

# the Village Voice

Issue No 9, Volume 23

Lanchester, September 2023



**The T20 team win the DCB T20 Smash** (page 16)



**W.I. - "Tea with the Queen"**  
(page 6)



**10th anniversary celebration for Parish Priest Father Charles Ejieji**  
(page 6)



**Daniel receives a Durham youth award** (page 2)



**Born and bred local - Buzzards** (page 3)

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## Daniel receives a Durham youth award (pictured on the front cover)

In July my grandson received a surprise letter in the post saying that he had been shortlisted to receive an award from Durham Youth Council. We were both equally shocked and thrilled at the same time with no knowledge of where this nomination had originated!

On August 16th we arrived at Beamish Hall Hotel full of anticipation of the unknown to be greeted with a beautifully decorated room, friendly people and tables with balloons and place settings.

Initially there were rewards for superheros - under 11s who had achieved something remarkable, then the group awards, adult inspiration awards and then the over 11 role model awards. This was interspersed by a delicious buffet and a break to chat to other families.

We were totally bowled over that my grandson, Daniel Raw, received a role model award for raising awareness of ASD. It transpired that he had been nominated by his teachers at Consett Academy and we are so very proud of him. Daniel faces challenges on a daily basis but displays such amazing resilience and is determined to just be himself as much as possible. This award signifies to Daniel and his family how much his qualities are recognised and how valued he is despite his differences. We thank Durham Youth Council for celebrating the young people of Durham and giving them a voice and we are very grateful to Consett Academy for supporting Daniel and encouraging him to follow his dreams.

**Sheila Shevels**

## Musical twins Charlotte and Stephanie Walker from Lanchester are creating a stir on the international stage

One of their songs has been recorded by a South Korean superstar on an album which either is, or has been, number one in 30 different countries. They have also clinched a songwriting publishing deal for Eurovision.

Charlotte explained: "We wrote a K-pop hit which has been released by one of K-pop's biggest stars, ONew of Shinee! The song is called "No Parachute" and is featured on ONew's number 1 selling album Circle, which dominated the charts at Number 1 in over 30 different countries! The song has 500k+ streams on Spotify and counting."

The twins, who grew up with their parents Stuart and Pauline in St Bede's Court, Lanchester, sing and write songs under the title Talk Like Tigers. They have appeared on the Glastonbury stage as part of another group, Elvana, and recently took part in a Eurovision songwriting course.

Stephanie added: "In June, we went to a Eurovision Songwriting Camp in Belgium and came back home with a publishing deal. We are now signed songwriters! Who knows... one of our songs might even be on Eurovision?! (One of our songs has been shortlisted for the UK Junior Eurovision Song Contest so far... So, fingers crossed for the big one too.)

*"We've also been writing in the Netherlands and Spain and we'll be going to Norway soon. Some of the songs we've written are being released by amazing artists over the next few months."*

**Neil McKay**



Left: Charlotte,  
Right: Stephanie

## Luke leaves the village bus!

We all know how valuable the village bus is to the residents of the village.

Luke has moved to a regular bigger job within Stanley Travel so he can support his young family. The regular users of the bus clubbed together and presented Luke with a gift in appreciation of all his kindness, care and generosity over more than 7 years of dedicated service.

Paul Jackson of Lanchester Partnership and Mike Gladstone were there to wish Luke the best of luck and thanked him for his work. The bus is available to all residents of the village and if you would like to give it a try, just ring Paul Jackson on 07957871106 to arrange it.

There was a fund-raising coffee morning on Thursday 14th September 10.30 at the Chapter House of the Parish Church. The bus is funded by public donations and grants. Please organise your own coffee morning, it's great fun to help fund the bus. Thanks for all donations over the years.

Stanley Taxis still run the bus and new driver, Alan, has stepped in to keep the bus running.

**Paul Jackson**



Above: The regular users of the bus clubbed together and presented Luke with a gift in appreciation, Luke is at the back of the photo.



## Parking charges at the Kings Head

Motorists who park in the King's Head car park may now face a parking fine unless they go inside the premises to log in their registration number at a machine near the bar.

The move is aimed at preventing non- customers from leaving their cars on the premises for hours on end – or even overnight.

But motorists do have up to an hour's free parking, courtesy of the management.

Should they wish to leave their vehicle in the car park while they do a quick shop in the village they can do so without charge, so long as they are back and out of the car park within the hour.

The development has received a mixed reaction from locals, with many accepting that the car park is on private land, and the proprietors have every right to discourage indiscriminate parking.

**Neil McKay**

## Nature Notes – from our Wildlife Correspondent

### **Born and bred local - Buzzards**

I have just returned from Malton with the memory of four Buzzards soaring overhead, prompting the choice for this month's text. I was waiting there to meet the horse trailer bringing two Exmoor ponies for their annual graze on the Nature Reserve. Time spent watching the sky yielded 80+ Swallows flying and lining up on the phone lines. They are preparing for their departure to warmer climes, reminding me that summer will soon be a memory. It will be months before they migrate back from Africa to breed here again next year.

The Buzzards bred in nearby woods and successfully reared two flight apprentices, sampling the thermals with their parents. They've made a marked recovery since the mid-20th century, when they were poisoned due to agricultural chemicals getting into the food chain. Average lifespan is 12 years and breeding age is usually 3. Male's 'roller coaster' display attracts a mate, who lays 2-4 eggs, taking 34 days to hatch and another 50-ish before the young fledge.

Equipped with a sharp hooked beak and talons to match, it's perhaps surprising that they opt for a lazier approach to dining and search for carrion to eat. They do hunt small mammals, rabbits, and birds (up to the size of a wood pigeon). If food is scarce, they'll resort to earthworms, spending time foraging on the ground.



Listen for their eerie calls, almost a mewling 'kee-yaaa' cry. Easier to notice while the young still fly with the adults.

The great photos of the buzzard were taken by our local photographer, Ian Appleby.

Guide to surviving Winter (part one)

Migrate, that's my advice. Fatten up for hibernation is an option for some, perhaps grow a warmer coat. But where do all the invertebrates go? Some butterflies overwinter as adult butterflies, hiding in crevices, they usually have very dark underwings so they can hide camouflaged e.g. Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell. Many insects survive as eggs, larvae or pupae waiting out the winter until they can safely emerge as adults. Some moths tough it out still flying through winter. August and September was a good time to see large caterpillars ready to pupate. Two distinctive ones are the Elephant-hawk moth and the Puss moth. The former is aptly named as it looks like an elephant's trunk, but with scary eye-like marks to warn off would-be munchers. They fatten up on plants like Rosebay Willowherb. The pupae overwinter in fragile cocoons in leaf litter, or below the surface. The Puss moth caterpillar is even better equipped for defence, it waves its colourful head and twin tail points. If that isn't a sufficient deterrent, it squirts formic acid. They make a hard cocoon spun on a trunk or post, which includes wood chewed by the larva, which feeds on willows and Poplar tree species until large enough to pupate.



Left: Buzzard,  
Above left: Puss Moth,  
Middle: Elephant Hawk moth,  
Above right: Puss Moth,

### **Preparations for Remembrance Sunday**

This year, the commemoration of Remembrance Sunday takes place at the war memorial on the village green on Sunday 12 November starting at 10.45am. Any group within the village which wishes to lay a wreath is very welcome to do so. Groups make their arrangements for getting a wreath either by contacting the Red Cross Shop (as early as possible) or by going online to the Royal British Legion website at the following link. <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/shop/wreaths>

Please drop me an email, letting me know if your group will be involved, and ask your nominated wreath layer to report to me by 10.30am on the morning itself.

Best wishes and thanks.

**David Hughes**

**david.hughes100@sky.com**

**Chair of Churches Together**



### **Prayer Cards**

Delivery dates for Prayer Cards for the remainder of the year are as follows:

2 October	Newbiggen Lane
16 October	Lee Hill Court
30 October	Broad Oak Drive
13 November	Briardene, Foxhills Crescent
27 November	Alderside Crescent
11 December	Maiden Law Bank
25 December	Kitswell Road
8 January	Croft View, Croft Court
22 January	Fenhall Park, Victoria Terrace

**Please note: In view of refurbishment at Lanchester News, the Prayer Box has been moved to the Community Centre (rear entrance) Ray and Val Hill**



## Dear Village...



### Dear Village Voice,

I would like to express my disappointment in the disappearance of the yarn bombing from outside the Methodist church. It was put there for the benefit of the Summer Special holiday club. It takes a lot of time and hard work to make the items (I should know, I made them!) and for them to just disappear is not nice. I was told that one of them had been seen discarded in one of the bus shelters. Another one must have been cut off deliberately as the object had gone but the bollard cover was still there. I will certainly think twice about making anymore if that is to be their fate.

Yours

**A very disappointed Kath Jones**

### Dear Lanchester,

I moved here not so long ago and since then I've come to notice a great overlap between:

1. The people boasting about a village plan preventing any more accommodation being created
  2. The people bemoaning village shops closing
- They're both legitimate views to hold - but you can't have both. With the rise in internet shopping, local shops will need to expand their catchment population to stand still. Which will mean the village needs to expand. Alternatively, we can keep the village the same size and have - over time - less useful shops. Pick one position by all means and advocate it, but if you want no more houses and the centre to thrive, you're on a hiding to nothing.

Regards,

**Cowardly millennial on a 95% mortgage who doesn't fancy arguments with his or her neighbours.**

*Name and address supplied*



## Police Report

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

This month, there has been an increase in criminal damage incidents which stem from antisocial behaviour (ASB) in the village. Multiple bus stops have been damaged as well as buildings. We would like to remind parents to be mindful of when and where their children are and what they might be getting up to. Any youths identified in such instances will be spoken to in relation to the offences and dealt with accordingly and referred to the council's anti-social behaviour team where they will be given an Acceptable Behaviour Contract depending on if they are known to us. Police will also be in contact with schools at the start of the term to educate around ASB.

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

## NEXT DEADLINE

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

**FRIDAY 29th September 2023**

The deadline for advertisers is

**FRIDAY 29th September 2023**

## Summer holidays are over and the dreaded return to school has already happened... It's not all bad though because it can only mean one thing...

### KOGS HAS RETURNED! Monday 4th September at Lanchester Methodist Church!

If you're wondering who / what we are then let me explain! KoGs (Kids of God) is a Christian based youth group that meets in the Methodist Church on Monday evenings. We offer a range of activities including: 2 course meal, games, messy games, day trips, evening trips, residential weekend trips, crafts, drama, cell sessions and much much more! We are open to all religions/backgrounds and to those outside of the village too because let's face it, the more the merrier!

If you'd like to join us at KoGs on a Monday we are open from school years 4 – sixth form with the opportunity to join our leadership team after that, so the fun really does have no end! We start at 5pm to 7.30pm, Mondays during school terms.

The cost of the sessions is £3 per person but your first week is free! (All activities and your weekly meal is included). For more information contact Laura & Peter Cole on 07428500059 or email [kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk).

We also have a Facebook page if you'd like to see more or get in touch with us that way, [www.facebook.com/kidsofgodlanchester](https://www.facebook.com/kidsofgodlanchester). All our leaders are DBS checked, have Safeguarding and Creating Safer Spaces Training, have Food Hygiene Certificates and are First Aid Trained so you're always in safe hands.

We also would like to officially announce some VERY exciting news - our next fundraising event is in motion so add it to your diary dates!

Saturday 2nd December, 6pm at Lanchester Methodist Church!

### KoGs presents – SECRET AGENTS: MISSION CHRISTMAS!

Tickets will be £5 per person and include homemade soup and a sweet treat as well as all the amazing entertainment we have planned for you! (More information coming asap!)

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

**KoGs**





## Lanchester Local History Society

We have had two meetings since the last report, both of which were very interesting.

In August we had a talk from Richard Judd about his new interest in old postcards. He uses his interest in tracing family trees to delve into the recipients of the postcards with some extremely interesting stories brought to life.

Our second meeting was for September which was also our AGM. Firstly Paul Heatherington spoke to us about The Revd John George Gibson (1857-1927), Rector of Ebchester, a talented self-publicist. What a character he turned out to be! He seemed to be a bit of a Walter Mitty with a self-generated unedited autobiographical rosy view of himself and, where it was of use to his own image, of his family. Undoubtedly, he got things done in the community but would most likely, today, be under investigation for fraud. Both talks were well received by the members and visitors.

As I stated September was also the AGM so I would like to inform everyone about the terms of the society. We meet monthly and membership is £15 per person with a discount to £25 for 2 adults living in the same household. (A throwback to the days of communicating by post and paper). Members pay £3.00 per meeting with visitors paying £5.00. Meetings usually last between 60 and 90 minutes depending on how many questions are asked and if the speaker brings items to embellish the talk.

*Everybody is welcome to join us on the first Friday of the month in Room 3 at the Community Centre for a 7.00 pm start.*

**Marian Morrison**

## Do you want to help out backstage?

Durham Dramatic Society, at The City Theatre in Durham, are looking to find people who are interested in operating lights/ sound effects on a regular basis, to join the team in their lovely small theatre, which is run solely by members of whom a number are from Lanchester.

We do 6 plays a year, each with a 7 performance run. This is a very necessary part of theatre and enhances the overall production.

If you are interested, or feel you might be, please contact me, Lesley Anderson on 01207 521149 or 07531858341 for more information.

**Lesley Anderson**



## Anne Suddes Memorial Cup

This was presented to John Bell by Peter Suddes. The tractor is a 1971 Massey Ferguson 165. Peter said that it had been well restored and not "overdone" and was a very useful tractor.

The picture shows John Bell on the left being presented with his trophy by Peter Suddes in front of John's tractor.



L-R: Claire Forster (Sarah's sister), David Hamilton (Sarah's dad and Henry's grandad), Harry Hamilton and behind Sarah Hamilton.

## Tractor run raises over £1,500 for DEBRA charity.

In August, Lanchester Vintage Tractor Club organised a tractor run on behalf of the DEBRA UK charity. This charity exists to provide care and support to improve quality of life for people living with Epidermolysis Bullosa, and to fund research to find effective treatments and, ultimately cure(s) for EB.

Sarah Hamilton's son, Harry, suffers from EB. "This is a horrendously painful skin condition that makes every day a painful experience for Harry and currently has no cure. Walking, talking, eating, wearing clothing, writing...things that we all take for granted on a daily basis. Harry is exceptionally brave and deals with the condition with determination and resilience; I am beyond proud of him every day. DEBRA provides me with not only financial support but emotional support, providing a yearly meeting to meet other parents and children suffering with this cruel condition."

Sarah would like to thank Lanchester Vintage Tractor Club (LVTC) for choosing the DEBRA UK charity. This was in conjunction with the National Vintage Tractor & Engine Club. One of Sarah's neighbours, Ian Telfer, is a member of the LVTC and he raised the possibility of a fundraiser with the club.

£1534.30 was raised on the day. Sarah would like to also give a special thanks to Peter and Tony Suddes for the use of the farm facilities on the day and to Malcolm Myers for assisting with the tractor run and providing his caravan. She would also like to thank friends, family and every local company who contributed to the amazing prize list that was available.

## Christian aid – the big pea challenge

"P" for Pancakes being served on Saturday October 7th from 10 to 12 at Lanchester Methodist Church. As well as the usual cakes, bric-a-brac, tea and coffee etc.

We are celebrating the "Big Pea Challenge" – this year's fundraising theme for Christian Aid, whose partners in Malawi are helping farmers transform their livelihoods using the humble, but mighty, pigeon pea. This is a drought resistant, soil revitalising, high protein, low cost, delicious crop.

*All welcome to support this great cause!*

**Judith Brown**

## Lanchester WI From our August meeting

Marie, our President, welcomed 33 members and 5 visitors to the meeting and updated us with upcoming events, and introduced the speaker, Carol Dean, who told us about growing up in the 1950's through the eyes of her mother and grandmother.

Carol started by saying that the 50's were seen as the "Dull Decade" with rations still in place until 1954. Women had the vote but were still classed as second-class citizens, with only 1.2% of women going to university. Employment was mostly in factories doing what was called 'piece work', and they had to leave when they got married.

Women were paid approximately half the salary of men doing the same job. They were considered the homemaker in the 50's, shopping every day, no need to visit the gym as there was lots to do every day! Tina Naples gave the vote of thanks to Carol for a very entertaining talk, members then enjoyed a chat with tea and biscuits.

## From our September meeting

Marie, our President, welcomed 27 members and 2 visitors to the meeting on a lovely sunny evening, and updated us with upcoming events, including "Painting for the Terrified" on 22nd September, coffee morning on 15th Sept, and our birthday outing in November. Lynne Hodgson was presented with a bouquet to celebrate her golden wedding on 22nd September.

Our speaker was Barbara Galloway telling us about "Tea with the Queen"; Barbara had arranged for her mother to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Barbara's mother Ruth was played by member Tina Naples to everyone's amusement. They both had on the outfits worn on the day – see the photograph (front cover). Ann Carr gave the vote of thanks and the meeting finished with tea and biscuits and a chat with friends.

## All Saints R.C. Church - Congratulations are in order!

A belated 10th anniversary celebration to recognise and be thankful for our Parish Priest Father Charles Ejieji was held on Sunday 3rd September. He was ordained on the 24th August 2013 in Nigeria. He spent some of his first few years working with his Bishop before travelling to Budapest. The language was a slight barrier but within seven months he was conversing and able to officiate at Mass. He returned to Nigeria for a short time. Then he was asked to prepare to come to England. In December 2022, one of our coldest months, Father Charles arrived in England. Not just the cold to contend with also understanding our lovely Geordie language. When Father O'Connor retired Father Charles became our Parish Priest.

Due to the sad death of Father Charles's father, Celeste Uche Ejieji, it was arranged that Father Charles would return home. He officiated at his father's funeral where 51 priests along with the Bishop attended his father's funeral. Father Charles was humbled by so much support and kindness he has received. He took great comfort from all who attended the funeral, along with all who attended a Mass celebrating his father's life at All Saints R.C. Church Lanchester before he left to go home.

Father Charles returned to us on 27th August after a very arduous journey. So on Sunday 3rd September, after Mass, many parishioners popped up to the Parish Centre and enjoyed a celebratory coffee morning with scones, cakes and a celebratory cake. Big thank you to everyone who helped, baking, serving and attending on the day. Welcome back Father Charles and congratulations on your 10th anniversary. We hope and look forward to celebrating many more ordination anniversaries with you over the next many years. **Lestrine Kelly**

Some members of the parish who attended the celebration. Cover photo shows Father Charles.





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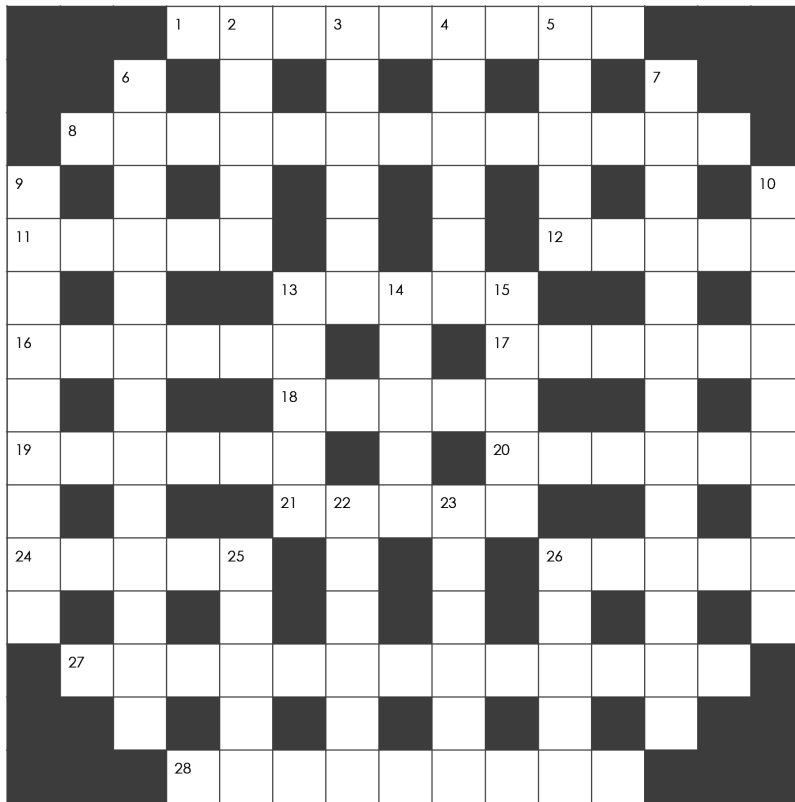
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## CLUES CROSSWORD 189



### Across

1. Track and field sports (9)
8. Consett born actor and comedian (5,8)
11. Meeting of witches (5)
12. Additional (5)
13. Type of reptile (5)
16. She was an intelligent elephant (6)
17. Geo-positioning device (3-3)
18. Basic requirements (5)
19. Attain great skill or proficiency (6)
20. Buy in from abroad (6)
21. To occur because something else (5)
24. Tiny splinter of wood (5)
26. Former capital of Japan (5)
27. SGEQ (9,4)
28. Type of football game (4-1-4)

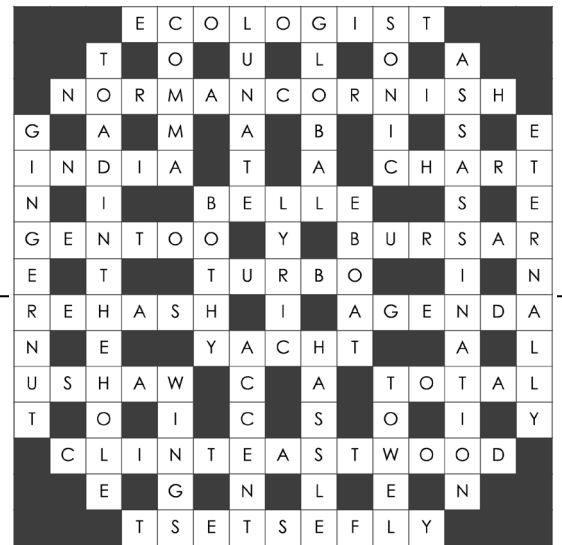
### Down

2. Mode of transport (5)
3. Measure of distance used by Jules Verne (6)
4. Video sharing app (6)
5. Lightweight boat (5)
6. Time spent recovering from an illness (13)
7. Parliamentary constituency with very few voters (6,7)
9. Person who studies financial trends (9)
10. Army with the motto 'Blood and Fire' (9)
13. Term for a specific type of music, film or writing (5)
14. Board game (5)
15. Mr Ardiles, former Newcastle United boss (5)
22. Quick and light in movement (6)
23. Makes unhappy (6)
25. Military clothing material (5)
26. To manipulate bread dough (5)

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

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

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



**Winner of Crossword 188**  
We received 20 entries, of which 18 were correct. The winner, drawn from the hat, is Christine Anne Bennett.



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## Greencroft Forest Park Woodland creation public consultation.

There is a proposal for the creation of woodland on the former Greencroft estate. We contacted the consultants for this proposal, Silviculture, and they have sent us this press release.

“Working alongside the Forestry Commission and the North East Community Forest we are looking to transform the former Greencroft Park Estate from mixed agricultural use to a forest park, similar to the size and scope of Chopwell. It will provide a whole host of benefits to both the local community and the wider UK economy.

The proposed scheme looks to create 400 ha of mixed productive conifer and broadleaf woodland that exceeds the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard. A range of surveys, including independent breeding bird, vegetation (NVC) and archaeology, have guided the design principles to envision a forest that complements the existing landscape. We are looking at opportunities to increase access for the local community, allowing them to experience the forest as it grows. We aim to use local labour skilled in forestry to deliver the project, keeping money in the local economy. As the forest grows, the productive species will provide sustainable timber for the construction sector, helping to reduce our reliance on imported wood. Furthermore, they will sequester carbon which will be stored in future buildings and furniture. By-products from harvesting of the trees may end up in local markets such as the new Sustainable Aviation Fuel plant planned on Teesside, or at the Egger plant in Hexham, helping to further support local employment. The scheme will be designed to connect priority habitats with native broadleaves helping to establish wildlife corridors across the landscape. The productive element of the project will also provide shelter for over wintering birds and support wider conservation efforts for Red Squirrel by creating suitable future habitat.

Woodland creation will also help mitigate flooding in Lanchester by decreasing surface water runoff into the Newhouse and Stockerley Burns. Broadleaf planting along these burns will further help mitigate flooding whilst also enhancing biodiversity along the watercourses.

We are consulting with local authorities and parish councils and are now inviting the residents in the local area to come along to our engagement events to meet us and talk over our plans and help us design a forest that works for the community. We will be at the Lanchester Community Centre on: Friday 13th of October 2pm to 7pm, Saturday 14th of October 10am to 2pm.”

***We'll report on how the consultation went and look forward to comments from our readers.***

## Summer Special Holiday Club

Once again, Lanchester Methodist Church hosted the annual Summer Special Holiday Club in the last week of the holidays. Over 45 children of primary school age and 30 adults jumped, danced, shouted, sang, played, bounced, did challenges, laughed, made things, did competitions, and learnt about the way Jesus and Peter's story has relevance for today.

We all learnt a memory verse about the wise and foolish builders, and this was the sub-theme for the drama each day – which was more slapstick than Hollywood, but the children loved it. The minister Stuart appeared as Grumpy in a different costume each day to tell the Bible story: as seagull, scarecrow, ice cream, cockroach, invisible man (see photo) and a prawn. The title was Seaside Rock and Lifeguard Claire, and her assistant Shelley, took us through each morning's beach party. The songs were loud and active and yet very moving too. There were amazing magic tricks to watch and wonder at, and a competition for every child to decorate a flip-flop! The church was overflowed by over 20 inflatable seagulls. It was an action-packed week, climaxing on the Sunday with an all-age family celebration and picnic with the ever-present bouncy castle being well used.

Next year the plan is to do it all again – on the last week of the holidays (August 27th to September 1st). Make sure that you book your holidays for the other summer weeks to ensure your child can join in!

**Stuart Earl**



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## Poppy's walks

Good day readers and this month's walk is not for the faint-hearted. It does contain a steep incline, but the views are worth it. At least that is what the Humans say, I am too busy sniffing the undergrowth to worry about the views.

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.

Starting from the village centre, this one proceeds east along Durham Road, although you could always walk along the railway path and turn up at Malton towards Durham Road that way.

When we reach the outskirts of the village, we cross Durham Road and proceed along the footpath until a junction which says private road to the left, but it is ok to walk on it. When we get to the top, we come to a place called Manor House and we go behind the farmsteads and walk along a path marked with yellow arrows. This takes us between fields, one with goats on a field on our right.

We follow the arrows, climbing all the time, until we reach a stile which we cross to lead us into woods.

I am allowed off my lead in the woods and we continue to climb, so the Humans get all red-faced and breathless, but insist the exercise is doing them good! We are walking within sight of the TV mast now, but when we get to a point where footpaths meet at a sort of crossroads we turn left.

We are then walking in a place known as Black Wood. If we continued along the well-marked path all the way we would get to the main Lanchester to Burnhope road, but after a spell we see another path to our left and take it downhill, all the while looking at a panoramic view of Lanchester.

We continue down the path until we can hear the traffic on Peth Bank. Instead of joining Peth Bank we turn left on another footpath, and this brings us into a field.

We cross this field and enter another one, a cornfield. From there we can see houses in front of us so we walk towards the houses along the edge of the cornfield. Suddenly we spot a cut which takes us into a housing estate at Deneside, next to a smart looking children's play area. We turn right along Deneside then through a ginnel which takes us onto Manor Grange and then back onto Durham Road.

We cross the road and walk through Valley Grove back onto the railway path, and from there back to the centre of the village. The walk takes about 90 minutes and parts are off the beaten track, but well worth the effort.



## Notes from the House

Recently, I have been out and about going to every town and village right across North West Durham as part of my Summer Surgery Tour. Over the course of two weeks, this involved over 50 stops speaking to constituents, community groups, business owners

and many more. Naturally, some of the highlights were the Lanchester stops, as well as the beautiful surrounding villages of Burnhope and Maiden Law.

In my job I get a unique insight into every nook and cranny of life in our towns and villages. What renews my drive is that, whilst I heard a range of weird and wonderful stories from people of every walk of life, everyone was so friendly, optimistic, and welcoming. It is obviously a cliché that northerners are open and welcoming, but for me it has more than just a grain of truth in it. I can certainly think of some Members of Parliament who could learn a thing or two!

Going to every town and village in our area, you get a sense of the subtly different character, traditions, and way of life in each one. However, what they all have in common is the strong community spirit that is all-too-easily forgotten elsewhere

in the country. From the community sports clubs to art fairs to village meetings, you can almost feel it in the air. However, nowhere is this more apparent than at the smaller agricultural shows and county fairs where you can actually see the whole community pulling together.

It was particularly nice showing some of my Parliament team around our area. Whenever they come up, they are always gobsmacked by the amazing views we have right on our doorstep. North West Durham undoubtedly has some of the best and most dramatic landscapes in the UK. While I take it for granted because I live here, it is a real privilege to live surrounded by natural beauty every day. Weeks like this are a good time to take stock of how lucky we are.

Members of Parliament are elected to represent the people of their constituency. All too often MPs can get wrapped up in listening to what people who shout the loudest have got to say. Going around to every town and village, no matter how small, and understanding what people actually think is such an important part of the job. I will definitely take back what I've seen, heard and learnt to Westminster and look forward to many more visits over the months to come.

**Richard Holden**



## Christmas at Willow Burn

As summer comes to an end and the darker nights draw in, the team at Willow Burn Hospice are preparing to welcome you all to some of their festive events.

This year's Nurses' Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 25 November 11am – 2pm. Our Nurses' Christmas Fair will return with tombolas, our new 'Pre-Loved' stall, Elfridges, a cake stall and much more. Bring the loved ones to meet Santa, enter our Christmas raffle, be in with the chance to win a gorgeous cuddly penguin in our 'Name the Teddy' game and, of course, the Willows Café will be open and serving some of the finest festive fayre.

Light Up a Life will take place on 3 December at Lanchester Methodist Church. During the service, we will gather to sing carols, listen to readings and performances from local choirs and musicians, and light candles in memory of loved ones. Light up

a Life is a warm, loving, and festive event to be shared with friends and family. The service and dedications are open to the whole community and there will be further information available on our website soon.

Our brand-new Christmas cards are also now on sale in our shops and at the hospice with lots of lovely new designs to choose from, including Baby in the Manger, Angel of The North and Fluffy Robin Tree - there is something for everyone. Prices start from £3.00.

**Rachel Todd**







## Community Centre News Celebrating our 55th Birthday in 2023

### Become a 'Friend' and Support your Community Centre

By donating just £2 a month, or £24 to cover the year, you are giving support to the centre, helping with our ever-increasing running costs and maintenance.

Pick up a form from reception. You will receive a sticker for your car to let everyone know that you are one of our supporters!

The community centre is owned by the people of the village, for the people of the village, and any donation is very gratefully received.

### WHAT'S COMING

Our Christmas Fayre: November 4th, 9am - 1.30pm

Over 20 wonderful stalls of Christmas goodies. Lunches and snacks available, raffles and tombola. Join us to start off that Christmas countdown.

### WHAT'S NEW

We have completed the new suspended ceilings with insulation in both halls and a new external warm flat roof. Many thanks to the AAP, County Durham Community Foundation, and our local councillors for funding these projects.

We have also installed new blinds in Hall 1 and the main kitchen has had a bit of a facelift with a new sink and floor.

The office is staffed Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am-1.15pm. On Tuesday and Thursdays, it's 9am-3pm. If you have any enquiries about any of the activities or clubs available or you want to know more about hiring our brilliant venue, please get in touch on 01207 521275 or drop in and have a chat 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/>

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**WHAT'S ON**

**All Saints Catholic Church evening talk**  
 "The Northern Saints" by Greg Ryan on Thursday 26th October at 6:30pm in the Parish Centre for stotties and broth, talk begins at 7:15pm. Tickets £5, from Heraldo Biasi.

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## Paradiso Film Night

8th October – She Said (2022)  
Two-time Academy Award® nominee Carey Mulligan (Promising Young Woman, An Education) and Emmy nominee Zoe Kazan (The Plot Against America, The Big Sick) star as New York Times reporters Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor, who together broke one of the most important stories in a generation – a story that shattered decades of silence around the subject of sexual assault in Hollywood and impelled a shift in American culture that continues to this day. Lanchester Community Centre, 7pm for a quiz, refreshments, raffle and DVD sale. Film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £3, Non-members: £4. Annual membership £5.

## Lanchester Library

### Library Book Club

On Monday October 23rd at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing 'Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother' by Amy Chua. A Sunday Times and New York Times Bestseller, 'Entertaining, bracingly honest and yes, thought-provoking' (Sunday Times). Will this book divide opinions? We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

### Thursday Book Club

On Thursday 19th October from 5.30-6.30, the group will be reviewing 'The Song of Achilles' by Madeline Miller. A modern retelling of Achilles, a good read. I hope the group enjoys this novel. If you would like to join this book group, pop into the library and pick up your copy.

**Pins and Needles** will meet up on October 5th from 10-11.30am. Bring along your wool, thread, needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Everyone welcome, enjoy.

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

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

## Musical Memories

Celebrate harvest with Musical Memories. 4th October 2023 at 2pm, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group using the ability of music to improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email lanchesterdfc@gmail.com.

## Lanchester Methodist Church Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday at the Methodist Church between 10 and 12. These are in aid of various charities and organisations. If you would like to hold a coffee morning please contact Judith Brown on 521898.

## Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be held in the main hall of the Community Centre on September 21st at 1.30pm. The speaker will be Glynis Grainger talking about the 'Life and times of Calamity Jane'.

## 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

Every Saturday night we have free entertainment in the lounge bar. On October 7th we have the very popular local duo The Buskers. All are welcome. Sunday November 5th we have our Christmas Market. Friday November 10th for £5 a ticket we have former European Champion Elvis Tribute Act, Eddy Popescu. Agents full list of acts will be available in future months

## Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

On Tuesday 12th September, from 10.30am, a talk on Longovicium will be given to the Consett Men's Forum in the Consett Methodist Church Hall. On Saturday 23rd September some of the Friends will be putting on a display in the Lanchester Community Centre for its 55th anniversary celebrations. Our regular

meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th September will be a public meeting in hall 2, where we will have a talk given by Gordon Henderson on the Roman soldiers of The Wall, followed by a presentation on our new website. Entry is free and donations to The Friends of Longovicium will be very gratefully received. On the research front, some of our members are researching Roman concrete, how it was made and how it is sometimes still strong after centuries of standing and weathering. Further information on the Friends is available from Mrs M. Williams, tel. 01207 520063 or Rodney Hawkins, email 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 11th and 25th October). 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 is Wednesday 18th October 2023 in the Community Centre main hall at 1.30 pm. It will be a social afternoon. All are welcome. On Saturday 18th November we will be holding our Christmas Demonstration in Lanchester Community Centre main hall at 2pm. The demonstrator will be Christine Ogle, "Twas the night before Christmas". Tickets £7. All are welcome, get your tickets early.

## Lunch Club

The next meeting of the lunch held at Lynwood House will be 10th October 2023. 12pm start, all welcome.

## History Society

We meet on Friday 6th October at 7pm in the Community Centre for a talk by Richard Annis, Durham University Archaeologist, on "Much Altered" - The Exchequer Building on Palace Green. This building has been under refurbishment and is about to reopen. The November meeting on Friday 3rd at 7pm will be our friend Richard Pears talking about David Stephenson (1757-1819), architect and town planner responsible for All Saints Church in Newcastle, Mosely Street and Dean Street and many of the buildings of the then Duke of Northumberland. Our Christmas social will be very early as our meeting will be on 1st December. Everyone is most welcome to come along and join us, everything might be about history but we aren't musty, dusty or stuffy.

## Wildlife Group

The next meeting is on 10th October in the Community Centre small hall at 7:30pm. The speaker will be Noel Jackson, "What did the Romans do for us? An introduction to Scientific nomenclature".

## Art Exhibition

Lanchester Art Group are holding their annual exhibition at the Community Centre on Saturday and Sunday 21st - 22nd October, 10am until 5pm, admission £1. As well as over 200 paintings to see, many will be for sale. Teas, coffee, cakes and sandwiches will also be on sale. Hope to see you there.

## WI

Lanchester WI's next meeting is on Monday 2nd October in the Main Hall, Community Centre, beginning at 7.00pm. This is our Annual General Meeting

## KoGs Presents – Secret Agents: Mission Christmas!

Saturday 2nd December, 6pm at Lanchester Methodist Church! Tickets will be £5 per person and include homemade soup and a sweet treat as well as all the amazing entertainment we have planned for you! More information coming soon!

## City Theatre

"The Duke in the Cupboard" by Susan Wear is the true story of Georgie Kempton Bunton's fight to get free TV licenses for pensioners and the audacious theft of a valuable painting. Running from Sept 24th to 30th at The City Theatre, Durham, DH1 3RA. Performances Sunday and Saturday matinee at 2.30, Mon-Fri 7.30. Tickets £8.50 with concessions £7.50 on Sun, Mon and Tues. Tickets available from the box office at Durham Gala (03000266600) or [www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk](http://www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk) and follow the link, or on the door.

## Churches Together Harvest Songs of Praise

Sunday October 1st, Lanchester Methodist Church, 6pm. With Organ, Lanchester Band and Lanchester Choral Society. Everybody welcome!

## Lanchester Choral Society

concert: Choral Contrasts Friday 20th October, Lanchester Methodist Church, 7.15pm  
We were due to give this concert in March 2020 when Covid struck! In fact we were 2 weeks away from the performance when lockdown occurred. So here we go again! This concert is exactly what it says on the tin - contrasting choral pieces, but with a change of menu! We include well-loved pieces such as Faure's Requiem and Karl Jenkins 1st World War memorial piece, The Armed Man. We have our much admired soloists Elizabeth Woods, Paul Smith and Ian Gray with us again for what we hope will be a memorable event. Tickets available from society members from mid September when posters will appear in the village.

## Witton Gilbert Parish Exhibition

By John T Geddes, Snook Acres Farm. Showing finds from the 20th century right back to the Mesolithic era (9,000-4,300BC). Witton Gilbert Village Hall, Saturday 7th October, 2023, 12 noon to 4pm. Tea and coffee available.

## All Saints' Primary School Lanchester

This academic year at All Saints' has got off to a flying start! Our new pupils and families have had a wonderful welcome by our community and everyone has settled into their new classes and routines. It is always fantastic to be reunited with our children and see them catch up with their friends.

Although a little wet, summer allowed a well-earned rest and a chance to enjoy some family time. For the first time in my seven years here, there were no major building works this summer; previously we have built a garden and multi-use games area, replaced the majority of our roof, installed new lights and technology across school, added a running track and of course, built a nursery!

We've never stopped over the last few years so, for this summer's project, I decided to work on a smaller scale! Outside the front of school, there is now a small (but perfectly formed) Lending Library for children. We have added a selection of books for primary aged pupils and you are welcome to take a book, read it, return it...and then enjoy another. The shelving is easily accessible and I hope that this will be a highly used and valued resource within the community.

Throughout the year, we are always keen to welcome guests in school and are proud to have the opportunity to show them around so they can witness our exceptionally high standards of behaviour themselves; please feel free to get in touch if you would like to see our pupils and curriculum in action! For the coming year, our curriculum has been developed to offer more geography, history Spanish and sport each week to benefit our children. If you would like any further information, the kettle is always on and there is always a smiling face to welcome you!

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

## Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

The start of the new academic year is always an exciting but nervous time for so many of us – children and adults alike! I hardly slept on Sunday evening prior to returning to school and I am the Head Teacher! I toss and turn thinking about the children, how they must be feeling and going through everything in my mind, checking we have done everything needed prior to their return whilst also feeling slightly anxious and excited about the year ahead!

We have had a great deal of work carried out in school during the summer break. A new fence has been erected all the way along the bottom field perimeter, we have had repairs to the roof, windows and woodwork, fences stained and internal work completed too. It is always endless. However, possibly some of the best money spent on the school during my time here has been some wall art in different areas of school. They have really lifted the whole building and made such a difference to the environment. I hope you agree.

We have also received communication from the DfE that we are in the next group of schools for the schools rebuilding programme work which should start sometime 2025. Whilst this might just be design work, we are pleased it will be sooner rather than later.

Parents and carers were also informed prior to the summer break that we have once again been successful in our application to the Turing scheme and received a considerable amount of funding to take children to India, Madrid, Dubai and Montreal. Once again, these will be once-in-a-lifetime visits for many of our children.

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



## Henry Dancer Days wins Lottery!

The National Lottery Community Fund has awarded local charity Henry Dancer Days £127,000 over the next 3 years to support their work with children with cancer. The funds are earmarked for storytelling projects in paediatric oncology wards throughout the UK in Newcastle, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester and London.

Henry Dancer, who died at only 12 from Osteosarcoma, is remembered throughout the village, no more so than at Lanchester EP and St Bede's where he was a pupil. Henry's mum, Jane Natrass, has devoted her life to helping other families in the same situation as they navigate the treatment and loss of a child. She says,

"The storytellers we employ are professional actors and workshop leaders who distract children and families from their treatment and often the boredom of frequent hospital stays. One young patient having bloods taken explained it well,

"I didn't notice the finger prick 'til after 'cos Carmel was making me laugh about poo!"

This illustrates the level of literature we use. Books like, "How Much Poo does an Elephant do?" and, "The Burp that Saved the World" when read well, then workshopped and played with, help children to forget what is going on for a moment and escape into their own imaginations, thinking of something else. Something funny.

Parents and carers benefit too, whether having time to call family and friends, have a shower, shed a few unseen tears, or simply enjoy seeing their child being a child (rather than "the patient") and having fun."

The charity has now raised over £1,000,000 to help struggling families. The cost of having a child in treatment is over £730 per month (Cancer Research UK 2023) and Jane is now desperately fundraising to continue the Hardship Support scheme which Henry Dancer Days delivers throughout the UK. She explains,

"On founding Henry Dancer Days, I felt it important to put a smile on the face of a sick child and give a parent a sigh of relief. Our Hardship Support is key to this, and we still need to bring in the funds. When we began, parents would use our help to enjoy a day out or a treat. In 2023, we're paying for basic household bills and travel costs, which is so sad. We've given 742 grants and there are always more families in need."

**You can donate to Henry Dancer Days by texting HDDAYS and the amount (£5/10/15/20) to 70085 or visit the website – [henrydancerdays.co.uk](http://henrydancerdays.co.uk) and click on the Donate Now button.**

**Henry Dancer Days is grateful to those who play the National Lottery for their support.**





## Lanchester Bowling Club - Third Time Unlucky

Regular readers of this column will know that in the past two editions I've waxed lyrical about Lanchester teams achieving hotshots - gaining all the possible shots on one end during a game of bowls. I've also mentioned that achieving such a feat is extremely rare, so being involved in a third one is unbelievable. Unfortunately, this time a Lanchester team (including this writer) was on the receiving end of a nine-shot reverse. Ignominy!

August's poor weather has meant that the bowling season has rather spluttered to an end; indeed our final Saturday game against Pelton Fell had to be abandoned because of a combination of heavy rain and hailstones.

All six leagues we play in have now finished with Lanchester finishing mid-table in most of them. Sadly, our Wednesday afternoon A team finished bottom of South West Durham League one, so will play in division two next season. This despite ironically achieving their best result of the season in the final game. Our B team will also be in the same division, having failed to gain promotion by two points. On a Ferryhill pitch more resembling a ploughed field than a bowling green, the B team only managed to obtain two points out of the eight available. Both teams now have home derbies to look forward to next season.

Having tumbled out of the various cups early, Lanchester was used as a neutral venue for a Derwentside League semifinal, won by Dipton. The South West Durham League chose us to host four finals during August. There was an exciting pairs match (two players on each team) which Sherburn won by one point on the final end - the standard of bowling in this match was extremely high. Houghton won the final of the double pairs competition, whilst a team from Consett won the triples final.

Despite there being a heavy rainstorm only one hour beforehand, we also managed to stage the team knockout final with Sherburn managing to come from behind to beat Houghton Dairy Lane. All players and officials were impressed by the organisation of the final and the delicious tea served afterwards. Thanks go to all the members who helped make the day a success in very trying circumstances.

Whilst it is a compliment to be chosen to host finals, we'd rather make better progress in the competitions ourselves, making us ineligible to host them.

For many of us the highlights of the month were our two annual friendlies against Birtley and Wolsingham, both of which were played away this season. There was a bit of contention about the outcome of the Birtley game, but adding up all the scorecards showed us winning quite handsomely. The best rink for Lanchester was Trish Jose, Paul Monaghan, and me. We each received a bottle of wine as a prize.

Unfortunately, only one of the four rinks won at Wolsingham, so they now hold the shield we play for in this fixture. We look forward to winning it back next season.

Both matches were played in a great spirit and the hosts certainly looked after us, providing excellent teas. By the time you read this the green will be closed and outdoor bowling will be over for the year. Before then, however, there are a whole series of finals for our own internal competitions, the results of which I'll bring you next month.

**Bob Cuthbertson**

*Below: South West Durham Veterans League final hosted at Lanchester. Houghton Dairy Lane team is on the left of the photograph and Sherburn A on the right.*

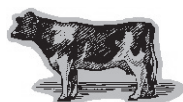


*Sally Laverick, Carol Page and Christine Monaghan - three of the many helpers who made the South West Durham League cup final such a success.*

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## Cricket - 50th Anniversary celebration

The date is near, 23rd September. The marquee is ordered and arrangements are in place. The bar opens at 3pm and the presentation for firstly the junior section and then the seniors will follow. After a gap in proceedings for some refreshment, the evening festivities will commence around 7pm when we will have some live entertainment and a food vendor. We will have a photographer present throughout and hope to capture some great images of some of our older players and members seen together once more. I cannot stress how great it would be to see as many former players and members come along as possible. It will be a great night if you are there. It is free of charge.

In relation to any stories or information for the book, this is a final request for anyone who wishes to contribute anything to come forward and tell Andrew McConnell about it. You can do so via email: [mcconnellaj63@gmail.com](mailto:mcconnellaj63@gmail.com) Finally, from 1983....who is in this photo?

I've had one name but not a name I recognise...confirmation would be great.



## Cricket News

The past month has been a crushing disappointment for the first team as their hopes of reaching the top division in Club cricket in the North of England were literally washed away. They started with a win over Eppleton where Greg Patterson had scored 82 and then Kieron Taylor, Pasindu and Cameron Metcalfe had taken three wickets each.

The following week, they went to Willington where their match was the only one not to get played, which caused great anger. Then Crook were dismissed for just 47, Kieron Gohery taking 6-26 but couldn't get back on after rain to bat. In both cases top team Sunderland played and won, making them uncatchable, as did third place Tynedale who then steamed past us.

The final nail came when we played leaders Sunderland, who brought in two paid players in Scottish international Sharif and Durham County player George Drissell. We actually played really well and bowled Sunderland out for 125 with Pasindu taking 6-15 and Taylor 3-27 but the two imports made the difference as we were bowled out for 109.

There was one piece of good news as the team won the DCB T20 Smash at Tudhoe. They walloped Eppleton in the semi-final before cantering past Boldon in the Final. Boldon set what looked like a challenging total of 152 but with Graham Brinton hitting 70 off 37 balls, we won by 7 wickets and 15 balls to spare.

The seconds won three league games, lost one and had one rained off as well as reaching a Finals Day. They beat Eppleton by 6 wickets, with McPhail getting 59 and Somersall 54; beat Willington by 137 runs where Nathan Somersall scored 71; and beat Seaham Park by 4 wickets with Ibs Khan taking 5-9. In the Finals Day at Whitburn, they beat Hetton Lyons before losing to the hosts in the Final.

### Junior Cricket

The junior season fizzled out pretty much with the under 13s and under 11s not playing any more matches. The under 15s played one match, an important one, in that they played Burnopfield at Swalwell in the Willis Elliot Cup Final. The team bowled really well and restricted a good Burnopfield side to 93. Fergus Foster took 3-18 and Mae Deaville and Toby Somersall took two wickets each. It wasn't to be though, as Burnopfield bowled really tightly throughout, and we ended up 14 runs short. Toby Somersall was the only one to make an impression, reaching 30. It was a good effort and no disgrace. The under 18s were hoping to win the league again this year, as this group of players have won the league at Under 9, 11, 13, 15 and 18 already but the league's decision to hold the fixtures post A levels put it right in what has been monsoon season and the team managed one game! However, the same group do play Under 19 too and with some persistence from Stu McPhail they played their three group games and won them all which sees them qualify for a Finals Day at Chester Le Street on Saturday 16th September. They had beaten Sacriston pre rainy season, but they more recently beat Brandon and Willington. Lanchester 111-5 against Brandon, John McGilvray top scoring with 32 and then bowled tightly to restrict the opposition to 103-3. Against Willington, the team made 163-6 with skipper Charlie McPhail making 59 and Jak Forster 30. Willington made 104-6 in reply with the six wickets going to five different bowlers. Fingers crossed they can finish with a trophy.

**Andrew McConnell**

## Tennis Club News

Following the tennis-a-thon in aid of Dementia UK at Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club on 30th July, the amount raised was £1022.00, a tremendous effort towards supporting the worthwhile charity. On the designated "centre court", over 100 games of tennis were played in the 6 hours of play, with players alternating every 30 minutes. Thanks again to everyone who took part or donated to the cause. Picture shows the certificate of thanks from Dementia UK. (Dementia UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1039404) and Scotland (SC047429).

With regard to general play at the club, August proved a challenge with the amount of rain in the month, but the beginning of September brought a change, much to the relief of the groundsman!

Finals weekend was held on 9th and 10th September and full results will be published in the next issue.

The courts are now closed on Ford Road, but coaching is continuing in Croft View Hall, and play will take place at weekends at the courts behind the Bridge School.

**As always, if you want any information about the club, please contact Dennis on 07960494442 or email [den.lizjane@gmail.com](mailto:den.lizjane@gmail.com) or alternatively follow us on Facebook or check out the club website.**

**Dennis Laycock**



## All Stars

Lanchester CC was delighted to lead on one of the biggest All Stars programmes in County Durham this year with over 80 children joining us at Ashley Park. All Stars is an initiative led by the ECB to ensure that 5-8 year old's first experiences of cricket are engaging, fun and enjoyable. Sessions were a mixture of game play and beginning to learn the fundamentals of batting, bowling and fielding. The sessions are led by a team of club volunteers known as activators. The activator team included teachers, playing members from Lanchester CC and junior playing members from the club that were volunteering for the first time.

Due to success of the programme the club partnered with Durham Cricket to offer a FREE summer holiday camp and offered a FREE healthy lunch funded by Karbon homes.

Thank you to Marsha from Durham Cricket who supported our volunteers to deliver the camp.

Watch out for All Stars 2024 information in the New Year! If your child was involved in All Stars and would like to join the club, please contact us via our social media channels to enquire about our winter sessions.

**Andrew McConnell**

