

the Village Voice

Issue No 8, Volume 22

Lanchester, August 2022



What a pretty village!
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Manor Grange Play Area Parish Council Chair Keith Harrison cuts the opening ribbon with the assistance of Lanchester children.
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Andy returns to Lanchester (page 3)



Lanchester Woman was a Batonbearer (page 2)

Welcome to the first full-colour edition of the Village Voice.

We hope that you like it. We have struggled with the quality of the black and white photographs, and this is the solution - no more black and white!

We hope to introduce the option of full-colour adverts for our advertisers in the very near future, possibly in October. These will be slightly more expensive than black and white, as you would expect. We'll be in touch. While we are on the subject of advertisements, the Village Voice's only income is from advertising, so we are always looking for new advertisers.

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Lanchester Woman was a Batonbearer

Fiona Holden from Lanchester was selected to carry the Queen's Commonwealth Baton on the relay to the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham. Fiona was excited to find that her section of the relay would take place at Gateshead International Stadium and it was even more thrilling that she would pass the baton to North East Sporting legend Sir Brendan Foster! She also shared the track with Phil Gallagher- "Mr Maker" of CBeebies Fame. It was a fantastic experience!

Fiona was selected for her services to the netball community. Fiona volunteers a great deal of her time to the sport of netball. She coaches for a senior netball club in Durham which aims to welcome women and girls back into netball, or into the sport for the very first time. Many women played at school and are thrilled to find there's an opportunity to play a sport they loved as a child. Due to the demand for social netball in County Durham, in 2012 Fiona set up a back to netball league with 6 teams entering from sessions she'd helped set up. The league proved to be so successful, and more and more teams wished to enter, taking the current number of ladies teams entered into the Durham Social Netball League to 50! Teams play every Thursday in venues across Durham and you can guarantee Fiona will be there umpiring enabling the matches to happen.

Not only does Fiona run the senior netball league, but as she has a young daughter Penny, she now coaches the U8 Bee Netball section at Consett Steelers Netball Club, a club Fiona has links to from coaching their "back to netballers" in the club's early years. Through links with Consett Steelers she also runs the monthly Consett Beacon's disability netball session. Both the Bee and Beacon netball sessions are welcoming new players.

**For more information e-mail:
Consett.SteelersCiC@gmail.com**

What a pretty village

Walking in the village along Front Street this week I was struck by how fortunate I am to live in such a nice environment - 'nice' - an overused word, but so true. Lanchester is lovely and such a 'nice' place to live.

We've come through the pandemic, the lockdowns, all the vaccinations and out the other side; our village is not only nice but this summer it looks fantastic - Mediterranean even. We have the flower boxes with their palm trees outside Ravello's looking magnificent.

All the hanging baskets are gorgeous. Then there's the 'icing on the cake' - our Ged from the hardware store has been hard at work putting out gorgeous pots of flowers all over. Some have been provided by Ged and some the shopkeepers have funded themselves. A big thank you to all of them for their generosity. But of course, flowerpots need watering, especially in the heat we've been experiencing this year and guess who's been doing that? Jed - I think he deserves a round of applause - failing that, why not pop in and say 'thank you' to him yourself.

**I don't think the village has ever looked more lovely.
Olive Simpkins**



Front cover: Fiona carrying the baton.
Above: Fiona with Sir Brendan Foster

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Cheers David & Caroline





Manor Grange Play Area

On Saturday 30 July a crowd turned out to mark the official opening of Manor Grange Play Area.

The play area was completed following several years of work to secure leases, funding, and a contractor to undertake the works. The children in the primary schools in the village were involved in selecting the equipment for the play area.

Work on the new play area was completed at the end of July and provides a more accessible and greatly improved play facility for children aged 12 and under.

Lanchester Parish Council would wish to thank Durham County Council for their help and advice in developing the project including securing a play company to install the play area. Many thanks to HAGS for delivering the project.

Funding for the project was made available from Lanchester Parish Council, from Durham County Councils Area Budget and from Durham County Councillors Neighbourhood Budget.

Our thanks go to Mid Durham Area Action Partnership and to Ossie Johnson and Jude Considine who supported and committed funds to the project when they were County Councillors up until May 2021.

Lanchester Parish Council are excited to finally see the completion of a new, accessible and greatly improved play area for children in the village and parish.

We hope that the play area is well used by children and their families and becomes a well-loved recreation facility.

Lanchester Parish Council

Andy returns to Lanchester

Lanchester residents may have spotted the traveller's caravan parked by the village green on the bypass this month.

This belongs to Andy, who lives in Sacriston, whose hobby is wild camping with the caravan. He uses his holiday from his job as a long-distance lorry driver to pursue his hobby, along with his horse Flower. He was making the most of the long hot summer. He's used to sleeping in his lorry cab, so he has no trouble sleeping in the caravan – even though it looks very cramped!

Andy was a regular visitor to Lanchester but has missed a few years.

He's pleased to be back in the village and spent his time chatting to passers by and visiting the local hostelryes.



Above left: Left to right Parish Councillor Keith Harrison, Chair of Lanchester Parish Council Parish Councillor Jude Considine (County Councillor until May 2021) Peter Ray, Chair of Mid Durham Area Action Partnership

Above right: Children playing on the new equipment



Plastic Poppies on target

The first target of 2,500 plastic poppies has now been passed with currently around 2,700 in stock. A huge thank you to all who have regularly supported this project.

We now move to the next target which is 3,000 and then on to 3,500. We will still be collecting the bottles until Monday the 24th October 2022 no matter what target we achieve. That will be the cut-off point to enable us to paint and spray all that we receive up to that date. Drop off points are "Hair by Claire" (above Ged's), the Methodist Church, Croft View Halls or my house.

Eric Hepplewhite

Lanchester Local History Society

Report from the August meeting of the history society
Thanks to the piece in the last edition of the Village Voice, and the buzz it created around the village, 27 folks sat down to an excellent and informative talk about Whickham Village through the ages from Richard Pears.

Whickham has been at the centre of the industrial booms of the last 5 or 6 hundred years. The desirability of the place to live, at the time of Elizabeth I and the Grand Alliance, sadly reduced the village structure from a large, long shaped village green to the small square, just in front of the church, that it is today.

For those of us who had enjoyed a walk led by Richard, in the

pre-covid days, were able to add some pertinent facts to our memory of the place. For those who missed the walk Richard told us of another that will take place in October as part of a Gateshead History month. Following the talk there were many memories shared which Richard thanked the group for as such anecdotes are rich for his future talks.

The meeting closed with John Gall agreeing to talk about his early memories of the village after the AGM on Friday September 2nd. We hope to see all 27 folks again in September.

Marian Morrison



Musical memories is starting again in October

Did you know that music can improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood? Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music session for all. Each session includes refreshments, singing a variety of familiar and new songs, fun activities and the opportunity to make new friends. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory and their family and friends. Exact date and venue to be confirmed - watch out for information on posters in the village and on social media <https://www.facebook.com/lanchesterdfc>.

**Or contact us at lanchesterdfc@gmail.com.
Helen McCree**



Thursday Club

At our last meeting in July, when owing to a family bereavement at the last minute, our speaker couldn't come, we were left to our own devices. We had quizzes which were entered into with zeal. Amid a great deal of noise and commotion we had a fun filled Beetle drive and then we had the Thursday Club Concert Party - a song and dance lady, who should have given a recitation, but grandchildren needed collecting. It was then on to the trio of singers who had us all joining in the well-known refrains. And all this was compered by 'the Lady in the Hat'.

It was all good fun - and we had such a good time. Scrumptious biscuits were consumed, tea and coffee drunk, as we enjoyed a good old natter.

We had two new members - a veritable baptism of fire! But everyone seemed to leave the hall on a wave of goodwill.

We shall be having a break from meetings in August but look forward to September and our flower demonstration meeting with Wendy Smith.

Olive Simpkins

Above: A fun filled Beetle drive



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An Eclipse of Moths

A fascinating session was held up at the orchard on Saturday 23rd July when members had the wonderful opportunity to examine a varied collection of moths that had been gathered overnight in the orchard.

With the help and guidance of Terry Coult, a local ecologist, a moth trap was set up the previous evening. The trap was basically a strong light above a carefully designed box which lured in the moths and harmlessly trapped them until the following morning when we were able to examine them and release these flighty creatures back in to the surrounding vegetation. Terry identified over 30 different species for us. We were so impressed with the beauty and diversity of the moths, the all time favourite being the Elephant Hawkmoth. We discovered the exquisite patterns on these animals and were fascinated by their shimmering colours.

A big thank you to Terry for all the information he gave us. It made me realise how good it is to focus on the smaller things in life and appreciate the wonders around us.

The orchard is a Lanchester Partnership initiative. If you would like to join and help with the upkeep of this lovely space please email lanchesterorchard@outlook.com

*Top left: Terry and Ivy examining contents of the moth trap
Top right: Session at the orchard
Bottom left: Elephant Hawkmoth
Bottom right: Rosa and Maxi holding the elephant moth*



Boys' Brigade

Lanchester Boys' Brigade will restart their meetings on Wednesday the 14 September. In case you are wondering who we are and what we do, here is a quick resume.

We are split into four sections, Anchor Boys aged 5-8 years old, are on a Thursday evening from 6-7pm, Junior Section aged 8-11 years old, on a Wednesday evening from 6.15-7.30pm and Company and Senior Section aged 11-18 years, Wednesday evening from 7.30-8.30pm.

All meetings take place in Croft View Halls. Our weekly meeting could include crafts, skills, games, camping, cooking, exercise but most importantly having fun. Our Motto best explains our objectives. "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends towards true Christian manliness". All boys are welcome to just come along and try it out. If you want any further details, please contact me or visit the Facebook page [lanchesterboysbrigade](https://www.facebook.com/lanchesterboysbrigade), it has posts of past events and activities.

Eric Hepplewhite

Left: Boys Brigade fundraising activity, Feb 2022

Remembering



Alan Wharton Obituary

Alan Wharton passed away peacefully on July 11th 2022 after a short illness aged 84.

He grew up in Moorside but came to live on Deanery View in 1969 and was very proud to live and know so many people in the village for over 50 years.

He had many friends and enjoyed a pint and chat in the village. When he retired, he was an active member of Lanchester Bowling Club and became secretary.

Alan was a true gent and an amiable man who always had a tale to tell and was very proud of his roots and living in Lanchester.

Alan and Elizabeth celebrated 61 years of marriage in January 2022, and he was a much-loved Dad to Ruth and Grandpa to Naomi.

The funeral took place on Thursday 28th July at a packed Lanchester All Saints Parish Church with a guard of honour from Lanchester Bowling Club. Donations in Alan's memory were to the church and Mini Operatic Bunch - the junior section of Retford Musical Theatre Company.

Thank you to everybody at the church and to the staff at Crinnions.



Marriage of one of the Village Voice delivery team

Congratulations to one of our deliverers, Zoe Barron (nee Batty) who was married to Bob Barron at South Causey on 28th July. The bridesmaids, who were dressed in baby pink, were: Kara Batty-Barron, Robyn Barron, Aleesha Proctor, Sophie Batty, Danielle Batty and Annamae Errington who was maid of honour.

Zoe, as well as delivering the Village Voice, also runs the playgroup every Friday at 9.30 in Croft View Hall.

We wish Zoe and Bob many years of happiness together.



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Notes from the House

Few dates from history roll off the tongue, but it seems to me that people will discuss the impact of "February 24th, 2022" for many years ahead: this was the day when Russia shocked the world with its brutal invasion of Ukraine following Putin's annexation of Crimea 7 years before.

Russia's unprovoked and illegal

attack on Ukraine will be in people's minds as we move towards autumn. The necessary demands of rising energy use over the winter months will cost more across the world following the reduction in supply because of Putin's illegal war. The Government has taken some major steps to support people faced by historically high gas bills. Everyone in a band A-D property should now have the £150 in their account.

And the £400 universal grant this autumn will be welcome. It is right too to ensure that the most vulnerable get the help they need with £650 in targeted support for those with the least and £300 to every pensioner household too. I urge any constituent who has questions about access to this support, or is experiencing difficulties receiving support from the Council, to contact me.

Despite the enormous difficulties people will experience locally, the good people of County Durham have shown characteristic generosity in welcoming our Ukrainian friends

facing life or death struggles.

It has been deeply comforting to see that many people in Lanchester and the villages around who have stepped forward to accommodate refugees from Ukraine this year. One such family are the Moyles, who live in Malton. My team and I have been in contact with them and have been seeking to assist them since the spring. At the end of May, I was humbled to meet with them as well as their guests, Svitlana, Olha, Sasha and Alyosha.

Meanwhile, I know that your Councillors Doug Oliver and Mike McGaun are also assisting residents with queries relating to Ukrainian refugees where the Council can help on queries related to things like schooling, housing, and translation services.

There is no doubt that this will be a difficult winter, with energy bills set to rise further as other countries move away from Russian gas putting further demand on supplies from the rest of the world. I will continue to press for both broad based support for all but crucially specifically targeted measures for the most vulnerable too.

If there is anything I can assist with in the coming months, please do email me at my Consett office on:

richard.holden.mp@parliament.uk

Richard Holden



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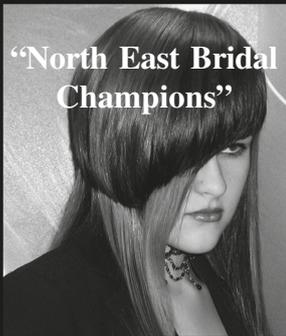
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Debut novel based in Durham and Lanchester

Margaret Armstrong, from Consett, decided to write a novel just before lockdown. She sent it directly to a publisher, without using an agent, and it was accepted. The publishers thought it well-written. The novel is called "The Yearning of the Yew".

The novel is based in Durham and Lanchester. Lanchester is described as a pretty village and All Saints' Church, the Kings Head and the Italian restaurant all get a mention!

It is essentially a tale about a vengeful ghost. The yew tree symbolises death and resurrection in the Celtic culture and Margaret has used this as the basis of her story. It has been described as "A truly imaginative and entertaining story – it will have you on the edge of your seat."

It is available through Amazon and Waterstones' website.

Ukes for fun

Sorry but our group will not be restarting in September as we had hoped.

Anyone keen to keep playing? I can recommend Durham City Uke Group which is where most of us now play. However, classes there don't start again until September.

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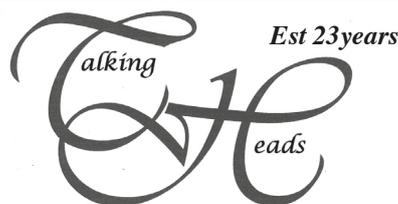
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Lanchester Flower Club

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On Wednesday 27th July 2022 at our monthly meeting, we had a full house attend our demonstration given by Heather Curry. What a fabulous afternoon, she was not only an excellent flower arranger, her story telling was so funny we all laughed from the start to finish of her demonstration. Her demonstration title was a "Basket Case" even that had significance to one of her stories. We all can't wait for her return hopefully next year. All her lovely colourful flower arrangements were raffled and 14 ladies went home with some lovely flowers.

Tea/coffee and biscuits were served and everyone enjoyed the usual chat with each other.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 28th September 2022 in the main hall at Lanchester Community Centre at 1.30pm. Please come and join us, everyone is welcome. Our speaker will be Pamela Alexander.

If you need any further information or details please contact Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 our Chairperson or Lestrine Kelly 01207 521494 our Secretary.

Our annual membership is £25 paid in January/ February, visitors £5 per meeting.



Lanchester WI August meeting

We met on a pleasant summer evening and were welcomed by President Marie Murphy. She drew our attention to items on the information table including the latest WI regulation about women and girls with ASD and ADHD. This was passed at the annual meeting in Liverpool.

Marie also reminded us of the gold box which can now be found on the table. This is our suggestion box and is there for members to voice any matters they wish: suggestions of venues for outings or proposed speakers, etc. We really would appreciate your ideas!

Friday October 7th will be our Coffee morning, held in the small hall from 10 until noon. We will have various stalls and we're certainly looking forward to the event; a lovely social and fundraising happening and a sign that we are returning to the friendly social events we have badly missed in recent times! Please bring your baked articles on the actual day!

Our members are kindly reminded that deposits for our birthday meal are due at our September meeting. We are booked at the Beamish Hall Stables for a 3 course meal, this costs £32 and includes the meal, transport, and tips. A deposit of £10 is required at this meeting - many thanks!

Tina read out 3 short poems from "The World's Wife" collection, and our raffle winners were Alma Kelly, Christine Cowan and visitor Debra Scott. Raffle items were kindly donated by Julie Leckenby and Phyllis Reed, with a third paid for from funds. Our competition was 'A Medical Joke' and winners were Jennifer Macdonald and Ann Carr.

Our speaker this evening was retired doctor and dentist Ray Lowry. Doctor Lowry also was a writer of comedy for performers such as Spike Milligan, Barry Cryer and Tommy Cooper, besides being a comedy artist in his own right. He performed some of his comic work and brought back some of the names and memories of a great age of comedy from the past. Doctor Lowry was warmly thanked by Ann and we adjourned to enjoy coffee, biscuits and chat with friends.

Maisie Raine

Police Report

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

As it's the school holidays there have been a few incidents of antisocial behaviour. Please remind kids about the dangers and consequences causing ASB can have. Recently a number of children received warning letters and visits from Consett NPT due to this.

After concerns were raised by the community relating to a dog, a Community Protection Warning letter was issued. Since then, there have been no further reports to police about this.

Not specifically in Lanchester, but around the Consett area and County Durham as a whole, there has been an increase in the number of fires. This not only stretches the fire brigade but also police and potentially ambulance services. Due to the hot dry weather, fires can spread very easily. This is a danger to people and property. Please think twice before throwing cigarette butts on the floor or having disposable BBQs, and check your children for having lighters, matches or smelling like smoke/fire.

We are looking to work with the community to help make the area you live in a better one. So, if you have any information you want to share, please get in touch and let me know or speak with Crimestoppers anonymously.

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.





Good day readers

Good day to Village Voice readers. You will know by now that my name is Poppy, I am a black Patterdale Terrier with a tinge of grey who enjoys sharing the walks I lead my Humans on in and around Lanchester. One recent discovery is a walk past Low Meadows heading out of Lanchester in the Hurbuck direction. We hadn't done it before because the Humans had not realised it was a public right of way. While we dogs

will walk anywhere Humans will only go where other Humans allow them to roam.

Starting in the village centre we walk along Kitswell Road. When that peters out, we join the track that takes us past Lizards Farm on the right and on towards a cattle grid. These are strange inventions, but I normally manage to navigate around them.

We then come to a house called Low Meadows and we stay to the left following marked yellow arrows. There is also something called the Saints Trail marked. Following the sign takes us past the house and into a narrow wood. We walk on the path through the wood with a fence to our left.

On the other side of the fence is a field of horses. We walk past a treehouse and follow the path through the woods, eventually crossing what appears like a gallops track for horses.

At the end of the path, we turn right and walk through a gate where we see an arrow pointing left. This can be confusing because there are no pointer arrows until you actually get through the gate. After making sure the gate is firmly closed behind us we walk across a couple of fields, climbing a moderate incline as we do so.

There are sometimes sheep in these fields, in which case I am kept securely fastened on my lead. There are often cows in the adjoining field, but I keep well away from them.

After a short while we reach another gate which the Human has to open – I can usually squeeze underneath – and this brings us onto the Lanchester Railway path at Hurbuck Farm. We can either continue to the Knitsley Farm Shop – another mile or so – for a tasty bite, I am usually given scrumptious morsels – or walk back along the railway path towards Lanchester.

If we follow the latter option, the walk takes just under two hours. Of course, it can be lengthened by exploring in the undergrowth for assorted small creatures which can be sniffed out along the line, or chatting to friends along the route.



Community Centre News

Here is the latest news from your Community Centre.

Your Community Centre has been open for business throughout the summer.

A few regular classes/events stop over the holiday period, others carry on throughout the year, check with us if there is a group you are interested in.

The gym is still open and new members are always welcome.

The Yard Sale was a new venture for the Centre. There were 19 stallholders selling their wares. The turnout was a little disappointing, but we are aware many people have commitments during the school holidays. Thanks to staff and volunteers for all the hard work put into organising this event. (See report from Brenda Craddock).

With the start of the new term approaching, we will be promoting our "Friends of Lanchester Community Centre" stickers.

Parking is always problematic in Lanchester and one of the assets the Centre has is its car park. We require any parent/guardian/carer who picks up and drops off to become a member if they want access to the car park. By paying £2 a month/£24 a year you get a sticker which enables access to the car park (although we cannot guarantee a space). Anyone can be a "Friend" and many contribute to the initiative, even though they do not drive.

This winter is going to be challenging for everyone, the Centre included. Our gas charges are going up by over 500% so if you can help in any small way, we will be grateful.

The office is staffed 9am-3pm Monday to Friday. If you have any enquiries about any of the activities or clubs available or you want to know more about hiring our brilliant venue, get in touch on 01207 521275 or drop in and have a chat.

Check out our Information Point; follow us on Facebook 'Lanchester Community Centre' or check out our website - <https://lanchestercc.co.uk/>

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Ladies who lunch

Last time out we were down at Knitsley Mill - it was a reasonably cool day in the midst of this hot, hot, summer that we're experiencing. A lovely calm, quiet spot to be enjoyed by the water mill stream - very relaxing. And it's just down the back lanes, a mere 10 minutes away - driving, cycling, even walking distance on a nice summer's day!

Pauline and all the staff are so welcoming, special requests are accommodated if possible and they never fail to serve brilliant meals. They have a main menu and a special two course lunch time one. We soon had our choices made and our order put in.

We sampled for main course black and blue Stilton cheeseburger with balsamic glaze and caramelised red onion; steak and ale pie with hand cut chips, peas and gravy; chicken, bacon and mushroom casserole with mash and peas; pan fried duck breast, sautéed potatoes, green beans and cherry jus; chicken Kiev with mixed salad and chips and penne pasta in a garlic and mushroom white wine sauce with rocket and garlic bread. Puddings were sticky toffee pudding and custard, rhubarb crumble and custard, and Eton mess.

Some of us were really full after our main course and opted to just have some coffee - lovely lattes and cappuccinos.

All our meals were excellent, and we had a most enjoyable lunch time.

Knitsley Mill - one of our all-time favourite spots!

The Gourmet Girls



Sponsor the bus

The costs of running this service are increasing all the time. We are always fundraising and applying for grants to sustain it, but we are looking for 250 bus angels to sponsor the bus.

For a one-off donation of £25 or a monthly standing order of £2.50 you could have the bus run in your name, your business's name, or in the name of a loved one for a day. If you get in quickly, you will even be able to choose the date! Sounds like an ideal gift for someone who has everything!

The bus helps many of the older people in our village retain their

independence and it's an important link for them to maintain social links and ability to get to the doctors etc independently. Please help us keep the costs covered for the long-term future by joining us in sponsoring the bus.

Please email thelanchesterpartnership@gmail.com to sponsor the bus, and you will get signage on the bus to celebrate your contribution for the day and also, if you wish (it's optional) a mention on the Facebook page on your day of sponsorship.

**More information please contact Laura Carmody
07967597949.**

Thank you in advance for your support.

For all your Painting and Decorating.

Transformations by Michelle

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#TRANSFORMBYM

Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Wednesday 27 July 2022 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 14 June – approved

Police Reports – Councillors received the Police reports for May and June which included a comparison of crime statistics for the area. PCSO Andrew Tonge will be attending the Parish Council meeting on 28 September. In addition, an informal meeting to discuss local matters with the police is to be arranged.

Book Stall – Front Street

A resident attended the meeting and explained that they were trying to get permission to hold a book sale on Front Street to raise monies for Ukraine. The activity is one of a number of fundraising activities from a group called 'Under the Same Moon'. Councillors were informed that permission would need to be sought from the County Council as Front Street is managed and maintained by the County Council. In addition, Front Street is not a designated trading area which carries further restrictions for street traders.

A discussion took place where Councillors suggested several options including: liaising with the Methodist Church to hold a book stall in front of the Methodist Church, exploring a book stall at the cricket club, working with other organisations to link in with their activities, speaking with the library to encourage book sales.

Manor Grange Play Area

Councillors were informed that the play area was mostly complete. The top surface on the footpath was still awaited but this does not prevent the play area from being open and used.

A post installation play inspection has been carried out by an independent company. A number of low-risk matters were identified, the majority of which have been addressed by the play company. It was agreed that a site meeting is arranged with the play company to discuss the inspection report.

Councillors were informed that arrangements were in place for a launch event on 30 July at 11am. The Parish Council newsletter providing details of the event had been delivered to dwellings in the village. In addition, posters and leaflets had been distributed. The event will include a short speech, cutting of the ribbon, photographs, and sweets for the children.

An invoice for the full amount of the project had been received. Councillors decided that a part payment of 80% is made at present until the site meeting has taken place with the play company

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

Front Street trading licences, quality of resurfacing of roads

in parts of the Parish, meeting with Head of Planning, improvements to steps to Oakwood from Durham Road, lack of bus stop at Hurbuck Cottages, meeting – road safety improvements

Correspondence

County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) AGM – Agreed that Lanchester Parish Council supports Cllr David Bell from Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council for the position of Vice President

Letter – Barclays - Councillors were informed that the Consett branch of Barclays would be closing in September

Mid Durham Parish Council Committee - minutes of the recent meeting received

Summer Holiday Activities – Park House Play Area – it was agreed to use Park House Play Area for free children's summer activities

Allotments – Durham Road - The Allotment Association asked the Parish Council to undertake a formal visit which was agreed.

Dog Attacks - Councillors were informed of the response of the police to two separate recent incidents of a dog attacking another dog. The police have spoken to those involved and the owner of the dog has put measures in place to stop further incidents. Councillors expressed concern that further incidents may occur and expressed concern for both dogs and people. The police are to be asked to closely monitor the situation.

Christmas Light Switch On - Councillors discussed the arrangements for the Christmas Light Switch On event. A proposed date of Saturday 26 November at 6pm was agreed. It was agreed that an event similar to that held in 2019 be organised.

Financial report - approved

Accounts for Payment – approved

Planning Permission

Around the village and parish, owners are making improvements to their homes and gardens.

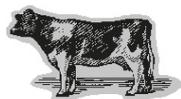
In some cases planning permission may be needed. Planning is a complex issue particularly within the Conservation Area.

If you are thinking of undertaking work to your home or garden it may be useful to contact Durham County Council Planning Department (03000 260000) to seek advice.
Lanchester Parish Council

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Lanchester Library

Library Book Club

Library Book Club
On Monday September 26th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing the Angel Tree by Lucinda Riley. 'A compelling mystery of family secrets and forgotten pasts.' Will this book generate a lively discussion? Sorry for the mix up of books last month! We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday September 15th from 4-5pm, the group will be discussing The Secrets of Latimer House by Jules Wake. A historical novel set in the Buckinghamshire countryside that witness's some of the greatest secrets of the WW2 effort. The Monday group enjoyed this novel focusing on three women from different backgrounds and their experiences during the war. If you would like to join this book group, pop into the library and pick up your copy.

DID YOU KNOW, the library has a box to put small electrical items to be recycled and a container for battery disposal?

REMEMBER the library holds a good selection of paperbacks and large print books, access to Which magazines and use of the computers.

Knit and Natter is back too, September 1st, the first Thursday of the month 10-11.30am. Bring along your wool, needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Enjoy.

Lanchester Friendship Group

Tuesday 2-4pm during term time. A new group for anyone who just wants to sit and chat or listen, no set agenda. Come along and try it out.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY available on the 2nd Thursday of each month for a group to

meet in the library. We can offer craft, creative or colouring in sessions. Speak to your friendly library staff at the library for more information.

Toddle Time

Every other Thursday 2-2.30. For Babies and Under 5's, come along and enjoy songs and rhymes with other young families. Ask a librarian at the library about future sessions. Term Time only.

KoGs

We are a youth group open to everyone in school years 5 and above, meeting in Lanchester Methodist Church. Re-starts, Sept 5th, 5-7.30pm
Contact Laura for more details: 07428500059 / laura.cole@outlook.com

Lanchester Local History Society

Lanchester Local History Society will be holding their Annual General Meeting at 7.00pm on Friday 2nd of September in Room 3 in the Community Centre. Following the business meeting our President John Gall will talk to us on the topic of some of his early memories of Lanchester. Non-members are welcome to attend the AGM and hopefully join for the 2022/23 season.

City Theatre

"Funny Money" a farce by Ray Cooney, will be on at The City Theatre in Durham (DH1 3RA) from 18th to 24th September. Tickets £8.50 are available from the Gala box office in Durham. The Sunday performance is a matinee at 2.30. Others 7.30. Concessions Sunday and Monday. "Henry accidentally picks up a briefcase containing £735,000! This leads to a game of cat and mouse as Henry and his friends assume all sorts of identities to keep the money"

Coming next in November," Edge of Darkness".

The Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

There will be no monthly meeting in August, so the next one will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 22nd September in the Community Centre.

Henry Dancer Days John Clark Memorial Charity Golf Day

Wednesday 21st September 2022, first tee 9:30am at Consett Golf Club. 18 holes individual Stableford. £35. Contact Dave Redford 07791524906 or email d.redford67@sky.com.

Vintage Tractors

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

Social Club

3 Sep - Kristen Knight
10 Sep - Shaun Keelan
17 Sep - McNeill
24 Sep - Amelia Jade
30 Sep - 70's Night featuring music from live group Boogie Nights.
Tickets £5 from the bar. *All acts may be subject to change at short notice*

Paradiso Film club

Lanchester Community Centre, second Sunday of every month, 7pm for drinks and nibbles, film starts at 7:30pm. Cost: members £2.50, non-members £3.50. Annual membership £5. All are welcome. Schedule below:
Sept -The world's fastest Indian
Oct -The dressmaker
Nov -Belfast
Dec -A boy called Christmas

Cuppa and Company lunch club

The next meeting of the Cuppa and Company lunch club will be 12pm on Tuesday 13th September Lynwood House. **All welcome.**

York Christmas Trip

The York Christmas shopping trip is back! Saturday December 3rd. Ring Brenda Craddock (01207 520749) if interested. Cost of bus ticket no more than £14.

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be in the Main Hall of the Community Centre, on September 15th at 1.30pm. We will be welcoming Wendy Smith to give us a Flower Demonstration - something to look forward to - see you there.

Lanchester Art Group Exhibition

Apologies. Lanchester Art Group Exhibition date is 22nd and 23rd of October NOT as stated in the last issue. Celebrating 40 Years, Lanchester Art Group's Exhibition is back and will be held in The Community Centre on Sat/Sun 22nd/23rd October. 10am till 5pm both days. Admission £1. Scrummy refreshments and lots of pictures to view and buy. (Card payment available). Thanks to County Durham Foundation for supporting this exhibition with funding from the Community Grants Funding programme.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Residents of Lanchester and surrounds are more than welcome to a MacMillan Coffee Morning to be held at Leadgate Cricket Club on Saturday, September 17 between 10am and 1pm. Delicious homemade cakes and savoury snacks are on the menu, as well as a raffle, tombola, second hand book stall and bottle tombola.

Lanchester Flower Club

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 28th September 2022 in the main hall at Lanchester Community Centre at 1.30pm. Please come and join us everyone welcome. Our speaker will be Pamela Alexander.

Lanchester Wildlife Group

The next meeting of the Lanchester Wildlife Group will be on 13th September at 7:30pm in the Community Centre Small Hall. "A Nature Reserve in the Making - Malton". It will be led by Terry Coult.



**Lanchester Medical Centre:
Lanchester Patient
Participation Group**

Lanchester
Medical Centre

“Stop and smell the Roses”

Relax, take time out to enjoy and appreciate the beauty of life.

The expression "stop and smell the roses" is not simply about flowers, but rather about how to live your life with a deeper appreciation of the world around us. It reminds us to slow down and notice the little things that make life worthwhile. No matter what age we are it is important to "enjoy the moment" otherwise, those moments will pass you by.

Spend time with family; older ones, and younger ones. Have dinner around a dinner table, rather than in front of the television leaving the headphones, earbuds or Air Pods out. Participate in the interests of your family remembering the things that matter to them most. Visit or call those relatives that you don't see very often or write them a letter, this is becoming a dying art.

Connecting with friends, modern technology, phones, tablets, laptops working from home has led us away from meeting people. Friends are like a second family, it is important to meet regularly, find out what is going on in their lives. Don't let work, daily chores consume you so that all you do is text or email, connect in person.

Keep a calendar; mark down special days ahead of time so you don't forget birthdays, anniversaries, children's events. Remembering things that matter to others, helps build a stronger bond.

Be positive; how we see life and the world is all a matter of the mind. Are you a "glass half empty person" or "a glass half full person?" Our mind can be shaped and changed through positive rather than negative statements. Let go of passed sad experiences, we cannot change the past, learn from these experiences and move on. The act of being positive, paying attention to the good things in life and being appreciative makes people happier.

Be kind; as you become busier, it is easy to live in your own "bubble", focusing on tasks and forgetting people around you. While rushing about, stop for a minute and look, there might be someone in need, or who is feeling down. Be kind to them, even in the smallest of ways. The smallest gesture of kindness can change someone's outlook on their day, their week, their year, or their life. Maybe you will be the one receiving a kindness.

Take a deep breath, look around. While there are things that you wish could be better, be grateful for the things that you have, and the beauty of living on this earth. You only have one life to live, and it is yours.

The National Institute of Health says, "it's easy to fall into "autopilot," but your ability to hit the pause button is essential to leading a fulfilling life!"



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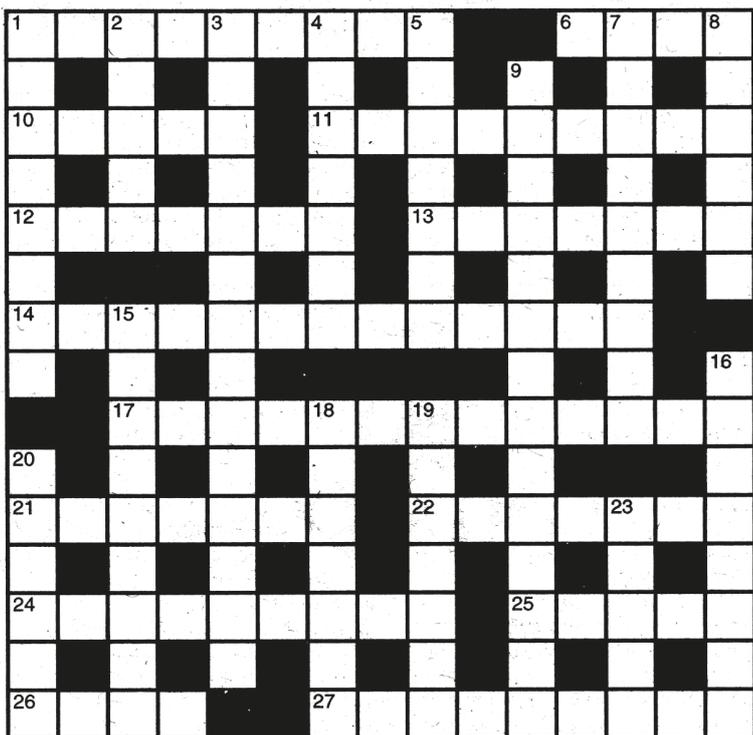


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CLUES CROSSWORD 176



Across

- 1 20.00hrs is curfew time!
(4,2,3)
- 6 The emperor is a star (4)
- 10 Frenzied (5)
- 11 The act of keeping (9)
- 12,23 Brag (5,2,5)
- 13 Fainter (7)
- 14 Type of house (6-7)
- 17 Financial manipulator
(5-8)
- 21 Protective eyelet (7)
- 22 Protesting (2,1,4)
- 24 Very loud bang (9)
- 25 South American Indians
(5)
- 26 Trip out (4)
- 27 Environmentalists
stratagem (5,4)

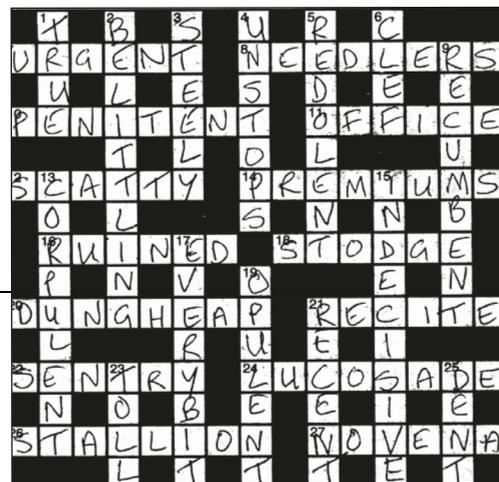
Down

- 1 Murder (8)
- 2 Obsession (5)
- 3 Feat (14)
- 4 Deviate (4,3)
- 5 Unlike this! (3,2,2)
- 7 Swim in the buff (6-3)
- 8 Empty (3,3)
- 9 Brainwashing (14)
- 15 Not taken over by the local
authority! (9)
- 16 What a rider does to their
horse! (6,2)
- 18 Knotted lace making (7)
- 19 Inflict a heavy defeat (7)
- 20 Moroccan city (6)
- 23 See 12

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 175

There were 9 entries, 8 of which were correct.

The winner pulled from the hat was **Jim Rafferty.**

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Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

We gave our Year 6 and Nursery leavers a great send off at the end of the academic year. However, we also said goodbye to one of our teaching staff, Mr Kenny Keeton, who has left us to live and work in Dubai. Mr Keeton was one of the staff who helped lead the visit to Dubai back in March and enjoyed it so much, he decided he wanted to live and work out there – good for him! Mr Callum Adamson has replaced him and takes up his position in September.

We are also delighted to have, once again, been successful with our application to the Turing Scheme. Less than half of schools who applied were successful this year, so we are really thrilled to have been granted over £60,000 to take 40 children and 10 staff to Dubai and India next academic year. These will be life-changing visits for both children and staff and both will take place in the spring term.

We are also embarking on our final year of two Erasmus+ projects – one about healthy lifestyles and the other focusing on music to prevent bullying. We are welcoming students and staff from Spain, Hungary, and Germany at the end of September before visits with children to Latvia in October and Hungary in December. We then have further visits to Brussels, Athens, Istanbul, and Madrid to plan for later in the year.

It is going to be another busy and exciting year at Lanchester E.P. School!

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher
Lanchester E.P. Primary School



Yard Sale

There were some excellent stalls at the Yard Sale in the Community Centre car park on Saturday August 6th. It was a pleasure to walk around and talk to the lovely stall holders who were selling some first class material. There were many intuitive ideas and beautiful crafts not to mention bargains galore, both first and second hand, and refreshments were constantly available. A lovely friendly village feel pervaded the former school yard, where in the past so many village children must have enjoyed happily playing there. It was a fine bright morning, and it was a pity the attendance was low because the effort put into the event was great and the value of such village events right at the heart of the village in the

Community Centre are of inestimable value. People meet people and have conversations in which views are expressed and opinions given and this all enriches the life of the village. After so many indoor and lonely days in recent times we need to be out and about again. No man is an island! People need people. Thank you stall holders. Your efforts were much appreciated by all who attended.



*Top: A friendly wave from two happy stall holders.
Left: Beautiful toys sold by mother and daughter.
Right: Barbara Malpass's beautifully crafted cushions.*

Please come again!
Brenda Craddock.

ROLL UP ROLL UP, get your entries for the Lanchester Partnership Family Fun Run in!

Open to all, with a medal for all runners!

Sunday September 25th 2022

START 10am

FINISH 12pm

DISTANCE 2.5km (run it as many times as you like!)

WHERE Burnhopeside Hall DH7 0TL

PARKING ONSITE £2.50

COST £6 for adults and £3 for children. Spectators and cheer teams are free!

Online entry. Scan the QR code, email thelanchesterpartnership@gmail.com or find us on Facebook - Lanchester Partnership Village Vita to enter.





The Annual Munching of Malton Nature Reserve

If you are asked to envisage wildlife conservation activity, you might imagine something like tree planting. This is important to restore and recreate woodlands, but British nature is diverse and dependent on a variety of different habitats. Grazing animals are the unsung heroes in preserving some of our most precious and threatened wildlife. Britain has lost 97% of its species in rich meadows and grasslands since the 1930's. If grasslands are not cut or grazed, they become overgrown and shrubs and trees become prevalent. This means the species of fungi, flower and insect that are dependent on more open habitats are lost.

Annual grazing or cutting of grasslands, after flowers have gone to seed, helps remove the build-up of vegetation and prevents wildflowers and grasses from being out-competed by other plants. Grazing livestock gradually nibble away over time, change the vegetation structure in a less uniform way than cutting and wildlife has time to adjust or move to other suitable areas.

Durham Wildlife Trust has 12 Exmoor ponies, monitored by a group of volunteer pony wardens. The ponies spend half the year at Rainton Meadows, where they graze the grasslands, then in late summer they move out onto other Trust nature reserves like Malton.

In September two enthusiastic living lawnmowers will be welcomed back to munch Malton i.e. the Exmoor pony contingent of the Durham Wildlife Trust team. Please don't feed them, they are a hardy native breed of pony that thrive on the equivalent of a low calorie diet, even thistles and gorse (ouch!). Carrots and apples can upset them.

Malton NR is a reclaimed colliery site, learn more at **Lanchester Wildlife Group's meeting on 13th September (see 'Whats On').**
lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com

Lanchester Male Voice Choir

Our numbers have declined as a result of the pandemic. Two years ago, we were holding concerts with up to 26 singers and now there are fewer than half of that. Ironically, this is at a time when we are informed that singing is good for our physical and mental health. We have been unable to hold any concerts due to the lack of a balanced choir. As we start our new term on October 3rd, we are appealing for new and ex-members to come and join us. If you enjoy singing, you may well enjoy being in a choir. It is worth a try.

We rehearse at Lanchester Community Centre on Mondays from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. You can be sure of a welcome and it is subscription-free for the first year.

We are also planning a coffee morning at Lanchester Methodist Church on Saturday 15th October from 10:00am so come and join us for that, too.

Bernie Fox, Secretary
brnrdfmx@gmail.com



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Football focus

The 2021-2022 football season has finished and the start of the 2022-2023 season for many has either commenced or is rapidly approaching. With a quick turnaround from last season, local football is expected to be more prominent than ever this season with the World Cup starting in November this year.

It was a successful season for teams in the North East starting with Newton Aycliffe, they finished 4th in the Northern League Division One with 67 points. Newton Aycliffe won 21 games out of 38 and scored 72 goals in the 2021-2022 season. The season has already commenced for Newton Aycliffe as they are playing in the same league as last season and are currently 3rd in the league. So far Newton Aycliffe have played three games and are currently unbeaten having won 2 out of 3 games and drawing their other game. Newton Aycliffe are playing in the same league that Consett AFC came 2nd in last season. Consett AFC this season will be playing in the Northern Premier League East Division after their success in the 2021-2022 season. Consett have yet to start their season. However they will be hopeful after their successful season last year. Another local team that plays in the Northern League Division One with Newton Aycliffe is Bishop Auckland who struggled last season but have had a great start to the 2022-2023 campaign. Last year Bishop Auckland finished 18th out of 20 teams with 35 points. However, this year in the 3 games that they have played they have won 2 and are currently 5th in the league, only one point behind fellow local team Newton Aycliffe. Bishop Auckland, similarly to Newton Aycliffe, will be hoping to challenge for promotion in order to meet with Consett AFC again.

Matthew Walker

Lawn Bowls - Local & International

From time to time, we have the chance to catch up on the international scope of the sport we play. Bowls is not just a pleasant pastime played in English villages; it is a major sport played worldwide. We do not have a place in the Olympic Games, but we do have the Commonwealth Games as the pinnacle of our competitions. This year the quality of games was superb. India and Malaysia figured prominently, and the exuberant Cook Islands team punched above their weight justifying their long journey from the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Sadly, some non-Commonwealth countries, such as Spain, USA, France and Portugal, where the game is growing, could not compete in Birmingham (actually at Leamington Spa). The sport is no longer dominated by the home countries, but England players figured in exciting games and won their fair share of gold medals.

On the home front the Wednesday evening league is now finished as the nights draw in. Our team did not clock up too many wins but playing on a warm summer's evening can be a real pleasure. Promotion for the Wednesday afternoon team which is mostly composed of married couples still looks possible. The Tuesday team has been affected by clubs dropping out of that league leaving us to prop up those that remain. The Saturday team is on a good run with three wins and a draw in the last four matches. The Monday team is doing well, and a mid-table finish looks on the cards.

Mark Earnden's Kayak Adventure

We've been following Mark Earnden's adventure where he was planning to kayak 100km from west coast Scotland to east coast Scotland to raise awareness of Dementia UK.

Well, he did it! The total (which is still receiving donations) is currently £2,070. Mark said: "It was an amazing trip, physically challenging as expected, surrounded by stunning scenery. I got very lucky with the weather, but the wind still blew through the glen and created large swells to navigate. Exhausted at the end of each day we prepared for the next which offered fresh challenges...I loved every minute and

now eyeing future kayak challenges."

Mark would like to thank the Village Voice for following his story and raising awareness, "It is truly appreciated."



Tree removed in play area

Visitors to the park behind Station Road may have noticed a change in the landscape. Durham County Council workmen were busy chopping down the large tree close to the children's play area, presumably because it was diseased.

Three wagons and a tractor were needed to remove the large structure.

Neil McKay



Lanchester Bowls Club Friendly

Lanchester entertained Birtley Bowls Club in a friendly and once more came away winners which is not the main object but nonetheless satisfying. A match played in the true spirit of the game in glorious sunshine followed by a splendid tea prepared by Jean Hockaday and Anne Lee. This time they appear on the photograph (back page / front row, right hand side) just to dispel the rumour that they are kept locked up at all times!!

Mike Stoddart



Cricket News

Senior Cricket

The firsts have struggled in recent weeks with absentees, mainly due to holidays. They lost to Crook and Shotley and had a winning draw with Blaydon. Against Crook and Shotley, they restricted the opposition well, but couldn't chase their low targets. Kieron Taylor took five wickets in both of those games. Against Blaydon, Lanchester made 266 with Graham Brinton scoring 80 and Luke McCabe 71, however spells of rain reduced the number of overs for Blaydon to chase our score and for us to bowl them out and despite Pasindu's best efforts 3-34, Lanchester couldn't bowl the opposition out.

The seconds were also affected by absentees, with first team fill ins and holidays and struggled in this period with a win, a draw and two losses. Jack Slane scored 85 and Nathan Somersall 60 against Crook but couldn't take the final Crook wicket for the win. Jack Morris and Tom Deaville took 3 wickets each in vain v Blaydon and Jak Forster's 45 wasn't enough v Shotley. There then followed an easy win over Seaham Park with Ben Rayner scoring an unbeaten half century.

The thirds won one and had two washed out. They had half a game at Seaham and then never got to play v Willington before beating Philadelphia. In that game, Jack Morris took 3 wickets and 13-year-old Joe Malone on his debut took 2-15. Toby Somersall top scored with 54 as they won by 4 wickets. The fourths were rained off against Boldon but beat Ryton by 5 wickets. Fergus Foster took 3 wickets on debut, while David Selby (68) and Ethan Connolly (58) led the successful run chase.

Junior Cricket

The under 18A team won their league with a win at title chasing Whitburn, despite losing to Eppleton in the previous game. At Eppleton, they couldn't chase down the home team's score, falling 8 runs short. However, they took on Whitburn in a winner takes all game and bowled the home side out for 73, Dan Scott took 3-20, while Tom Deaville took 2-7 off his 4 overs. The score was passed for the loss of 4 wickets, cue the celebrations! That's a team without a single player aged 18.

The under 15s won two games and the other was washed out, as the team finished the season in fourth place. They shocked league runners up Beamish, when they beat them by 3 runs in an exciting match. Harry O'Sullivan-Brown scored 40 and Mae Deaville made an important unbeaten 20 at the end. Then all Lanchester bowlers bowled well, with four bowlers taking two wickets each. They finished the season with an easy win over Blaydon, bowling them out for 55 and Ethan Connolly and Toby Somersall knocked the runs off without loss. Leo Johnson took 3-7.

The under 13s won their final match of the season, following two defeats, beating Leadgate by 7 wickets. Joe Malone took 3-11 in that winning performance, with four batters making double figures, including newcomer Lenny Rushton unbeaten on 15, and 11-year-old Nathan Watson also unbeaten on 15. The team finished mid table, winning and losing six games with one washed out.

At the twelfth attempt, the under 11s won their first match by beating Burnopfield. The young team have shown improvement throughout the season, getting beaten by smaller margins each time, until on their final game, they won. Great way for them to finish.

Tennis Club Barbeque and more!

The annual tennis club barbeque took place on Saturday 23rd July. A light rain shower in the middle of proceedings did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm and enjoyment of around 40 people who attended the event at the club on Ford Road. The ladies of the club provided a good array of side dishes of salads and pickles etc., to supplement the usual BBQ fare and tennis related activities and games helped to burn off the extra calories! Thanks to all who worked hard to provide for the event.

It's a quiet time on the team front at present, with only one league match (mixed) being played recently. Unfortunately, following a close match, the team of Sally Laverick, Michelle Ridley, James Gray and Dougal Reed were defeated 5 – 3 by a strong Durham Moor side.

The club tournaments are progressing with the finals to be held in early September. Good luck to all.

The club coaching programme is still going ahead despite the head coach Sam Stokoe and coach Dennis Laycock being incapacitated with injury. Sam is recovering from recent brain tumour surgery and Dennis is out of action with a torn foot tendon. Best wishes to for a speedy recovery. However, the two Adams are providing a change of scene for the current crop of participants. Thanks to them for their work.

As with a lot of sports clubs, the extreme weather conditions have played havoc with ground preparation. The tennis club is

no exception, but it has provided a hard and fast surface to play on, an unlikely bonus for some!

As always, if you want any information about the club, please contact Dennis on 07960494442

or email: den.lizjane@gmail.com

or alternatively follow us on Facebook or check out the club website.



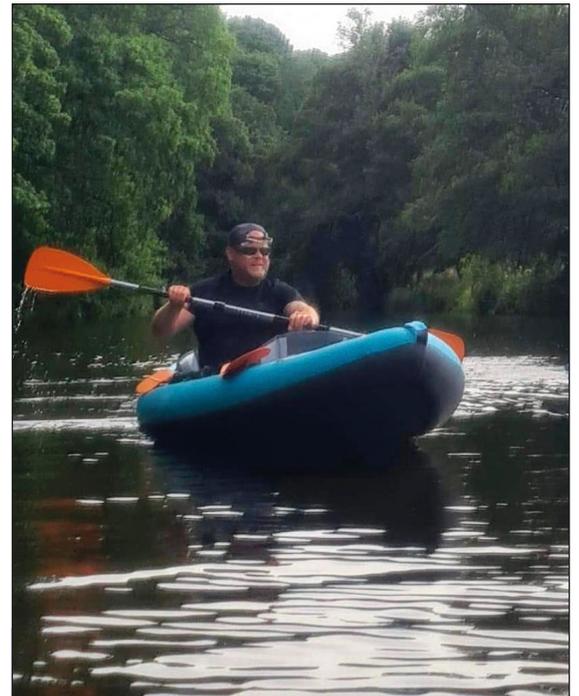


Lanchester Bowls Club Friendly (page 18)



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Photo above shows the under 18 team who won their league.
 Back row from left to right: Tom Deaville, Bailey Allison, Nathan Scurr, Josh Cottom, Jack Morris, Toby Somersall
 Front row: Dan Scott, Jack Ledger, Charlie McPhail, Ethan Connolly, Jak Forster



Mark Earnden's Kayak Adventure
 (page 18)



Tennis Club Barbeque (page 19)

NEXT DEADLINE

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