becoming wheelchair dependent, I did not notice accessibility issues around the village. However, now I appreciate just how very scary, difficult, and dangerous the situation is. Each time I shop in Lanchester I am grateful for the generosity of villagers to stop traffic and assist me. However, I shouldn't have to be dependent on their kindness. The environment should facilitate independence of movement and access for all. We should be allowed the dignity to be as independent as all other villagers and visitors to Lanchester.

The Equalities Act of 2010 is now 12 years old – an adequate amount of time I would have thought to make reasonable adjustments.

I write this, not to cast blame, but to raise awareness for those of us with additional difficulties trying to carry out normal daily activities.

**With grateful thanks for your attention,
Liane Collins**



Lanchester Local History Society

We had a really interesting talk from Richard Pears. Richard spent some of his "lockdown" researching Margaret Farrington, a lady who lived a pleasant life in the 1700s. She was based in London enjoying all the trappings of high society until sadly something befell her and in 1764 she was diagnosed as a "lunatic".

Her possessions were brought back to Newcastle and either sold to fund her new life in the care of her family, or to set her up in her new home. This family was well known in Newcastle being the wider family of the Claytons, several generations of which were mayors or council leaders of the period.

The talk covered the wider topic of lunacy at the time and the lack of position in society for wealthy married women as their husbands took control of their wealth. Plus, the risk of the diagnosis from unscrupulous doctors getting wealthy from hiding those diagnosed away.

Luckily Margaret seems to have been protected from such as she lived for 30 years after diagnosis and in a supportive family.

The image below is of Bedlam, the classic representation of a lunatic asylum, depicted by Hogarth, a painter and satirist from the time.



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Lanchester WI

The Lanchester WI meeting on Monday March 6th was attended by 28 members.

President Marie updated everyone with details of upcoming events including a St George's Day supper on 21st April, county quiz and a dabble day on 3rd June and St Cuthbert Hospice annual lunch on 21st April. Subscriptions for this year are due April 1st.

Our speaker was Lisa McDonnell, founder of Wing and a Prayer shop in Coxhoe. Lisa explained how her business was affected by the Covid pandemic; she had the idea to send "hug cards" on behalf of customers. This was a big success and through social media led to her sending cards and craft items to people here and abroad. She brought along a selection of goods from her shop. The evening finished with refreshments and catching up with friends over tea and biscuits.

Tracey Dobson

Below: Lisa McDonnell with some of her card and craft items.



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Poppy's walk's

Good day readers and thank you to all those kind people of Lanchester who talk to me on my walks.

They say they recognise me from my photograph in the Village Voice. I always enjoy greeting my readers with a friendly paw and a tail wag.

As you will know by now, I

am Poppy, a Patterdale Terrier who shares with Village Voice readers the walks I lead my Humans on.

This one starts from the village green – as most of the Lanchester-based ones do – and we cross over by the traffic island then walk along the pavement towards the Jet garage. We pass the garage and then turn right up Howden Bank. After around 100 yards or so we cross the road and follow a public footpath sign which takes us through some dense foliage towards a stile.

After crossing the stile, we are in a field underneath electricity pylons. There is a footpath leading across this field with views of Willow Burn and the new housing development on the right and St Bede's school on the left. Sometimes I have to be kept on my lead because there are sheep in the field.

But once we go through a gate and across a stream, I am usually let off the lead so long as there are no livestock in the next field. We go diagonally across this field and come to a rickety stile. I can slip through the gap below, but the Humans tend to struggle to climb across as the stile wobbles quite a bit.

Once the stile is circumnavigated, we walk uphill across another field to the next stile. Looking back from there is a panoramic view of Lanchester. Sometimes we climb further but I will save that walk for another time.

If we turn around at the stile to go back downhill I tend to enjoy running around the field and head back down via a drink and a paddle in Howden Burn.

We then retrace our paw steps back through the gate and along the path across the field we had recently been on, back over the stile and onto the main road – Howden Bank – and from then home, possibly through the village instead of along the by-pass.

The walk takes around an hour and covers maybe two-mile distance.

Poppy has received an email:

Dear Poppy,

My name is Skye, I am a larger size than you and maybe a bit older. I have just had my tenth birthday. Unfortunately, I am a lot slower than I used to be and have arthritis in my knees. My owner isn't as fit as he used to be either.

We have read your walk in last month's Village Voice and don't think we could complete it because you had to get over five stiles to get around the walk.

Unfortunately, the human landowners don't seem to want to put kissing gates in place, instead of stiles, which is a shame as us older dogs and owners can't enjoy the wonderful countryside around the village.

Skye

Poppy replies:

Hi Skye,

Thanks for your email. Makes a good point about accessibility in the countryside. I'll try and get my Human to look for a walk without stiles for the next edition.

Poppy



Community Centre News Celebrating our 55th Birthday in 2023

As we all know the community centre is a valuable asset to our village but for it to thrive we need your support!

How you can help your Community Centre

- Volunteer for 2 hours on an evening, or to help to maintain the garden.
- Become a 'Friend' just a £2 per month donation.
- Use 'Easy Fundraising' when you shop (contact the office for further details).
- Join the Committee, we meet every two months.
- Buy one of our books, just 80p.
- Like and share our posts on Facebook.
- Come along and support fundraising events.

What's new

Pimms and Needles are now meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, this is a ladies' social and craft group.

What's coming up

- From 18th April the Community Café will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9am to 2pm.
- We are upgrading our out of hours access to ensure everyone will be safe. Further information to follow.
- We have many exciting events planned for this year such as: car boot sale, dog show, open garden day, birthday celebrations and a Christmas fair. Keep checking our Facebook page and notice board for information about the events.

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/>

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

Ladies who lunch

This time we decided to go to somewhere you may not have heard of, namely 'The Steel House Bistro' which is part of Derwentside College in Consett. The day of our visit in February turned out to be extremely windy so a short walk from the car park, offering disabled parking too, was much appreciated.

The Steel House is rather unique as it is a place of learning for hospitality and catering students.

On arrival we were escorted into the restaurant area, all recently refurbished, and promptly menus were handed to us. These offered a three-course meal for £12.95 or a two-course meal for £10.95. We all opted for the three-course choice! Starters were plaice paupiette (pieces of fish rolled and stuffed with a filling); the ham and cheese tart dressed with leaves was quite tempting too!

Main courses were sea bass with aubergine purée; courgettes with tomato and olive dressing; or a third choice of supreme of chicken with Coq au vin garnish.

Desserts were lemon meringue posset served with oranges or rose infused chocolate tart twinned with pistachio ice cream. We had a delicious lunch, and it is commendable that it was professionally served by the young students.

The Gourmet Girls





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Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

We have all had an absolutely amazing time in Dubai! Some of us had never been abroad before or been on an aeroplane either. Both of the Emirates flights were brilliant and we could play on the games consoles the whole time. The staff and other passengers were so friendly to us as well.

We have seen new things that have inspired us to put ourselves out there and try something new. We have also learned new things such as some of the Arabic language and how to write our names in Arabic. We have learned more about the traditional Emirati culture and about the Muslim religion. We have had the chance to barter at the souks and we even had a camel ride in the desert.

The hotel staff where we stayed were so nice and the apartment was just perfect. We were so lucky to have been to the mosque and we all got to hold a falcon. The schools we went to were lovely and we all got to make some friends from all over the world which was really good. In addition, we have done a few things that aren't educational! On Thursday, we went to the Atlantis Waterpark and what a time we had! We were so lucky to visit there! It was my first visit to a waterpark and it was so special.

We have had such a fantastic time and it really has been such an experience and a chance of a lifetime. Dubai was simply amazing! All 24 of us are all so lucky to have been chosen to go on this trip. We have looked forward to it for so long and will never forget the week. Memories that can never be taken away from us.

Erin and Poppy – Year 6 Lanchester EP School

(see front cover photograph)

All Saints' VA Catholic Primary School

Lent is always an important time in school, when the community tries to particularly think about others before ourselves in an attempt to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Our Lenten fundraising this year will go to support CAFOD's rescue efforts in Turkey and Syria in response to the devastating earthquakes. At the beginning of Lent, the whole school learned about earthquakes and looked at the terrible effects of them in Turkey and Syria. Following this, the children suggested some fundraising activities that we could organise in an attempt to raise money.

The first activity that was decided upon was for families to bring in spare change so the children could fill up a map of Syria and Turkey. The following week was a lovely cake sale and the week after a non-uniform day. Our Year Six pupils designed some playground games and challenges for everyone to enjoy for week four and our final fundraising activity within week five will be a whole school walk. We hope to be able to send a sum of money to CAFOD that will improve the lives of those in need.

One member of our school community who always tried to think of others was Fr. O'Connor; he has been a great influence on the school over the years and is always interested in the outreach work our pupils are involved with. He has been a great supporter of All Saints'. Although we will miss him, we wish him a happy and healthy retirement, filled with joy. Thank you for all of your service and kindness, Fr. O'Connor – we'll miss you!

Frances Stephenson
Head Teacher

WHAT'S ON - March / April 2023

Lanchester Art Group

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

Art in the Orchard

Bring the family for an Easter walk around Lanchester Community Orchard, Newbiggen Lane. Open dawn till dusk Saturday 1st April until Sunday 16th April. Enjoy the views, look out for signs of spring, search for bunnies in the grass and admire the creativity of local artists. FREE

Lanchester WI

April meeting
Monday 3rd April, main hall Community Centre at 7.00pm. The speaker is Gordon Henderson telling us about Romans and Binchester. Come along to meet new friends for a chat, tea and biscuits. We also organise various craft sessions, outings and coffee mornings, you are most welcome to join us.

May meeting

Monday 8th May, main hall Community Centre at 7.00pm. To Celebrate the Coronation we will be having an indoor street party, there will be a faith supper and Royal quiz. No speaker will be attending the meeting.

Castleside art exhibition

Castleside Village Hall, Easter Sunday and Monday, 10am – 4pm. Refreshments all day, admission 50p.

Easter Monday Egg Bowling

The usual egg dying in the traditional way, organised by the Lanchester Wildlife Group. Come and take part at Pace Egg Bank. Bring a raw egg/s. Meet on April 10th at 10am behind The Bridge (AKA The Green School and The Woodlands). Free, but donations are welcome.

Willow Burn

Northumberland Coastal Challenge Walk | Saturday 10 June 2023 at 7.30am
Reduced registration fee for ball guests: £25 | Fundraising minimum: £150
Run by Shepherds Walk, the Northumberland Coastal Challenge Walk is a superb 26 mile challenge walk which takes place along the stunning Northumberland Coast Path. On the journey, walkers will pass through four manned checkpoints at Seahouses, High Newton, Craster and Boulmer, where they will be checked in and out of each. Participants' punch cards also include a detailed map of the route and refreshments will be provided at each of the checkpoints. Upon completion, walkers will receive an event medal and a goody bag, provided by the walk organiser.

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.

Vintage Tractors

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

Paradiso Film Night

There is no film club in April because it would have fallen on Easter Sunday. But put 14th May in your diary as we're showing the delightful film, *The Duke*.
 "The Duke review: Helen Mirren and Jim Broadbent shine in this zingy Ealing-style caper"
 In 1961, a 60-year-old taxi driver from Newcastle steals Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. He sends ransom notes saying that he will return the painting if the government invests more in care for the elderly. An uplifting true story about a good man who set out to change the world and managed to save his marriage. Lanchester Community Centre 7pm for drinks, nibbles and raffle, film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £3, Non-members: £4. Annual membership £5.

Lanchester Library Library Book Club

On Monday April 24th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, *The Hunting Party* by Lucy Foley. 'A modern thriller with an appeal of Agatha Christie' (Waterstones). It will be interesting how this group reacts to this recent novel, will everyone enjoy it? We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday April 27th the group will be reviewing *The Cleaner of Chartres* by Sally Vickers. 'Sally Vickers sees with a clear eye and writes with a light hand and she knows how the world works' (Phillip Pullman). 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 April 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.

Children's crafts

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

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

Lanchester Flower Club

Our next meeting will be a flower demonstration by Jean McClure; her theme will be "Frameworks". It will be held on Wednesday 26th April 2023 at 1.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre in the main hall. Everyone is welcome to come and join us. It is always a lovely friendly relaxing afternoon. Annual membership is £30, visitors £7.

Musical Memories

Join us on 5th April 2023 at 2pm at Lynwood House to enjoy music with an Easter theme. Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group using the ability of music to improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email lanchesterdfc@gmail.com

Lanchester Methodist Church Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday at the Methodist Church between 10 and 12, in aid of the following organisations:
March 25 - MIND
April 1 - Health and Hope
April 8 - Churches Together
April 15 - Oliver's fight against Neuroblastoma
April 22 - Women in Need (India)
April 29 - Lanchester Art Group

May 6th - Lanchester Band

May 13th - Christian Aid

May 20 - tbc

May 27 - tbc

June 3 - Male voice choir

June 10 - Boy's Brigade

Thursday Club

The next meeting will take place in the main hall of the Community Centre on April 20th at 1.30pm. Jan Vasey will be running a quiz, 'How well do you know your village?'

Folk & Acoustic Music & Song Evenings

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

Lanchester playgroup

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

Lanchester Social Club

1st April - Ellis Taylor
 8th Apr - Suzanne Reece
 15th Apr - Michelle Black
 22nd Apr - Marty Thomas
 29th Apr - Ellie Caile
All acts are subject to change at short notice.

Lanchester Partnership

Friends of Longovicium
 Investigations are on-going into an unusual rectangular ditched enclosure near Peth Lane. Whether prehistoric, Roman or later is as yet unknown, might it have a connection with the Roman quarries from which stone was extracted to build the fort? Some results may be available at our next meetings in the Community Centre on 23rd March and 27th April. For further information contact

Mrs M. Williams
 01207 520063 or
 Rodney Hawkins at
hawkins_15@sky.com.

Lunch Club

The next meeting of the lunch club held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 11th April at 12pm. All welcome, any queries call Jackie on 07908 838452.

Local History Society

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

City Theatre

"Damages" by Steve Thompson will be on at The City Theatre, Durham DH1 3RA, from SATURDAY April 29th with a matinee performance only at 2.30, until Friday May 5th 7.30 pm. "Deep in the bowels of a newspaper office as the paper is being put to bed, a controversial topless photograph of a children's entertainer turns up. To print or not to print? Is it as straightforward as it seems?"
 Tickets £8.50 from Durham Gala Box Office, or on the door. Concessions £7.50 Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. PLEASE NOTE: this play contains very strong adult language.

Wellbeing walk

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

Hand stitching

Hand stitching taster session led by Deb Cooper (www.debcoopertextileart.com). Sunday 23rd

April 2023, 1pm to 4pm. Cost £18/person. Suitable for beginners. Please bring your own small scissors. All other materials and refreshments included. Book and pay through the community centre to secure your place (01207 521275).

Christian Aid Events

Coffee morning
 Saturday May 13th 10am-noon at the Methodist Church. If any gardeners out there have surplus plants, seedlings, annuals etc we would love to sell them alongside books and childrens toys.
 Swish evening
 Wednesday 17th May 7pm at the Methodist Church. Bring 5 items of pre-loved good quality clothing and accessories and swap them for 5 items of your choice in return. Tickets for this fun evening are £5 to include coffee/tea and a cake.

Choral Society



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

Health and Hope Charity celebrates its 10th Anniversary

A group of Lanchester residents and the Methodist church have supported this charity since its inception. It exists to provide health and hope to the people of Myanmar (formerly known as Burma). Things have been made much more difficult since the violent coup with many people displaced and in fear of their lives.

Remember the Festive Coffee Morning in the Methodist Church? Well, we're back on Saturday 1st April 10-12.30pm with an Easter version, to celebrate the fact that the charity, Health and Hope, is 10 years old! There will be bacon butties and delicious homemade treats. Just call in, a warm welcome guaranteed! Find out all about the work of the charity.

What's more, we have local chocolatier, Jane Davenport, coming to teach us how to make our own bespoke Easter Egg on Sunday 2nd April 2-4pm, also at the Methodist Church, book your tickets online at:

<https://healthandhope.org/news-and-updates/events>
(£12.50 includes: refreshments, handmade egg to take home, chocolate talk, chocolate tasting!).

Further afield, there is a concert in Gateshead featuring Iona Brown, a violinist, and David Murray on the keyboard. Details of this are on the same link.

Please come along and support the important work which this charity carries out.

Inga Andrew



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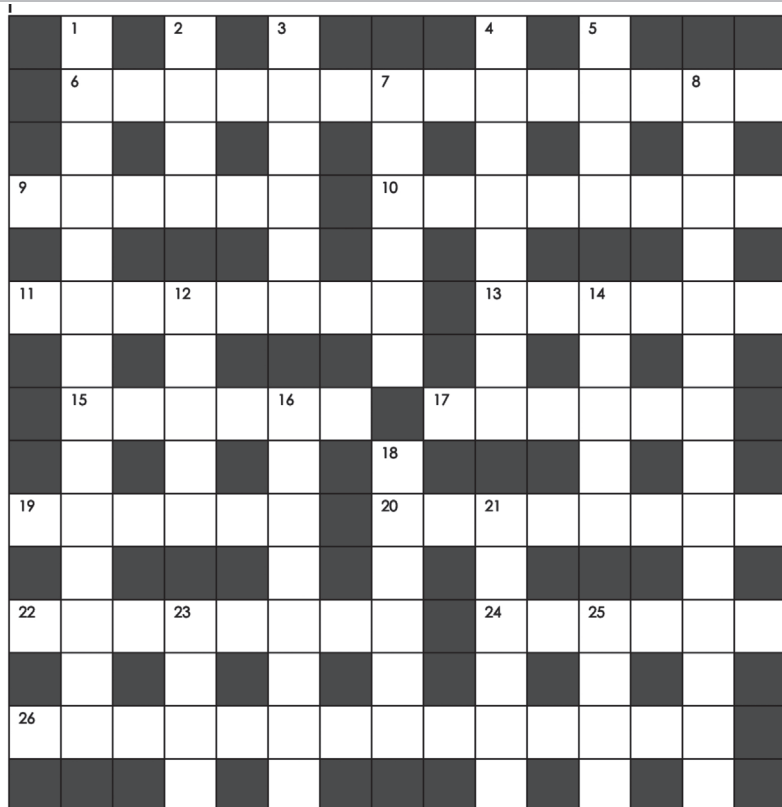
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www.durham.gov.uk/careconnect
03000 262 195
care.connect@durham.gov.uk

You can also find us on 
facebook.com/CareConnectDCC



CLUES CROSSWORD 183



Across

6. 'Take That' young man! (6,8)
 9. Musical interval of eight notes (6)
 10. Mysterious creatures said to sabotage machinery (8)
 11. Musical that spawned a Liver pool football anthem (8)
 13. Object awarded as a prize (6)
 15. Sleeveless garment worn by Knight (6)
 17. Avoiding road (6)
 19. Brings together as one (6)
 20. Instrument played by Bernard Stanley Bilk (8)
 22. Chap who stands in for the dangerous parts (8)
 24. To scold or condemn vehemently (6)
 26. Person who spots problems and sorts them out (14)

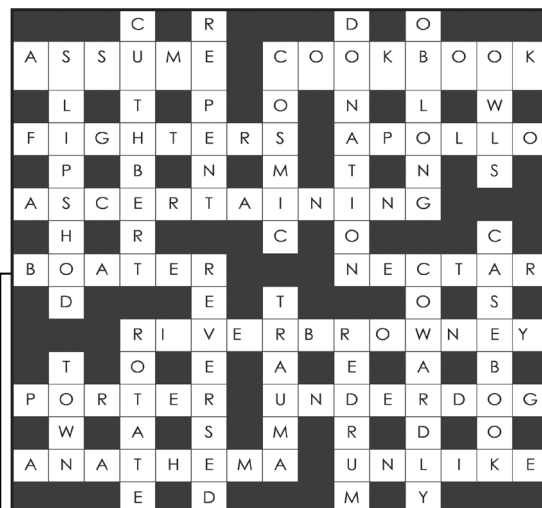
Down

1. One who habitually puts things off (14)
 2. Eurovision winning pop group (4)
 3. Dots making up a digital image on a screen (6)
 4. To speak a language this way is to speak it effortlessly (8)
 5. Type of herb (4)
 7. Item of Scout's neckwear (6)
 8. Sweet delicacy named after a city in North-West England (10,4)
 12. Curved path of a heavenly body (5)
 14. Forest giraffe (5)
 16. To look like something else (8)
 18. Baked treats (6)
 21. Ancient name for Great Britain (6)
 23. One of the eight parts of speech (4)
 25. Biblical figure who married Boaz (4)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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



Winner of Crossword 182

There were 21 entries,
 of which 19 were correct.
 The winner of the £10 prize drawn out of the hat is Norman Lammin

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Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

Loneliness: During the pandemic the loneliest became lonelier

The COVID-19 pandemic plunged society into unprecedented social restrictions and isolation from which, 3 years later, not everyone has been released.

Social isolation, having a small social network and little interaction with others, does not always lead to loneliness.

Loneliness is the painful feeling of having less or poorer quality of social connections than you want.

Researchers found a small but significant increase in loneliness during the pandemic, 5 percent. However, not all groups experienced that increase.

We are all different, one in four adults feel lonely some or all the time. There's no single cause and there's no one solution. But the longer we feel lonely, the more we are at risk of mental health problems with some people being at higher risk of feeling lonely than others.

Most at risk are adults who are young, living alone, on low incomes, out of work and/or with a mental health condition. The impact on the wellbeing of this group of people is likely to be compounded by other economic and social impacts they experience, such as job losses and health anxieties. This group is made up of 14% of the population; in the first six weeks of lockdown, this group's loneliness levels increased.

Least likely to experience loneliness, this group, making up 45 percent of the population, are those living with others or in rural areas. They have close friends or neighbours offering greater social support so are often protected from loneliness. For all of us the current energy crisis and soaring cost of living can contribute to another wave of anxiety. We need to continue our neighbourliness, looking out for each other while the country is experiencing this economic crisis that can cause us all to feel anxious and frightened.

Evidence from University College London and Whatworkswellbeing.org. MentalHealth.org.uk. Campaign to end loneliness.

Footnote: Keep warm and well: info at: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/warmandwell>



Notes from the House

Pensions auto-enrolment

The first thing at the forefront of my mind whenever I make any decision as your Member of Parliament is how will it benefit the people of North West Durham. After years of groundwork, last week in Parliament with the help of my friend and colleague Jonathan Gullis, my Extension of Pensions Auto-enrolment Bill passed its latest stage in Parliament.

The wheels are now in motion to lower the age of people who are auto-enrolled in their pensions to 18 as well as lowering the earnings limits. This expansion of auto-enrolment will mean that everybody in work has their own pension in addition to their state pension in retirement. This milestone legislation drives forward a major change in policy and fulfils that exact criterion.

Currently around a quarter of people in North West Durham do not have their own workplace pension. When this change comes through, it will bring almost £3.5bn to people in our area for their total life savings. This will be transformative for the lives of everyone in North West Durham.

At the moment, three quarters of those aged over 22 are automatically enrolled into pension schemes and, for every 50p employees put in £1. Yet for those under the age of 22, the figure is only 20%. This Bill will deliver serious change in those long-term savings for younger workers and those in part-time work. Due to the compound interest gained through incremental savings over a long period, a full-time worker on the national living wage would gain almost an extra £100,000 over their lifetime.

This Bill will help to put long-term cash into the pockets of people in Lanchester, crucially by helping people to help themselves to provide the extra private sector money which will deliver the long-term levelling up we need.

This change is about helping people to realise their potential for the future, and about protecting them in retirement. It is about enabling people's ambition to look after themselves, their families and their communities as much in Lanchester as elsewhere.

This Bill will have a particularly big impact delivering long-term investment to places like North West Durham, where typically people start work younger and more women work part-time for some of their careers. Everyone who has worked hard deserves comfort in old age, so it is great to see this becoming not just a possibility but a reality. I look forward to following its passage through Parliament and it putting more money into people's pockets by creating the savings culture we need.

Richard Holden



Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 14 February 2023 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 10 January – approved

Police Reports – The report for January was received

Correspondence

King Charles III's Coronation – councillors considered the information on the upcoming event

Recruitment to Durham County Council's Standards Committee – councillors considered any nominations

Letter of thanks, Memorial Bench – received

Lanchester Partnership – a request to use the Village Green for the annual litter pick on 18 March was approved

Clerk & Councils Direct magazine – received

Solar Panel Farm – information was received from Lanchester Dairies about a Solar Panel Farm

Training – it was agreed that the Clerk would complete any necessary training and qualifications

Lanchester Solar Planet Walk – notes from the working group meeting 25 January – approved

Lanchester Allotments Association – members discussed the boundary wall at the allotments

Risk Assessment Schedule – reviewed and approved

Newsletter – the newsletter was approved for distribution

Financial report - approved

Accounts for Payment – approved

Grass Cutting Contract – press and public were excluded from this item. Members discussed and agreed a 3-year contract for 2023 - 2025

Grassed Area – Lanchester Valley Railway Path – between Station Road and Newbiggen lane – it was decided that the County Council would be contacted to obtain a new licence agreement to cut the grass in this area

Bowls report

Not much to report this month as the new season does not start until on the 26th April when our South West Durham League programme commences with a home game against Spennymoor B quickly followed by the Derwentside League matches.

The club Spring Meeting will be held in the clubhouse on Thursday 30th March at 7.00pm and both new and existing members are invited to attend, so please pop in for an informal chat. Details of the Bowls Club are on our Lanchester Bowls Club website where you will find the FAQ section very informative.

The very hot dry summer last year took a heavy toll on most bowling greens so we at Lanchester decided to overseed our green with specialist grass seed and the results are very encouraging with the green looking really good. Let's hope the green plays as well as it looks.

Stuart Lee,
Club Secretary.



Crafty gnomes take up their position on the letter box again!



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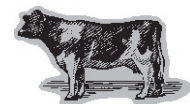
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Football Focus

2022 has come to an end but football within the village certainly hasn't come to an end, with multiple schools playing football matches. All Saints' have been playing in a variety of matches in the back end of 2022 and St Bede's playing is in the early stages of 2023.

All Saints' have had a break from football games since the winter break but look to start playing towards the start of April. In the last few months of 2022, All Saints' wrapped up their league campaign with success for both the boys' and the girls' teams. In 2022 the boys' football team was able to win the league they were competing in which was the Tony Reather League. Meanwhile the girls' team were able to replicate the success of the boys' team as they managed to finish 3rd in their league. Not only is this a sporting achievement but this was the first time that the girls were able to field a team for 6 years which is a huge achievement. Levels of interest in playing for the girls' team was extremely high this year.

Another football team that has had success in the last few months is the sixth form football team at St Bede's. Both Year 12s and Year 13s play for this team. In 2022 the football team played their first game of the year which was a cup game against St Leonard's, who had preparation for the game as they had already kicked off their league campaign. In the end St Leonard's won the cup tie but St Bede's did not concede before halftime. After a few months break the sixth form football team is back to action with their league campaign. On the 1st of March St Bede's sixth form team played against Consett and won 5-3. On Wednesday 8th March St Bede's play again in the league against Framwellgate hoping for another win.

By Matthew Walker

NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by
Tuesday 4th April 2023
The deadline for advertisers is
Tuesday 4th April 2023

Cricket News

Lanchester Cricket Club U9's

As the signs of spring start to show, our juniors and seniors are getting set for the new 2023 cricket season ahead. Our under 9's boys/mixed team competed in the Durham Cricket indoor competition at The Louisa Centre. Our young side may have lacked in height and age, but they certainly made up for it in energy, skills and competitive spirit. After competing against teams from across the county over two weekends, they celebrated gaining silver medals in the plate competition! (see *front cover photograph*). The coaches can't wait to see how this group progresses and enjoys their summer of outdoor cricket.

All Stars

All Stars cricket is running again this year at Lanchester CC! The All Stars Programme is aimed at children aged 5-8 years old. The fun fundamentals sessions will run on a Friday evening 5.30-6.15pm from May to July. Thank you to everyone who has booked on to the All Stars programme, as all 72 places have been filled. If anyone who has previously had the kit, needs an item, such as a bat, can you contact Fiona Holden, and we will try to source one for you. I'd recommend writing initials or name on all items as there will be 72 sets of the same kit on that field at any one time! The programme starts on Friday 19th May, at 5.30 each week for eight weeks, except for a gap for the beer festival. There will be food vendors present each week as well as the bar being open with our extremely competitive pricing. Look out for our Dynamos Summer camps for children aged 8-11 years old.

Fiona Holden



50th Anniversary from September 2023

Preparations are going on to set up events for our fiftieth-year celebrations, which start when this season ends. The players will be wearing kit with a special badge marking the anniversary and items are available for non-players, just ask in the club. The first event will be on 23rd September, which will be the end of season presentation, but that will extend into a party to celebrate the creation of the current edition of the Cricket Club. We would like to see as many former players and members come along as possible as we will have a photographer on hand to record the event.

As part of my effort to capture as much information as possible about the club, if anyone wants to get in touch with interesting information or invaluable photographs, then please do so. I'm particularly interested in getting in touch with any of the parents or players of the 1983 team of under 13s who went to Edinburgh and then the National Finals at Sherborne School, who may have any information as to who the team played or a photo from when they were there. I'm hoping that Michael Callaghan or Richard Joyce, who both continued on to play for the seniors, may have information that would be helpful.

My email is AnJsince89@mail.com.

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