

the Village Voice

Issue No 1, Volume 23

Lanchester, January 2023



Celebrating
the festive
season in
Lanchester

Carols on
the Green
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Tractor rally
(page 6)



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Thursday Club

Our last meeting in December was not in the Community Centre, but down at the Kings Head. We had a Christmas meal and it was most enjoyable.

From all at the Thursday Club we send every good wish for a happy, healthy, and memorable 2023 to you all.

Olive Simpkins



Musical Memories Christmas party

What a wonderful afternoon!!

Guests were welcomed with mulled wine and settled in to meet new people and catch up with old friends. There were activities including Christmas card making and a Christmas quiz. Then it was time for traditional and modern Christmas songs, seasonal refreshments and Christmas carols. Everyone left with a small gift from the tombola.

Prizes were awarded to Eric Watson for the Christmas quiz and to Mary Kiernan (see picture) for the best Christmas outfit.

Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group which meets once a month. It is run by a group of local volunteers (see picture). Music is recognised for its ability to improve brain activity, wellbeing and mood. At Musical Memories we welcome people living with conditions that affect memory and their family and friends. Our next session is on 1st February at 2pm with a Valentine theme.

Do you know someone who might enjoy Musical Memories but needs some help to attend? Could you provide transport or possibly accompany someone who doesn't want to attend alone?

Venue: Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. **Date:** the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm. For more information contact us at lanchesterdfc@gmail.com



From left to right John Kiernan, Mary Kiernan and volunteer Debbie Parkes. The catering team from left to right Gwen, Elaine, Christine and Oksana.

Carols on the Green

Once again, the village green on Christmas Eve was alive with members of our community. It has been a tradition for many years to sing carols on the green to mark the great festival of Christmas and this year had its highest attendance ever. There was thought to be over 1000 people there! It is an event organised by Lanchester Churches Together. Lanchester Choral Society and Friends were present as always to lead the singing and Lanchester Brass Band were there to accompany them.

Reverend Peter Smith introduced the evening before handing over to David Hughes who guided everyone through the programme of carols and skillfully drew awareness of the Christmas story between carols. One particular joy of the evening is when the youngest children are asked to come forward to sing 'Away in a Manger' under the twinkling lights; watching these children sing with charm and sincerity epitomises Christmas.

Reverend Lesley Sutherland gave a blessing at the end of the evening and endorsed the significance of the occasion. As the crowd dispersed the band played 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' and everyone, young and old were wishing each other just that, as they happily made their way home. The celebration of God's gift to the earth of His Son would soon be here.

Brenda Craddock

Front cover photos show the crowds in attendance, the brass band, with James Draper, who leads the band

Dr D. sails off into the sunset...

After almost two decades serving the people of Lanchester, one of the village's most popular practitioners is retiring. Dr Ian Davidson, 65, has retired, having helped patients at Lanchester Medical Centre since November 2003. He is set to literally sail off into the sunset, having booked a tropical Caribbean cruise to celebrate hanging up his stethoscope... although Dr Davidson does intend to carry on working as a GP locum in the area once he's taken a well-earned break. A Shotley Bridge lad, he now lives in Rowlands Gill and will carry out locum work in local practices before eventually moving to Fife, in Scotland, to be closer to family.

He said: "I will really miss Lanchester with its lovely village centre. The people here have always been so welcoming and friendly, and I've made so many friends over the years.

"I enjoy my work as a GP and take great pride in being able to help people and make their lives better when I can. People are lovely and grateful for what help you can give."

Dr Davidson qualified from medical school in Sheffield in 1981 and has seen it all in over four decades working in medicine, from removing a cast iron poker lodged painfully in a patient's "personal space" to treating a woman whose necklace had fused to her neck when she'd been struck by lightning! "Lanchester will forever be a special place – the proudest moment in my career was moving to the Medical Centre in 2013 after years of planning and development," said Dr Davidson, who was made a fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 2012.

"But I'm genuinely looking forward to retirement and I plan to learn to play the saxophone, which is a lifelong ambition. My wife and I both love to travel and hopefully that will play a big part in my retirement starting with a Caribbean cruise in January."

Sadly, he and wife Tammy recently had to deal with the passing of Dr Davidson's father, who died aged 89 at the beginning of December. Organising the funeral, which took place the day before he finished work, meant a hectic end to his time in the village.

Dr and Mrs Davidson, who married in the Borders in March, have eight children and six grandchildren between them, so they are looking forward to spending more time with them, and Dr Davidson is also an avid supporter of Sunderland AFC...so, it probably won't be an entirely happy retirement! Enjoy your retirement, Dr Davidson, and thank you for everything you have done for Lanchester over the past 19 years!

Bryn Hilton



Choral Society Concert

Festive spirit and festive cheer could be found in abundance in the Methodist church on the evening of Monday December 19th. The occasion was a Christmas concert given by 'Lanchester Choral Society and Friends' to celebrate and it was superb. The conductor, of course, was David Hughes and the choir was accompanied by the very talented David Williams, who has been doing this for some time. We have heard the Choral Society sing many times and know that their concerts with their musical director David Hughes at the helm are always of a very high standard and their Christmas concert was no exception.

The programme consisted of Christmas carols interspersed with readings, including the biblical readings telling the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. The first carol sung by the society was 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' which was very merry and immediately lifted everyone's spirits and set the tone for what was to come. All the many carols sung by the society were sung in part which enhanced all the familiar and less known carols, and they were sung very sensitively and beautifully, with close attention to diction and dynamics. All the very top notes were effortlessly reached and the blend of bass, tenor, soprano and alto voices made a glorious sound.

Elizabeth Woods, whose beautiful voice we have heard and admired many times, sang several items faultlessly and she also read one of the secular Christmas readings, entitled 'A Visit from St. Nick'.

The congregation were invited to sing along with three well-loved familiar carols, namely, 'Once in Royal David's City', 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and 'O Come All Ye Faithful'. What a joy it was to sing with this society who produce such an impressive sound.

There were refreshments to close the evening with everyone reflecting upon a most enjoyable evening and a very fitting start to Christmas week. 'Joy to the world' are the first four words of a Christmas hymn and indeed joy had come to Lanchester on the evening of December 19th.



URGENT

Deliverer needed for Deneside.

We had no volunteers from the last advert, so please consider whether you can help – or we may need to leave copies in the village to pick up rather than have them delivered.

**Please contact Mike Stoddart
on 520291 if you can help.**

Happy New Year to all our readers, advertisers and contributors.

As you will have seen, the December edition arrived on the doormats after Christmas last year. We had sent the Village Voice to the printers early, but a combination of delays there and with the delivery people meant that it arrived too late.

We are sorry.

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Northern Echo County Durham Together Awards Volunteer Unsung Hero

We were wandering around the caravan show at the NEC in Birmingham when Eric received a call from someone saying he had been nominated for an award. He said he would ring them back as it was very noisy, and he thought he had misheard the lady. However, on ringing her back she was able to tell him that he had been nominated for the Northern Echo County Durham Together awards in the Volunteer Unsung Hero category. He said to her – “are you sure as there’s lots of people who are probably more deserving than me?”

Nevertheless, once he got over the shock, we were able to book tickets for our sons and daughter-in-law to join us at the awards ceremony on 8 December 2022 at the Ramside Hall Hotel in Durham. He had said all along that he would not win because of the work lots of others did, so when we arrived and we were tucked away on a table, he gave a sigh of relief. We were seated with a party of 4 people from Ludworth and enjoyed a nice meal prior to the awards ceremony itself. There were quite a lot of categories, so this took some time. It was good to see two other people from Lanchester had also been nominated in other categories - Richard Darlington from Hall Hill Farm and David Selby. The chap from Ludworth on our table received an award. All winners gave a speech, and they were so good I thought they must have known they had won the award in advance and had the speech prepared.

Needless to say, we were all surprised and extremely proud when the winner of the Unsung Hero award was announced, and it was Eric. He was presented with the award by Paul Fiddaman of Karbon Homes who were the sponsors for this award and still, during his speech, Eric said he thought there were people who would be more deserving than him. When asked how long he thought he would continue to volunteer he said, “I suppose as long as I am able to I will”.

**Thank you, Laura Carmody, for nominating Eric.
Sylvia Hepplewhite**



Right: Eric receiving his award from Paul Fiddaman of Karbon Homes.
Far right: Eric's family - L - R Nigel (Son), Sophie (Daughter in Law), Eric, Sylvia and Karl (Son)



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Wildlife notes

Big Garden Bird Watch

Get your garden birds lined up for the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch – spend an hour

between 27 and 29th January. Top up on some birdie treats to entice more of them to your garden (water is important too, so keep a shallow bowl defrosted). Shop locally at the hardware or pet store, they will get your feathered friends sorted. You don't have to have a garden; you can choose another spot to do your birdwatch.

A bit fuzzy on your finches? A few to keep an eye out for that enjoy sunflower hearts are Goldfinch and Chaffinch, these are more regular garden visitors. You'll be lucky to see Greenfinch and the very striking Bullfinch. For some birds the male and female look different from each other. A disease called trichomonas has caused serious declines in some species, so the chance of seeing Chaffinch and Greenfinch is less in your garden nowadays. You should wash/disinfect your feeders regularly to avoid spreading disease.

Tit species like Great, Blue and Coal Tits visit feeders regularly. Keep an eye out for a petite treat with a long tail, visiting suet or peanuts, the Long-tailed Tit. These subtly enchanting birds constantly 'chatter' to each other, often found in a mixed group with other Tit species. An increasing variety of birds seem to have learnt to use feeders, a female blackbird learnt to get seed from my feeder a few years ago, since then others learned to join in with the feast. If you are near woodland, you may get Nuthatch or Woodpeckers visit. The RSPB and BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) websites have lots of helpful information and ID guides and recordings of the bird sounds too.

www.rspb.org.uk

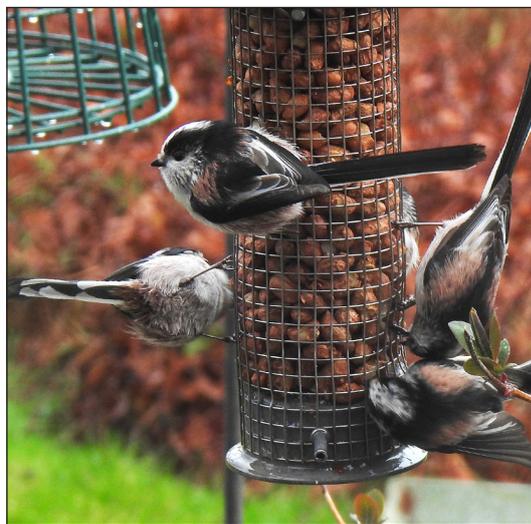
www.bto.org



Blue tit



Robin



Long tailed tit

Orchard Group – Winter Solstice

Members of the Lanchester Orchard Group met at the orchard on the evening of the 21st December to celebrate the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year when there are fewer hours of daylight than any other day. The Solstice marks the turning of the seasons and the lengthening of days, looking forward to the spring. It is believed to have been celebrated since the Stone Age by many cultures across the world and the celebrations often focus around feasting, fire and light.

So huddled around a roaring fire, with mugs of steaming mulled cider, we shared poems, stories and a few jokes and looked forward to the change in the seasons. Chris Davies read us a brief history of the meaning of the Winter Solstice and others followed with their own contributions. The mulled cider was produced from apples made from this year's harvest and was very welcome on such a chilly evening! Soon we shall be meeting again to shake the trees awake to promote a good harvest for the coming year with our annual wassailing.

If you would like to find out more about the Lanchester Community Orchard, or become a member, then please email: lanchesterorchard@outlook.com



Above: the group enjoy poems and stories



Left: mulled cider being prepared

Lanchester Vintage Tractor Club Boxing Day Rally

The Vintage Tractor Club held their traditional charity run on Boxing Day. It was a glorious day, compared with last year when it was very wet. The run started at West Newbiggin Farm, then down Newbiggin Lane and finally along Front Street. There were 23 tractors this year.

Before they set off, there was a presentation of the bronze Thomas G Stoker Memorial Trophy to the owner of the best tractor. Tom enjoyed watching the tractors in his later years. The presentation was made by John Michael Wilkinson, his grandson, who decided who should be the initial winner. The winner was Bernard White the owner of the Ferguson FE35.

The club supports two charities: Willow Burn Hospice and the Great North Air Ambulance. The club fundraise during the year and make the presentations to the charities in March. The Boxing Day run raised £442 for the charities.



Above: John Michael Wilkinson (left) presents the Thomas G Stoker Memorial Trophy to Bernard White.



Above: The bronze trophy.



Above: John Michael Wilkinson with Bernard White by the winning tractor.



Above: The tractor run sets off from the farm.



Left: A tractor, with a Minion at the front, passing through the village.



An Opportunity for the Creative

Calling all artists and craftspeople who would like to exhibit their wonderful creations in Lanchester Community Orchard during Easter 2023

There are so many people in the village that have creative talents be it wood carving, knitting, painting, sewing, metal working or weaving. So, we decided to open up the orchard space as an exhibition centre for individuals and community groups to display those talents.

The theme for the display is "New Life" which we hope will give you some inspiration.

If you are a member of a village group, why not plan a piece of collaborative art? You could choose to decorate a tree or make a free-standing piece of art. It has to be weatherproof of course!! Or you might like to go it alone and come up with your own creation.

The reward for taking part is to have your creations photographed for the local press! And to contribute to putting Lanchester on the map as a cultural centre of the North East!! Of course, we hope lots of people will come and enjoy the visual splendour you will all create in our beautiful Community Orchard.

So, dig out those chisels, paint brushes, knitting needles and get creating.

Please text: 07817369160 if you would like more information or wish to book a space for your creation.

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

Sonny Shepherd

Dear Village...

Would you please remind dog owners that the land, shrubs, bushes, garden flowers etc outside our flats at Croft Court in Kitwell Road is not a dog toilet for any of their bodily functions.

Thank you

Jean Dougherty

Dear Sir,

The Remembrance Sunday ceremony was superbly well-attended. We now have it at the correct time in Lanchester, a hard-won fight on the part of some of us. Now we just need all traffic to be redirected along the bypass rather than through the village between 10:45 and 11:30 on the morning of Remembrance Sunday.

Yours faithfully,

David Lindsay

Foxhills Crescent

Warm Spaces in Lanchester

Warm Spaces in Lanchester

There are a number of "Warm Spaces" open in Lanchester, with more to follow. Currently we have:

Lanchester Community Centre: Monday to Friday 9-1, with the new Community Café on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Church: Wednesdays 1- 3.30pm (lifts provided).

Lanchester Methodist Church: Tuesdays 12-3pm (hot drinks and soup).

Lanchester Library is designated a warm space:

Monday - 2.00pm to 5.30pm

Tuesday - 2.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday - 9.00am to 7.00pm

Saturday - 9.30am to 12.30pm

*

Community Café

The new community café, based in the Community Centre, opened in December. It serves a range of meals and snacks; the tea, coffee and cold drinks are provided free of charge.

The meals are very reasonably priced and very tasty (personal experience – editor!).

The café is run by volunteers.



Volunteers at the Community Café
l-r Stuart, Christine, Abi and Ian



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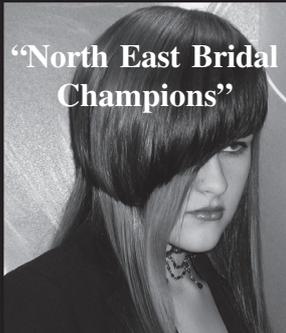


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A belated happy new year to all my readers.

As you will know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale Terrier who enjoys sharing the walks on which I take my Humans. This time we needed the help of a car to take us to Consett, which worked out fine because the female Human needed some shopping.

So, she dropped the male Human and yours truly at a carpark called Lydgett's junction which is signposted off the A692 Castleside road around half a mile after leaving Consett town centre.

A quick warning to motorists, the car park is full of potholes. Notwithstanding that, we set off on the five mile journey back to Lanchester.

I know it is five miles because a sign told me so. Luckily the Lanchester Valley route is well signposted, otherwise we may have set off in the wrong direction towards Stanhope.

The walk is quite pleasant, and we encountered several other dogs taking their humans for walks on the route back to Lanchester.

There are also plenty of landmarks to remind us how far we had gone, or had to go, starting with the factories at Delves Lane. These are visible from the walking path. We then crossed a road and preceded past Knitsley Farm Shop on our right, where we could have stopped for a tasty morsel, but the Human claimed he had not brought his wallet with him. When we reached Hurbuck Cottages we had been walking for an hour. I am kept on my lead for most of the walk, especially approaching Hurbuck Farm where notices state that we **MUST** be kept on leads.

We pass through a gate at the farm and then continue on the path towards Lanchester, where I am unleashed to explore the surrounding embankments. By the time we got home we had been walking for around two hours since setting off from Consett, and I was ready to put my paws up on the settee and have a well-earned rest.

Prayer Cards

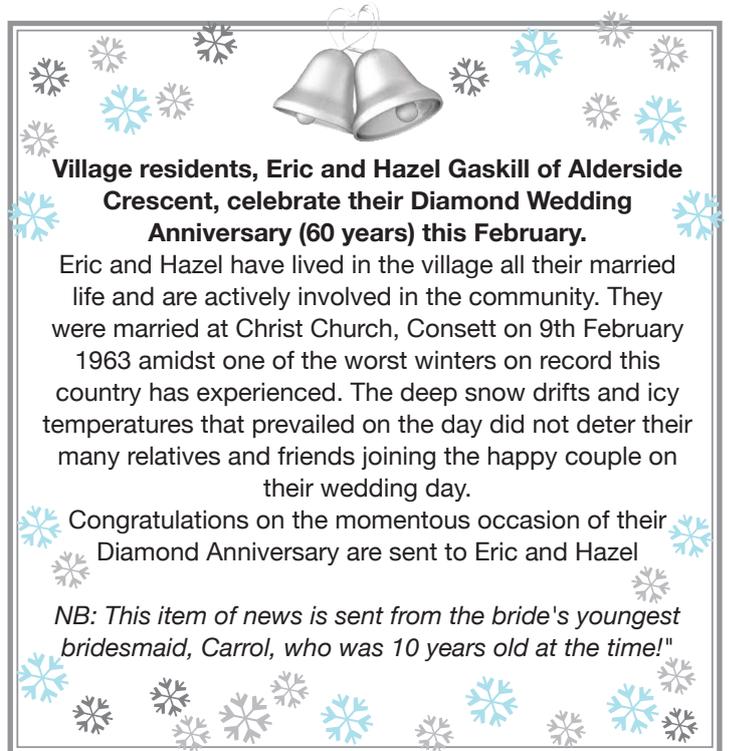
Lanchester Churches Together delivery schedule for the first three months of 2023 is as follows:

- Fortnight beginning 9 January – Durham Road 1;
- 23 January – Durham Road 2
(Oakwood, Greenwell Park, Valley Grove, Woodlands);
- 6 February – Manor Grange;
- 20 February – Deanery View;
- 6 March – Peth Bank;
- 20 March – Station Road

A card will be delivered, and residents are invited to fill in a prayer request, which can then be placed in a local prayer box, currently in the Medical Centre, Lanchester News, and the Community Centre. A small prayer team from the three churches will then support the prayer requests in confidence

Thank you for your support.

Ray Hill



Village residents, Eric and Hazel Gaskill of Alderside Crescent, celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 years) this February.

Eric and Hazel have lived in the village all their married life and are actively involved in the community. They were married at Christ Church, Consett on 9th February 1963 amidst one of the worst winters on record this country has experienced. The deep snow drifts and icy temperatures that prevailed on the day did not deter their many relatives and friends joining the happy couple on their wedding day.

Congratulations on the momentous occasion of their Diamond Anniversary are sent to Eric and Hazel

NB: This item of news is sent from the bride's youngest bridesmaid, Carrol, who was 10 years old at the time!"



Community Centre News
Here is the latest news from your Community Centre.

A very happy and healthy 2023 to you all from the staff and volunteers of your Community Centre. This is always a time for making resolutions about improving our health and fitness, expanding our interests, learning something new and meeting new friends. Your Community Centre is the ideal place for you to do this: we are local, friendly and have great facilities!

There are lots of activities and events to choose from for all ages, abilities and interests and all in the heart of our lovely village.

There is a special offer too if you join the gym, 4 months for the price of 3 months, a great incentive to improve your health and fitness. The offer runs until 28th February, don't miss out! Contact the office to sign up.

Do you have any family occasions or parties planned for the coming year? Does your business need a conference/training/meeting room? The Community Centre is a really great venue.

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

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

Ladies who lunch

For our festive dining occasion of 2022, we chose the Beamish Park Hotel, not too far away, so a guaranteed destination to reach in a December of unpredictable weather. As it turned out, the weather was fine and bright giving us gorgeous wintery views out of the floor to ceiling windows from the restaurant. The hotel itself was decked out in some lovely Christmas finery, giving us a lovely glitzy welcome along with a very warm welcome from the staff.

We were soon settled at our table and happily perusing the Christmas menu - 2 courses for £22.95 or £27.95 for 3. This was helped along by mulled wine, which one of us pronounced to be 'heavenly'.

Lunch was soon on its way and for starters we indulged in twice baked Wensleydale and cranberry soufflé with spinach and mustard cream.

Mains were butter roasted Beamish turkey with all the trimmings and real turkey gravy; Bramley apple glazed pork belly with clotted cream and grain mustard mash, crackling, buttered beans and cider and thyme sauce; Panko crumbed chicken Katsura curry with sticky jasmine rice and crispy seaweed with chilli and spring onion.

For puddings we opted for Beamish Christmas pudding with golden cherries and rum sauce; also winter berry pavlova with fruit coulis.

Our meal was quite delicious and the whole occasion was a delightful end to another year of most enjoyable dining in the company of lovely friends.

The Gourmet Girls wish you all one long year of gourmet treats in 2023 - we intend to indulge in one, at least once a month.

The Gourmet Girls



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Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

We are starting 2023 with some good news for our school. On Friday 19th December, we were informed that our school is one of 239 schools nationally who are part of the DfE's Schools Rebuilding Programme. The school rebuilding programme carries out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at school and sixth-form college buildings across England, with buildings prioritised according to their condition. The aim of the programme is to replace 'poor-condition and ageing school buildings, with modern, energy-efficient designs aiming to transform hundreds of schools across the country and ensure they are fit for the future.'

We do not yet know what that will mean for our school, but it will result in a substantial amount of money being spent on either partial/whole school refurbishment or partial/whole rebuild of the school. This is great news for the children of our village and school, meaning that they can enjoy modern facilities for many years to come.

2023 is also starting on a real high for some of our oldest pupils. On Saturday 14th January, sixteen 10 & 11 year olds, accompanied by 6 members of staff, will be travelling to Rajkot in India to visit our partner school. The 24-hour journey, involving 3 flights and a coach journey, will be the first time some of our children have flown and been abroad. This is all thanks to our successful application for funding from the Turing Scheme last year. This really will be a trip of a lifetime and I am sure you can imagine how excited the children all are. Thanks must go to our forward-thinking parents and carers too, who trust us to take their children on such an adventure!

Jane Davis, Head Teacher

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Tree planted to commemorate the late Queen's Jubilee

The Parish Council decided to plant a tree to commemorate the 70 year Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II. The tree is the British oak tree.

The photograph shows Peter Robinson, who supplied the tree, planting it on the green by the bypass.



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Burns Night event

A celebration of Burns Night with real Scottish entertainment provided by the local band "North Angels" will be held at the Lanchester social club on Friday 27th January, 7:30-11pm. Fantastic music and a Scottish supper, in aid of Willow Burn Hospice. For tickets (£10) contact Paul Jackson on 01207 521208 or 07957871106.

Paradiso Film Night

Sunday 12th February: Tunes of Glory
This 1960 classic stars Alec Guinness and John Mills. After World War II, a Highland regiment's acting commanding officer, who rose from the ranks, is replaced by a peace-time Oxford-educated commanding officer, leading to a dramatic conflict between the two. Lanchester Community Centre, 7pm for drinks, nibbles and raffle, film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £2.50, Non-members: £3.50. Annual membership: £5.

Lanchester Library Library Book Club

On Monday February 26th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing *Stranger Diaries* by Elly Griffiths. I really enjoyed this crime thriller, 'great on character and suspense...' (Val McDermid). Will this book generate a lively discussion? We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday February 17th the group will be reviewing *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. A powerful, sensitive, moving novel about refugees from Syria.

Beautifully written and a must read to understand the plight of refugees. 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 February 2nd and from 10-11.30am. Bring along your wool, thread needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Everyone is welcome, enjoy.

Children's crafts

Different crafts, ideas and materials are set out in the library for children to be creative; pop along with your children and enjoy. Remember when the library is open it is a warm space. The librarians are happy to recommend books that suit your taste.

Lanchester Flower Club

The next meeting is in the main hall of the Community Centre on Wednesday 25th January at 1.30 pm, when we will have a speaker from Birkheads Secret Garden. The following meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd February, when we will have our A.G.M. and social.

Musical Memories

1st February 2023 at 2pm at 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.

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be in the main hall of the Community Centre on February 16th at 1.30pm. It will be a session of 'Call my Bluff' with Jan Vasey.

Folk & Acoustic Music & Song Evenings

These take place in the rear dining area of Crinnions on every 3rd Sunday of the month. Whether you play, sing, tell jokes, or just wish to listen, come along and join us from 8pm to 10.30pm. Contact Ian Tute if you would like further details (07889 037102).

Lanchester playgroup

Every Friday 9:30 at Croft View halls.

Vintage Tractors

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

Lanchester Social Club

4 Feb - Glynn Scott
11 Feb - Pete Peverley
18 Feb - Ellie Ramano
24 Feb - Alexander's Palace, live band.
Tickets £5 from the bar
25 Feb - Aryana
All acts are subject to change at short notice.

Lanchester Choral Society concert

On 28th April the Choral Society will present a sung concert version of the comedy 'The Mikado' by Gilbert and Sullivan. Rehearsals are starting on Fridays at 7.15pm at Croft View halls. Why not come and join us?

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

Now that Christmas is over the Friends are meeting again! Thursday 26th January at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, followed by Thursday 23rd February, same time, same place. Anyone interested in the Roman history of the Lanchester area is welcome. Information and details from Mrs M. Williams, tel: 01207 520063 or Rodney Hawkins at hawkins_15@sky.com.

Lunch Club

The next meeting of the lunch club held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 14th February at 12pm. All welcome, any queries contact Jackie 07908 838452.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 7th February (not the 14th) at 7.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre small hall. Noel Jackson will be speaking on "What can Borneo's amazing wildlife tell us about ecology?"

Local History Society

The next meeting is on Friday 3rd February in the Community Centre at 7.00 pm. Our speaker will be Maurice Ward, one of our members, who has a film shot in 1964 at Wolsingham. In the film the history of the buildings in shot is explored. Do come and join us for what should be an interesting meeting. In case of inclement weather check with the Community Centre for opening.

City Theatre

The City Theatre Durham presents "The Government Inspector", a comedy by Nikolai Gogol. A group of indolent, corrupt

officials in a remote country town are hoodwinked by a rascal into believing he is a government inspector from St Petersburg - with glorious results. Sunday 5th Feb - Friday 10th Feb, matinee Sunday 5th and 11th at 2.30pm, evenings 7.30pm. Saturday 11th Feb, matinee only. Tickets £8.50. Concessions (£7.50) available for Sunday matinee, Monday and Tuesday evenings. Available from the Gala Box Office, 03000266600, online at www.galadurham.co.uk, or on the door.

Wellbeing walk

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

Willow Burn

The Chairman's Dinner at the Pavilion Cantonese 30 January at 6.30pm
Join the Chairman of Willow Burn Hospice in 2023 as he celebrates the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit at The Pavilion in Iveston with a fabulous four course banquet. Enjoy good food, a fun night with friends and support your local hospice. Tickets are just £35 each, grab them whilst you can; you don't want to miss the latest in the Chairman's Dinner programme of events. Get your tickets - <https://willowburnhospice.enthuse.com/>

County Durham ultra runner raises £4700 for Willow Burn Hospice

This week, Ian Lowther and Erwin Hymer Group presented a cheque to Willow Burn Hospice for £4,700 following the warehouse team leader's unique 215 mile, coast-to-coast ultramarathon across Scotland which was match funded by his employers.

With 100 hours to complete Race Across Scotland, Ian (38) of Annfield Plain crossed the finish line with time to spare, beating the clock by three hours, after enduring some gruelling climbs over mountains and through valleys, often in the pitch black or thick fog.

Ian's inspiration came from his grandma, Marjorie Curry, who passed away from liver and lung cancer aged 69. Ian said: "In 1998 my grandma was admitted into the hospice where she received end of life care. The level of care and the passion shown by the staff and everyone was just absolutely incredible and left a place in my heart. I knew that one day I had to come back and say thank you. This challenge, and many others like this, was my way of saying thank you."

Rachel Todd, head of fundraising and marketing, said: "We were blown away when Erwin Hymer Group got behind Ian and the hospice. We rely on people like Ian and local businesses to help us to raise enough money to provide vital end of life and palliative services. Ian has raised enough funds to operate the Helen McArdle In-Patient Wing for 72 hours."

Chris Short, from Erwin Hymer Group said: "When we have a colleague like Ian, who works so tirelessly for charity, we want to support them – not only financially, in terms of match funding, but also emotionally. Race Across Scotland was a herculean task, and Ian approached this endurance race with the same steadfast perseverance, hard work and calm approach that we see in his role at Erwin Hymer Group. We were fully behind Ian every step of the way and are hugely proud of what he did!"



L to R: Chris Short (Erwin Hymer), Ian Lowther, Rachel Todd (Willow Burn) and Don Padgett (Erwin Hymer)



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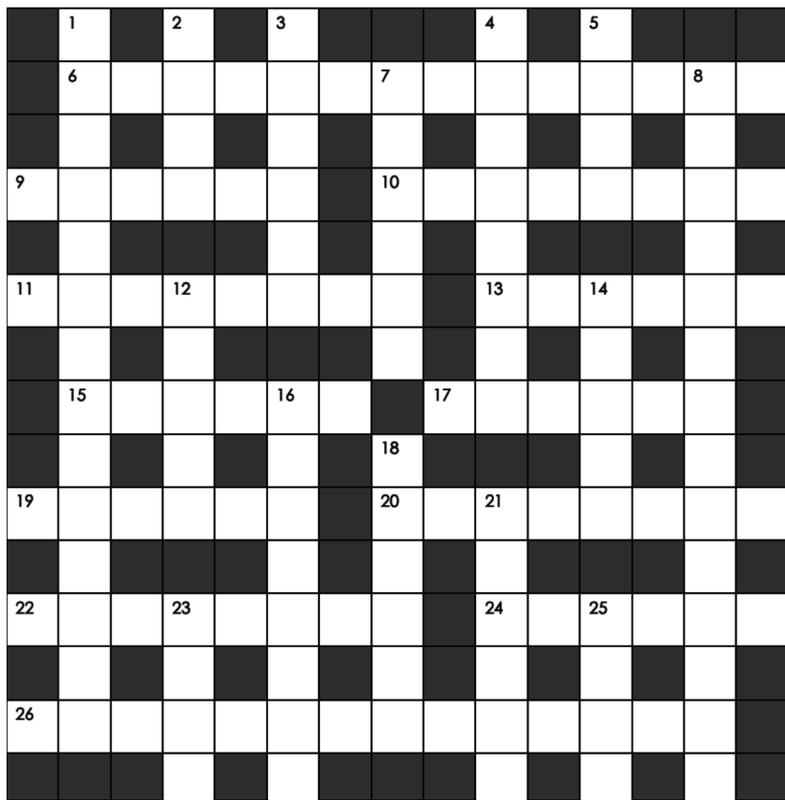
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CLUES CROSSWORD 181



Across

- 6. Eye examination device (14)
- 9. Language spoken in Austria (6)
- 10. Rousing and uplifting style of song (8)
- 11. No longer used or produced (8)
- 13. Sharpness of thought (6)
- 15. The figure '0' (6)
- 17. Brian, 'Old Big Head' (6)
- 19. Point out the way (6)
- 20. Living this is living it up (4,4)
- 22. Type of nuclear weapon (4,4)
- 24. Old term for the East in relation to Europe (6)
- 26. Dublin's oldest educational establishment (7,7)

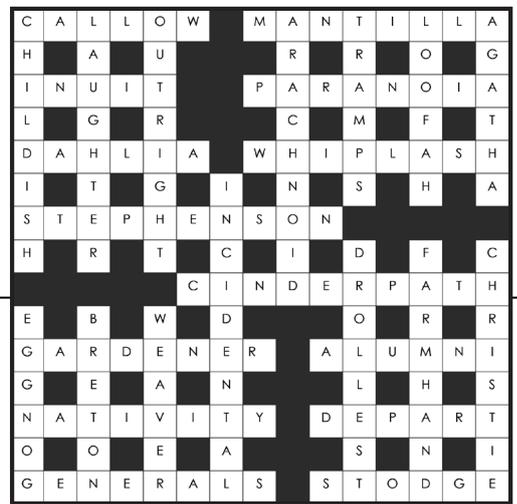
Down

- 1. Knight, neurologist and four-minute miler (5,9)
- 2. Not real or genuine (4)
- 3. Alter (6)
- 4. Popular type of sport (8)
- 5. Unit of land measurement (4)
- 7. Dealer changed position to be come front runner (anagram) (6)
- 8. Make an accusation (5,3,6)
- 12. Plant structure that develops into a seed (5)
- 14. Order it at the bar every time! (5)
- 16. Goes with all possible speed (8)
- 18. State of being extremely averse to something (6)
- 21. If you're using it now, you're cheating (6)
- 23. Coin factory (4)
- 25. Wild mountain goat (4)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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



Winner of Crossword 180

This was the first crossword from our new compiler. There were 12 entries, 10 of which were correct. The winner, drawn out of the hat, was Steven Pearson.

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Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

Healthy eating: the essentials

Even in the midst of a cost of living crisis, when budgets are tight, we can still have a healthy balanced diet. Below are some tips to help achieve this.

We should be aiming for at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables per day. Some cost effective ways to achieve this would be:

- To opt for tinned fruit and vegetables – these are a cheap and convenient way to add vegetables to your meals as they are already peeled and cooked. Go for fruit in juice rather than syrup and vegetables which are in unsalted water.
 - Frozen fruit and vegetables are a cheaper alternative to fresh and are just as nutritious!
 - Try to go for fruit and vegetables that are in season as they should be cheaper. For example, raspberries in the summer and Brussels sprouts in the winter.
- Protein is an essential part of a healthy balanced diet, but can be expensive; here are some tips to help reduce the cost:
- Swap to plant based protein such as beans, pulses and tofu for some of your meals.
 - Chicken thighs are cheaper than chicken breast – make sure to remove any skin from chicken as this is high in saturated fat.
 - Tinned and frozen fish is usually cheaper than fresh. Aim to have one portion of oily fish per week (salmon, mackerel, sardines, pilchards, herring)

Always opt for wholegrain carbohydrates (wholemeal pasta, bread and cereals and brown rice) – these shouldn't be any more expensive than the white versions but contain more fibre which makes them better for your gut health and may help to reduce your risk of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes.



Meal preparation tips:

- Avoid any food waste by planning meals for the week before going to the supermarket
- Utilise the microwave, pressure cooker and slow cooker as these should be cheaper than the oven or the hob.
- Batch cooking meals should also save on the cost of gas and electricity.

Below are QR codes for some healthy budget meal ideas.



Lanchester Art Group Christmas life drawing competition

An important guest took a break from his busy schedule to drop in for a cup of tea and model for Lanchester Art Group's Christmas Art Challenge. The group had 3 minutes for a quick warm up sketch using charcoal and then an hour to create a portrait using any media. We had great fun, and the challenge provided a suitable end to our special year celebrating 40 years of the group.



Above: The artists with their portraits.
Right: Santa posing for the life drawing class.

Interesting photos from the 1960s

These photographs belonged to Betty Whaley who has recently died (obituary in the Village Voice, November 2022). Betty was very involved with youth work at the Methodist Church. Her daughter believes that they are of Methodist Church Girls Club and Sunday School.

They were possibly taken around 1966/8. If any reader recognises themselves, or other people, please let us know.



Lanchester Parish Council Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 8 November, Finance Meeting 30 November – approved

Police Reports – The report for November was received.

Correspondence

Poster – guided walks – Durham County Council – to be placed on the notice board

Clerk Magazine – November - received

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

A meeting with Durham County Council portfolio holder for highways, regarding road safety issues in Lanchester including around the schools. The consultation on the proposed double yellow lines around the schools has been completed.

Improved signage on Ford Road and refreshing the road markings on Peth Bank are being explored. Recycling bins are being trialled in the centre of the village. Gateways signs at Hollinside are being explored.

The County Councillors were asked to discuss with the County Council the resurfacing of the roads in the village and a review of the signage. Also, to clarify the progress of the vehicle electric charging point in the centre of the village.

Warm Hubs – Lanchester – Councillors were informed that the churches, community centre and library were offering a warm space for the community at various times through the week. Lanchester Partnership is the umbrella organisation for the project. Each venue has applied for funding to provide the service.

Access from Valley Grove/Greenwell Park to Lanchester Valley Walk – Councillors considered the difficulties faced by wheelchair users trying to access the Lanchester Valley Walk from Valley Grove. It was agreed that the County Council are asked to consider extending the footpath to improve access to the Valley Walk.

Office Computer and Printer - new equipment to be purchased in the new year.

Internal Audit Arrangements - the Internal Audit arrangements were approved. An internal auditor needs to be appointed.

Budgets 2023/24 - the proposed budget for 2023/24 was approved

Financial report - approved

Accounts for Payment – approved

Recruitment of Clerk – Councillors approved the appointment of Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer. The new Clerk will commence employment in January which will allow for a cross over period with the outgoing Clerk.

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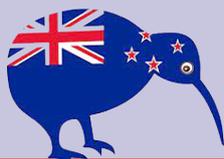
Village Voice reaches New Zealand!

The Village Voice is read as far away as New Zealand.

Firstly, a reply to the cricket club's request for information on the history of the club was received from New Zealand.

Then there was a request from someone in New Zealand to connect them to a Lanchester resident, who had been a schoolfriend over 40 years ago, and with whom they had lost contact.

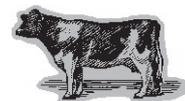
The Village Voice was happy to help them get in touch with each other.



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Football Focus

Firstly I hope that everyone has had a fantastic Christmas and a happy new year! As 2022 comes to a close we will take a look at all that has happened regarding football in and around the village. Over the course of 2022 there was a lot of success for teams within County Durham and for many this was the first full season after the pandemic.

In April All Saints returned to football action when they started playing fixtures with both a boys and girls team. The boys team were playing in league fixtures and were participating in the Bishop Cunningham cup. Later in the year the boys team were able to progress through the cup competition and eventually won the competition. The All Saints girls team were also participating in a league competition and were unbeaten as of October. A successful season for both All Saints teams and they will be hoping to repeat the success in 2023.

Turning to teams outside of the village, Consett AFC were promoted from the Northern League Division One by finishing 2nd in the league on 75 points. Consett AFC also participated in the division one cup and reached the semi-finals. By the end of June the team finished with 23 wins out of the 38 games they played in. Chester-Le-Street played in the Northern League Division Two in 2022 and finished above relegation with 40 points. Chester-Le-Street had plenty of cup action as they participated in 3 cup competitions over the course of the 2022 season. They took part on the FA Vase cup, Durham Challenge cup and the Ernest Armstrong Memorial cup.

The 2022 season was a successful one for many teams around the north east. With the 2023 season currently ongoing after a Christmas break, many teams aim to replicate success they had in the 2022 season.

By Matthew Walker

NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by **Tuesday 7th February 2023**
The deadline for advertisers is **Tuesday 7th February 2023**

Cricket News

Thank You from Burnhope Junior Cricketers

David Selby is 24 and has lived in Lanchester since he was one. He is cricket mad and started his cricketing career at Lanchester but, around three years ago, he went to play cricket for Burnhope. There was no junior section at that time. With very little for the children of Burnhope to do, David decided to get a junior cricket section up and running. David is a qualified cricket coach so could coach and organise the children himself.

David was very conscious of the costs involved with cricket, and the fact that some families would struggle to pay for their children to take part.

David therefore set away to fundraise in lots of different ways and has raised thousands to help the children enjoy cricket. This is to the extent that all coaching and cricket for juniors at Burnhope is free of charge, plus the children's cricket clothing and other equipment is provided for them.

David has managed to turn out 4 different junior teams this year, and 65% of the juniors are girls. Lots of children who would never have had the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful game of cricket are now playing. Two of the children have this year gone for trials at Durham County Cricket Club. David has persuaded 4 of the parents to also qualify as coaches to ensure that as many children as possible can benefit. David's efforts have been recognised this year - he won the Durham Grassroots Cricket Young Coach of the Year, was nominated for the national award, and also got to the final 3 of The Northern Echo Durham Volunteer of the Year Awards.

A shout out must also go to David's fiancé Michelle who has supported him all the way. All parents, children and all associated with Burnhope Cricket Club are extremely grateful for the tremendous effort David has put in to ensuring that the children of Burnhope are able to enjoy their cricket. There are two cherries on the cake: David starts a new job as a Cricket Development Officer at Durham County Cricket Club on 9th January - his dream job, and David and Michelle are to become parents in May - starting their own little junior team!



Some of the Burnhope juniors with David Selby at the back.

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