

the Village Voice

Issue No 11, Volume 23

Lanchester, November 2023

VILLAGE FLOODS AGAIN

Full story on page 2



1968



2023

1969



2012



2018



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The floods

As we all know by now, the village was hit by a devastating flood early on Sunday 29th October. This resulted in many of the shops and houses in the village being flooded. Front Street, Church View and the Square were particularly badly hit (again). Some residents needed to be evacuated. The cleanup started on Sunday morning as soon as the floods subsided, but the premises and houses will take a long time to dry out and some residents will move out while this work is done – some not for the first time.

This reminded us of the French saying: “plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose” which means the more things change, the more they stay the same. As we all know this is not the first time that the village has flooded but with all the work which has been done over recent years, we maybe hoped that a lasting solution had been found. The cover photographs show some of the floods: 1968, 1969, 2012 and 2018 as well as this October's. One of the photographs shows fire crew pumping out at the front of Church View in 1968 – same problem, different uniforms and pumps.

How it started

There was continuous rain from Saturday evening right through the night; wave after wave of heavy rainfall came over Lanchester. As an example, the rainfall picture from the Met Office radar (below) shows the level of rainfall at 5:10am on Sunday 29th October;

red is almost the highest possible level followed by orange and yellow. This follows a period of above average rainfall; from July to September the rainfall in the North East was 43% above the long term average. So, the fields were already saturated with water, this was compounded by heavy rain the previous weekend to the flood.

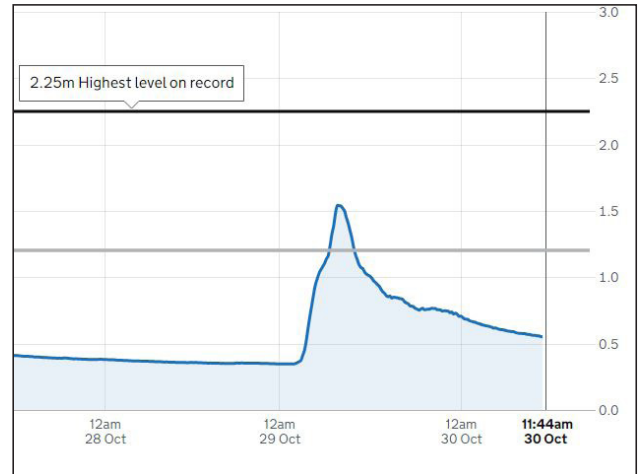
So, when the Saturday night/Sunday morning rain came the fields could absorb no more.



There is a water level monitoring site on the Smallhope Burn by the EP School.

The graph below shows how rapidly the water level rose. At 1am it was 0.35m and by 7am it had risen to 1.54 metres, well over the flood warning level. The line at the top shows the highest level ever recorded which was 2.25 metres on 28th June 2012 (some refer to this as “Thunder Thursday”) when the village was flooded after an intense storm.

(Our thanks to Ian Taylor who pointed us in the direction of the data.)



Our pictures show the impact of the floods and really tell their own story – in addition on Facebook a resident of Newbiggen Lane posted a video showing a torrent of muddy water running down the Lane before daybreak. The grid where the beck normally enters the culvert behind the Newbiggen Lane carpark was blocked and this resulted in water from the beck pouring over the top of the culvert into the car park and joining the flow down Newbiggen Lane into Front Street. This was cleaned out on the following Wednesday by Durham County Council – pictures below.

The Fire Brigade complimented the way in which the community came together that morning and the support of the Community Emergency Response Team. They did not leave the village until everybody had been accounted for and all affected premises contacted.

Those affected now have to rebuild their lives and businesses again and we're sure everybody is thinking of them at this time.



Above: This shows the pharmacy van in the flooded car park at the rear of the Queen's Head. It was still working OK.



Right: back garden becomes a lake

*The report below from the Community Response Team describes how the village responded to the flood.
Report from the Community Emergency Response Team*

FLOOD ANGELS

The floods in the village arrived unexpectedly during the night of 28th/29th October. No flood warning was issued by the Environment Agency for the Smallhope Burn. However, following heavy rain, the river rose rapidly whilst residents slept, reaching a maximum of 1.54m at 7.00am. By that time the damage was already done. We speculate that the river did not burst its banks but instead, water flowing down from the sodden fields overwhelmed the capacity of the drainage system. The effect was compounded by the recent heavy fall of leaves and silt washed down off road surfaces which blocked some drains.

In the circumstances the village coped very well. Fire services with pumping equipment were in situ before 7.00am. Three appliances attended in addition to police and ambulance crews. Aqua sacks were issued to residents; the Catholic and Anglican churches and the Kings Head opened as places of safety. The Methodist Church was used by the fire brigade, police and ambulance teams as a command centre. The local flood team did its best to attend to the needs of residents and point the crews in the right direction. We can be proud of the response in difficult circumstances, but clearly there are lessons to learn - in particular how it was that no warning was issued. The other issue is the fact that blocked drains again contributed to the rapid water rise. An emergency meeting between the Parish Council and the Environment Agency will take place in early December.

A big thank you to anyone who helped in any way to alleviate the impact of the floods in the village centre last Sunday 29th. In due course we may be looking to recruit some more "Flood Angels". The only requirements will be that you are fit, well and have common sense! Watch this space.

Community Emergency Response Team

Photo credits. Stephen Hall for the old photographs; David Filmer, Ian Taylor, Eric Hepplewhite and Keith Brown



Above: This shows the clean up operation on Sunday. The mud is still on the road and the Council are clearing the drains.



Above: this is where the beck normally enters the culvert which then runs under Front Street. This overflowed as explained in the article. This photograph taken on Sunday around 11am, after the flood had cleared in the village, shows the water backing up and not flowing into the culvert.



Above: Digger with some of the debris etc removed.



Above: This shows the culvert after it had been cleaned out – the grid clearly visible and water level much reduced.

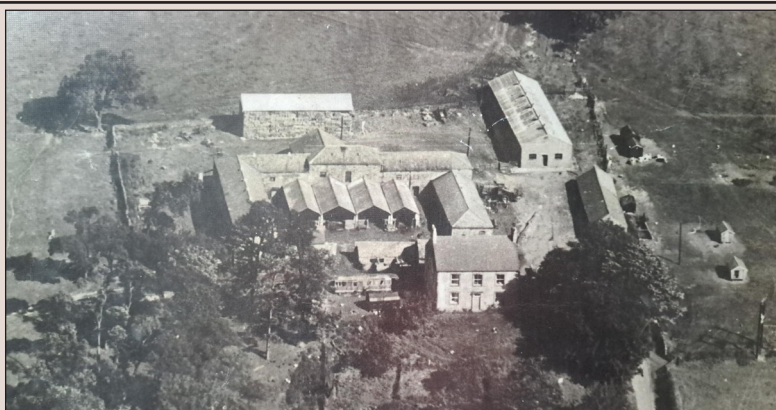
Front cover: cleaning up outside Ravello's on Monday afternoon – note the mud and sandbags. This scene was actually videoed by a BBC Look North Team. The restaurant itself was badly affected and was closed pending the refitting of the flooring.

Front cover: the emergency vehicles – and a raft.

I lived at Manor House Farm until the early '70's and wondered if any Lanchester residents remember the small factory on the Durham Road or maybe have a photograph they might share?

I have attached an aerial photo of the farm probably taken in the late '60's before the farm was sold and redeveloped into residential properties.

Jackie (Carter) Skowron



Dear Village...

Dear Village Voice,

Kielder Forest comes to Lanchester Valley.

Please be apprised of some facts regarding the proposed Greencroft Forest.

Comparison with Chopwell Woods is somewhat misleading. Greencroft Forest is 1200 acres of 60% to 66% commercial forest (Sitka spruce as in the concept plan blue areas) and Chopwell Woods is 900 acres of mixed community forest. Greencroft Forest has no permitted public access except extant public rights of way.

The nature of the upper Lanchester Valley is a pleasant open agrarian landscape with long views that will be lost thus destroying Lanchester to be a pleasant place to live.

The change from agriculture to forest will remove 40 years of agricultural output that will of necessity be replaced by imports in exchange for one crop of soft timber after 40 years.

The proposal for Greencroft Forest is silent on the potential for midge infestation for which Kielder Forest is noted. Finance for Greencroft Forest will be by grants from the Forestry Commission for the first ten years plus finance from a £30M fund "Forestry Sequestration Fund, The GFSC 2662996 (Guernsey)". This fund is backed by investors utilizing a forestry fund for "tax efficiency" with special reference to UK inheritance tax. The net result is that Greencroft Forest will be financed with your money.

The climate credibility of forestry is dubious owing to incomplete carbon balance that omits the emission of methane produced by the biological decomposition of root mass, bark, upper branches, and foliage dropped onto the forest floor during the life of a tree. It should be remembered that in biological decomposition carbon dioxide and methane are produced and methane is 21 times more damaging to the climate than carbon dioxide.

Additionally, the capacity of a tree to absorb carbon dioxide is a function of its size and thus some 70% of its carbon absorption is in the last half of its life. Hence a tree planted in 2024 will only make a marginal contribution to the UK carbon neutral of 2050.

It has been further revealed that there is no right or opportunity of democratic representation re the planting of a large forest next door. Consultation to date has been by offering 5 iterations of the forest plan, with minor variations, to the public, Parish Councils, Durham County Council, and utility companies. There is no need for planning permission as a landowner/farmer does not need planning permission if they plant a different crop. After consultation the agents Pryor & Rickett prepare a plan, not necessarily one of those consulted, for submission to the Forestry Commission that then conducts a tick box exercise to establish whether it meets their criteria before they give permission and associated grants.

Local citizens and democratic bodies have no rights to object to the destruction of their local environment - all paid for with "Government Money".

Is Greencroft Forest what our community wants?

Chris Lee



Bill listens to the Village Voice!

Bill Eckford, 97 and who lives in Croft Court, Lanchester has age-related macular degeneration. This affects his eyesight which makes reading, for example, particularly difficult. He has installed specialist software on his computer which enables him to listen to documents and which magnifies the text so that he can see it better on the screen. The software also enables him to dictate emails. He "reads" the Village Voice every month from the pdf of the magazine which is emailed to him.

Bill has lived in the village for many years. He bought a new house on Humberhill Drive in 1966 with his wife Suzanne

– who he met on a tram in Gateshead(!) in 1950 and married in 1953. Bill and Suzanne had four sons in a five year period, on arrival at Lanchester the boys were aged 3 - 8 years, all attended the EP school.

In 1943 Bill volunteered for service in the RAF in the next four years being stationed in Ceylon, Italy, and Bahrain. After leaving the service in 1948 he worked as a clerk in Grainger Market, Newcastle, before he joined Crompton Parkinson, a large electrical manufacturer.



He worked for them for around 30 years.

After he retired, Bill was very active in the village. He had a pivotal role in the setting up of the Derwentside Victim Support scheme where he was voluntary coordinator subsequently becoming chairman of the Management Committee. Upon retiring from this position, he enrolled as a voluntary driver at Willow Burn Hospice.

Bill was one of the original four who ran the Computers 4 All project when initiated by the Community Centre Management Committee.

Bill and Suzanne moved to Croft Court in 2014 and sadly Suzanne died in 2020.

Bill said "Being housebound and unable to read, I am extremely grateful to the editors of the Lanchester Village Voice, All Saints Parish News and the weekly pew sheets who e-mail me digital copies of their publications. Thus, I am able to keep abreast of personalities, events and activities occurring in the village. Another 'lifeline' is a regular supply of audio books from RNIB. My thanks to all."

Lanchester Flower Club

*Member of the National Association
of Flower Arrangers Society*

Lanchester Flower Club has had a very busy October. On Saturday 14th October we held a workshop. Nineteen ladies came along and made a lovely straw Christmas wreath. We finished with a light bite, cuppa and raffle and the usual chatter.

Then we held our monthly meeting on the 18th October; we enjoyed a relaxing social afternoon. Two of our members, Kathy Smith and Lestrine Kelly, did two arrangements each - just small ones, so when these were raffled, the winners had no problem taking them home. A big thanks to Kathy and Lestrine. We then enjoyed a quiz "Green Fingered Questions" with tea, coffee, and a biscuit. It was a lovely relaxing afternoon.

Our next meeting will be our Open Afternoon Christmas demonstration on Wednesday 15th November 2023 in Lanchester Community Centre main hall at 2pm. Our demonstrator is Christine Ogle, her theme "Twas the night before Christmas", tickets are £7.

Please contact Lestrine Kelly on 01207 521494 or Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 for your tickets. Everyone welcome.

We will have no further meetings until Wednesday 24th January 2024 - we intend to have a belated Christmas get together at Beamish Park Hotel.

Lestrine Kelly

Ladies who lunch

After all the dark and dismal weather of late we hit on a glorious day and were off to the Beamish Park Hotel in amazing sunshine. The setting is delightful overlooking beautiful countryside.

The menu was extensive with good choices. Four of us had 'Taste of the Sea' which comprised of oven roast hake fillet with herb crust, pea purée, honey and thyme carrots with reduced chicken stock sauce. One of us had a pan fried halloumi burger, tomato salsa, lettuce, red onion tomato and fries. Another of us had pan fried chicken breast, fondant potato, honey glazed carrots and tenderstem broccoli in a wild mushroom and red wine jus. The last of us had panko crumbed chicken katsu curry, sticky jasmine rice, crispy seaweed with chilli and spring onions. The desserts were sticky toffee pudding with butterscotch sauce and vanilla ice cream; sea salted caramel and chocolate tart with mixed fruit compote with vanilla Chantilly cream. We finished off with coffee and a piece of chocolate.

Another lovely meal with lots of choices.

We will definitely go again.

The Gourmet Girls



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Kings Head Parking Charges Abolished

The Kings Head management has confirmed that the parking charge system has been disbanded, cameras are off, and all the signs are to be removed. They have said "The carpark is available for use by anyone as it used to be."

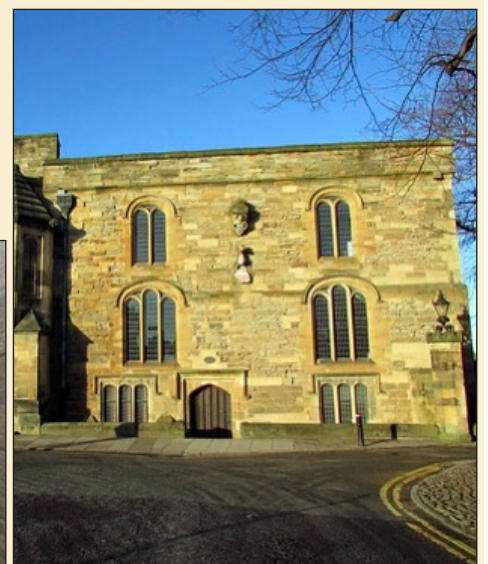
This is great news for the village as this car park reduces pressure on parking in the village in general.

Lanchester History Society

Our last speaker was Richard Annis, one of the Durham University Archaeologists. He delivered an absolutely fascinating talk about the extensive work that has been undertaken on the Exchequer building on Palace Green. He peeled back the centuries with plans and photographs taken during the building work. Much of the work exposed things that hadn't been expected from the abundant records maintained by former custodians of the building.

Now this work has been completed we will be able to take a tour of the place. However, until these go live we can go to the University website <https://www.durham.ac.uk/things-to-do/venues/historic-libraries-at-palace-green/architecture/exchequer-building> where you can take a virtual tour of the Exchequer building.

Marian Morrison





Poppy's walks

Good day readers and my walk this month starts at Annfield Plain park, just behind the big Tesco store. As you now know, I am Poppy, a Patterdale Terrier who enjoys sharing with you the walks on which I lead my Humans. For this month's walk

we park the car next to the tennis court and proceed through the park before leaving it through a gate onto the road which runs alongside. This is part of the C to C cycle route, and by following a signpost marked Consett and Waskerley we join a footbridge which takes us over a main road.

As soon as we cross the footbridge we see a flight of steps on our left which we descend, and then follow a path through woods. This takes us to the right across a wooden boardwalk which is a bit rickety in places, but strong enough to get us along the path until we come out of the woods at the other side. There we go through a gate and turn right into a field which has a solar farm on our left. We walk alongside the solar farm on the field for about ten minutes, with a wood on our right, before going through a gap

in a fence and then turning right through a gate into the aforementioned wood.

As in all woods, there are all sorts of interesting sights and smells to explore. We follow a well-marked path through the wood and come out at Tower Road, with the caravan park on our left. By crossing Tower Road and turning right we are on a pavement which takes us for a few hundred yards before we turn right at a sign marked Greencroft Parkway. This takes us into an industrial estate and past a building called The Greenhouse, which doesn't look much like a typical greenhouse to me. Nevertheless, opposite a fishing lake, we turn right along a footpath between buildings and that eventually takes us back to the top of the flight of steps from close to where our walk began. We recross the footbridge across the A693 road back into Annfield Plain park and to the car.

The walk takes just over an hour and is worth it for all the new scents and scenery along the way. Also, we pass no livestock which is always a relief to the Humans.

Lanchester Art Group Annual Exhibition

The forty-first Lanchester Art Group Annual Exhibition once again showcased the vast array of talent in the village.

Dozens of paintings were on display, many for sale, and a preliminary viewing before the exhibition opened – on Friday, October 20 – was well attended despite Storm Babette.

Art group members are typically "good at art at school" and resumed their interest on retirement from a wide variety of professions. But a new member is a guest from Ukraine called Tanya.

The exhibition took place in Lanchester Community Centre. Some of those displaying their works – it is high impossible to name them all – were Lesley Anderson, Pamela Fry, Margaret Walters, Jim Richmond, Chris Davis, Christine Gibson, Pat Reid and Eugenie Tipping.

Neil McKay



Above: Lesley Anderson



Above: Pamela Fry

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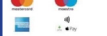
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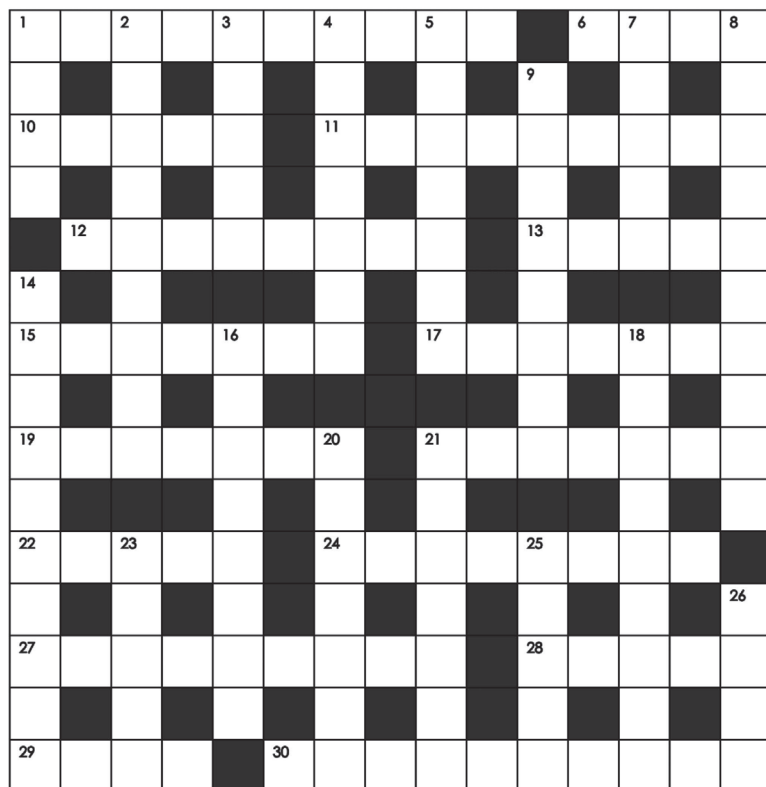
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CLUES CROSSWORD 191



Across

1. Ironic nickname of the 'Colt Single Action Army' revolver (10)
6. Sicilian volcano (4)
10. Drummer with the Fab Four (5)
11. Genuine (9)
12. Game in which a prize is selected randomly (5,3)
13. King, who was the target of the Gunpowder Plot (5)
15. Boxing Day Saint (7)
17. Court of King Arthur (7)
19. Love affair (6)
21. To meet someone by chance (3,4)
22. Girlfriend of Bill Sikes (5)
24. Term for an unavoidable choice between two alternatives (6/2)
27. Microwave oven component (9)
28. First name of Father Christmas (5)
29. Fixed price paid for something (4)
30. Lewis Carroll character (10)

Down

1. Fortified wine (4)
2. Latin term meaning to discuss something to the point of extreme boredom (2,7)
3. Publication made available in digital form (1-4)
4. Desert (7)
5. Medical term for something in an abnormal position (7)
7. Type of carved pole (5)
8. Charge or claim of guilt (10)
9. John, former Poet Laureate (8)
14. 'Moon starrer' (Anagram) (10)
16. Type of melon (8)
18. Place to the 'East of Eden' (4,2,3)
20. Facial feature (7)
21. Group of advisers to important person (7)
23. Opposite of day (5)
25. Artist's wooden frame (5)
26. Body of water (4)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by
Friday 1st December to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester
 Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



Solution Crossword 190

There were 14 entries for last month's crossword, with 10 correct answers.

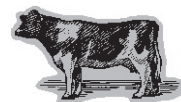
Three of the entries were incomplete.

The winner, drawn out of the hat is John Bolton.

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140 years of the Boys Brigade

The 4th October 2023 was the day when the Boys' Brigade celebrated its 140th anniversary. Several interesting events were planned by headquarters including a "Monopoly Challenge" which took place in Manchester, London, Glasgow and Aberdeen. Companies that couldn't make any of these destinations could do their own Monopoly Challenge in the nearest city. So, Lanchester BB chose Durham.

Five lads and three leaders set off on a beautiful Sunday the 1st of October to find as many of the thirty-six destinations as they could in the five hours allotted. The places chosen included County Hall, The Town Hall, Castle, Cathedral, Oriental Gardens, Botanic Museum, Houghall, Travelodge and Durham Jail and 27 others all scattered around Durham City.

Fortunately for the leaders they did not have to walk all the way. Photographs of the lads at each venue were sent immediately to the leaders so they knew exactly where the boys were and could tick off each destination as the photograph was received.

A huge congratulations to Ewan Baxendale, Logan Smallwood, Shane Jones, Arnauld Lefoyer and Jay Hepplewhite for finding all 36, well within the time of 5 hours and actually walking over 9 miles.

Eric Hepplewhite



"Monopoly Challenge"

Top: A selfie taken outside the prison.

Below: Town Hall, Durham

Paradiso Film Club

Fun, friendly, local screenings: give us a go and join our Christmas party showing of Top Gun: Maverick. The 2023/24 season of the film club kicked off with a party atmosphere showing "Ticket to Paradise", a romantic comedy starring Julia Roberts and George Clooney, plus a film quiz, exotic refreshments, a raffle and a DVD sale. This was followed in October by the thought-provoking film "She Said", described by the Guardian as a "taut, sobering drama of the Harvey Weinstein investigation" starring Carey Mulligan. The film club offers convenience and value for money. It's an opportunity to catch up on films you've missed, or would like to see again, socialise, and make new friends. We have been excited to welcome a lot of new members and visitors to the club so far. All are welcome - come along with friends or on your own.



PROGRAMME 2023/24

December 10 - Top Gun: Maverick

January 14 - Allelujah

February 11 - Where the Crawdads Sing

March 10 - Living

April 14 - Mrs Harris Goes to Paris

May 12 - Supernova

June 9 - Golden Years

Members : £3

Non-members : £4

Venue: Lanchester Community Centre, second Sunday of the month, 7pm for refreshments and raffle. 7.30pm Film starts
Annual Membership : £5



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Lanchester Community Orchard Group Apple Harvesting and Juicing Day

Saturday 14th October: A beautiful autumnal October morning, there had been an early frost and there was a cool breeze but members of the orchard group, along with some visitors, quickly warmed up as they busied with the task of bringing in this year's harvest of apples.

Apples were picked, sorted and boxed for distribution to members, and some of the crop were chopped, mashed and pressed into fresh apple juice! Now you couldn't get much fresher than that I dare say!

Meanwhile, Sue and Lynn set up a table in the village, inviting those passing by to sample some of the many varieties we have growing on the orchard and to raise awareness of the orchard and our activities.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Lanchester Community Orchard, then please email lanchesterorchard@outlook.com for further information.

Lynn Hedley



Top right: Sue promoting the orchard in the village

Middle right: Sonny 'scratting' the apples

Left: Apples ready for distribution

Bottom: Social group pressing apples for juice

Above: Basket of Early Victoria Apples



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WHAT'S ON - November / December 2023

Patient Group AGM
Lanchester Medical Centre Patient Group will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 10am in the meeting room of the Medical Centre. If you are a registered patient at the Medical Centre, come along: it is your opportunity to be the patients' voice.

Lanchester Brass Band Christmas Concert and Carols
Sunday 17th December, 6pm, All Saints RC Parish Church, and afterwards mince pies, mulled wine, tea/coffee in the Parish Centre. Retiring collection for donations. All villagers and families are most welcome.

Festive Coffee Morning:
Saturday 9th Dec, 10am-12:30pm, Lanchester Methodist Church. Join us for a cuppa, homemade festive treats,

bacon sandwiches. Enjoy festive music and a warm and welcoming atmosphere, in aid of Health & Hope UK (healthandhope.org)

Summer Special Praise Party.
Claire, Kath, Grumpy and the team invite you and your family to the next Praise Party at Lanchester Methodist Church on Saturday December 9th 3.45pm (for a 4pm start, ending at 6pm). It's free! But please register (for catering purposes) via kathfamiliesnwdc@gmail.com before Saturday December 2nd.

Red Cross Christmas Coffee Morning.

Wednesday 6th December. 10:00 to 12:00 at the Community Centre. Homemade cakes and treats; raffle and Christmas stall. Cash only – sorry!
All Saints Parish Church

Sat 25th November, 5pm Christingle Service at All Saints prior to switching on Christmas Lights on the Village Green; come and make your Christingles, hear the Christmas story, and take your light out on to the green as the Christmas lights are switched on!

Sun 26th November We will be opening our advent Prayer Stations for a limited time in Church. Look out for further information - it's going to be very exciting!
Sat 2nd December, 10am-12noon
All Saints Christmas Fair: for last minute gifts, home baked goods, and a possible sighting of Santa...

Christmas light switch on ceremony
Saturday 25th November 5.45 - 6.15pm
Lights switched on at 6pm



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Paradiso Film Club Christmas Party

10th December – Top Gun: Maverick (2022) starring Tom Cruise, Jon Hamm, Val Kilmer, Jennifer Connelly, Miles Teller. After more than thirty years of service as one of the Navy's top aviators, Pete "Maverick" Mitchell (Tom Cruise) is where he belongs, pushing the envelope as a courageous test pilot and dodging the advancement in rank that would ground him. When he finds himself training a detachment of Top Gun graduates for a specialised mission the likes of which no living pilot has ever seen, Maverick encounters Lt. Bradley Bradshaw (Miles Teller), call sign: "Rooster," the son of Maverick's late friend and Radar Intercept Officer Lt. Nick Bradshaw, aka "Goose". Facing an uncertain future and confronting the ghosts of his past, Maverick is drawn into a confrontation with his own deepest fears, culminating in a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those who will be chosen to fly it. Lanchester Community Centre, 7pm quiz, refreshments, raffle and DVD sale. Film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £3, Non-members: £4. Annual membership £5.

Lanchester Library Library Book Club

On Monday December 18th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing The Red Tent by Anita Diamant. Using a character from the Bible, this novel reveals the traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood. Will this book divide opinions? We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday December 21st from 4.00 to 5.00pm, the group will be reviewing Purgatory by Tomas Eloy Martinez. 'A moving, autobiographical novel', 'a ghost story' covering Argentina's history since 1973. It will be interesting to listen to your views of this book. 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 December 7th

from 10 to 11.30am. Bring along your wool, thread, needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Everyone welcome, enjoy.

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

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

REMEMBER to pick up your Christmas reading, an actual book or have a look at Borrowbox for e-books, it is worth a look. Merry Christmas.

Musical Memories

Christmas Party

Join us to share Christmas music, refreshments and fun activities. Christmas clothing is very welcome. 6th December at 2pm, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group using the ability of music to improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email lanchesterdfc@gmail.com

Lanchester Methodist Church Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday at the Methodist Church between 10 and 12, in aid of the following organisations: November 25th Wives and Friends Group December 2nd Lisa's Little Uns December 9th Health and Hope December 16th Lanchester Band December 23rd Mental Health and other charities

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be held in the Main Hall of the Community Centre on November 16th at 1.30pm. Our guest speaker will be Marilyn O'Keefe of The Glass Centre. In December we will be having a Christmas meal at the Kings Head on the 14th.

Lanchester playgroup

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

Lanchester Social Club

2 Dec - Alisha Laidler
9 Dec - Sarah Ann Biggs
16 Dec - Steve Gibson
23 Dec Mark Andrews
30 Dec - Amelia Jade
All acts are subject to change at short notice. Non-members welcome.

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

Our final meeting for the year will be held on Thursday 23rd November at 7.30pm in the upstairs Conference Room of the Community Centre.

We would like to remind you of our new website www.longoviciumcuk.wordpress.com and also check out our Facebook site, Friends of Longovicium, for current updates. Contact Mrs. M. Williams 01207 520063 or Rodney Hawkins at hawkins_15@sky.com for further information.

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.

Walking Group

Meets at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month (next dates are 13th December and 10th January). Walks are about 5 miles long within a 30 minute radius of Lanchester – lifts provided. For further details please call Helen Thomas on 07712425623 (or email hdbthomas@live.com).

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

Lunch Club

The next meeting for the lunch club held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 12th December, 12 o'clock start, all welcome. This will be the Christmas Lunch.

History Society

Our December meeting will be on Friday 1st at 7.00

as usual in room 3 in the Community Centre. We will be having a seasonal social gathering with refreshments, so hopefully everyone will come along and join us. Our January meeting will be on Friday 5th and will take our now traditional format of Show and Tell where folks bring along an unusual item and either shares with us its history or makes us guess what it is. Looking forward to catching up at one of our meetings.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting is on 12th December the Community Centre small hall at 7:30pm. It is our 40th anniversary meeting with AGM and quiz.

City Theatre

'The Unexpected Guest' by Agatha Christie will be on at The City Theatre Durham DH1 3RA from Sunday 26th November until Saturday 2nd December.

Lost in a fog, a stranger stumbles onto a murder scene, and the dead man's wife holds the gun! As family secrets finally emerge, with ghosts of a past wrong, the unexpected guest decides to help.

Tickets from The Gala Durham (03000266600) or www.durhamcitytheatre.com or on the door. £8.50, concessions £7.50 Sun/Mon/Tues. Performances Sunday and Saturday 2.30pm, Monday to Friday 7.30pm.

Male Voice Choir

We will be joining with Lanchester Choral Society for a Christmas celebration on the 18th December at 7:30pm at the Methodist Church.

Willow Burn

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

Light Up a Life

Will take place on 3rd December at Lanchester Methodist Church. During the service, we will gather to sing carols, listen to readings and performances from local choirs and musicians, and light candles in memory of loved ones. Light up a Life is a warm, loving and festive event to be shared with friends and family. The service and dedications are open to the whole community and there will be further information available on our website soon

KoGs Presents – Secret Agents: Mission Christmas!

Saturday 2nd December, 6pm at Lanchester Methodist Church! Tickets will be £5 per person and include homemade soup and a sweet treat as well as all the amazing entertainment we have planned for you! For details please see article. (page 15)

Flower Club

Our next meeting will be our Open Christmas Demonstration on Wednesday 15th November 2023 in Lanchester Community Centre main hall at 2pm. Our demonstrator is Christine Ogle, her theme "Twas the night before Christmas". Tickets are £7. Please contact Lestrine Kelly on 01207 521494 or Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 for your tickets. Everyone welcome.

Churches Together Songs of Praise

Sunday 3rd December 6pm, Advent Songs of Praise at Lanchester Methodist Church. All Welcome!

Lanchester Choral Society Concert

Monday 18th December 7.30pm at Lanchester Methodist Church. A Celebration of Christmas: songs, readings and carols for all. With guests including Lanchester Male Voice Choir, Elizabeth Woods, Paul Smith and Ian Gray. Retiring collection for Willow Burn Hospice.

All Saints' Primary School Lanchester

What a busy first half term at All Saints'!

It has been an absolute delight being back in school the last 7 weeks – we've been so busy!

Our new starters have quickly become part of our All Saints' family – our new nursery children, reception class children, newbies in years 1,2,3 and 6 and of course our two new teachers, Mrs Daniels in Year 1 and Mr Ellis in Year 4. It feels like they've always been with us!

In September our sporting teams began competitions. Our Cross Country team have just completed 5 weeks of runs. We have been so impressed with their sportsperson-like behaviour at each event. Our girls' team finished in third place overall and Lucie O will be invited to represent Derwentside District as she finished third in the individual category. Amazing!

Girls at All Saints' seem to be doing particularly well in sport as our Girls' football team have played 8 games in the local Girls' League and have won every single one without conceding a goal! What an achievement! Go Team All Saints'!

We've enjoyed inviting parents to join in our school life this half term. Year 6 and Reception celebrated the Word with a welcome event in our church and Years 5 and 2 invited their families into school to lead them in prayer and reflection. We've had information meetings with class teachers and formal Parents' Consultation Evenings to allow families to find out how their children are progressing.

Our half term finished with a wonderful Harvest Mass in our Parish church lead by our Year 6 children. The children held a non-uniform day and the "charge" for coming into school in ordinary clothes was a food donation for the People's Kitchen in Newcastle. The children learnt about this wonderful charity from Mr Baker, who is not only a volunteer there, but a grandfather of one of our Year 6 pupils. We sent a van load of supplies off to Newcastle to help feed those who are less fortunate than us.

Here at All Saints', we are always trying to put our Mission Statement into practice:

"As unique children of God, we aspire not to have more but to be more."

Alison Conlin, Acting Head Teacher

NEXT DEADLINE

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

FRIDAY 24th

November 2023

The deadline for
advertisers is

FRIDAY 24th

November 2023

Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

This month I am writing with a plea. I am sure many of you are well aware of the issues we have with parking in the village, especially at key times in the school day. At school drop off and pick up time, this is exacerbated by a massive influx of parents. This is not helped by there not even being enough spaces in our school car park for the 60 staff who work here.

This is about to get worse because for the last two years, the school has purchased 8 annual parking passes for staff to use the community centre. However, from the end of October, they are not allowing this anymore which means there are another 8 cars needing to find parking spaces somewhere in the village. This is very disappointing.

I know many of you say that children should walk to school - many of our children do walk to school. But our school data shows that 49% of our 464 children live outside of the village of Lanchester and only 51% of our school live within walking distance of the school. That means 226 children need parents to drive them to school every day. These numbers are not going to change much. Our school is now a 2-form entry primary school, and we are almost at capacity.

For some time, I have been pursuing the idea of a 'walking bus' in the village. This would be where parents park in the Kings Head and their children are met by the Conductors (police checked and trained volunteers) who then walk the children safely to and from school. This would then take parking pressures away from around the school. However, in order for this to take place, we need a group of committed volunteers who are willing to be trained and available during the term to be part of a rota walking the children to and from school. The bus would leave the Kings Head at 8.20am and arrive back at 3.30pm after school.

I am still waiting to hear about training for volunteers but hope we might be in a position for this to start in January.

If you have time and would be committed to helping with this, please let the School Office know by emailing on: School.Office@lanchesterep.net

Mrs Jane Davis, Head Teacher



Lanchester Village Green Christmas light switch on ceremony

Saturday 25th November
5.45 - 6.15pm
Lights switched on at 6pm

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KoGs rehearsing for "Secret Agents"

KoGs Update

Hello Village Voice readers!

An update from KoGs - I'm thrilled to let you all know our numbers have more than doubled from this time last year with just over 30 members with us now (amazing!). Because of this amazing increase in numbers, we have had to start a waiting list! If you'd like any more information on the waiting list, please contact us or why not come along to our Christmas Fundraising Event –

MISSION CHRISTMAS! (details below)? But please note, the tickets are selling out fast!

KoGs Present –

SECRET AGENTS – MISSION CHRISTMAS!

Join us as our Secret Agents go on a journey to discover the true meaning of everyone's favourite festive holiday – CHRISTMAS!

Saturday 2nd December @ 6pm

Lanchester Methodist Church

£5 Per ticket – Includes Soup* & A Sweet Treat

(Speciality and regular hot and cold drinks available to purchase)

The evening will include a discovery of the true meaning of Christmas presented by our KoG's members as you watch them perform "Secret Agents -Mission Christmas"

And in true KoG's style, A crazy, thrilling game or two!

We also have lots of other entertainment on offer to blow your minds including a sing-a-long / performance by Our Christmas Choir Friends.

We will be once again ending our Christmas Celebration with live music and a boogie with the amazing voice of Toni Hodgson– a singer NOT to be missed!

P.S Be on your best behaviour kids! There's a rumour Santa himself has already bought his ticket, so come on and party with him!

*Soup choice – Leek & Potato / Broth/ Lentil

For tickets please contact Laura + Peter Cole on

01207 654291 / 07428500059

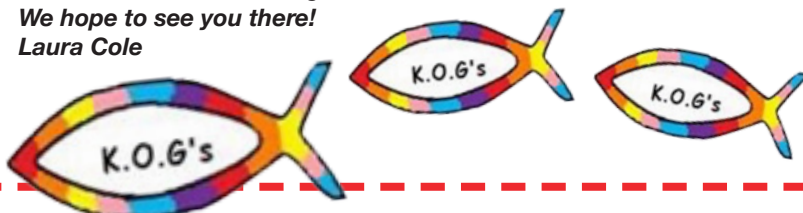
E-mail -Kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk

We also have a Facebook page for you to keep up with all things KoGs!

www.facebook.com/kidsofgodlanchester

We hope to see you there!

Laura Cole





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Apology

We apologise to our readers, advertisers and distributors for the late arrival of the October edition. This was due to a mix up at the printers and entirely out of our control. We extended the deadline for the crossword so that not too many were disadvantaged.

The Editorial Team

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Nature Notes – from our Wildlife Correspondent

Feed the birds (Mary Poppins' instructions!)

When I was a kid...my gran was shooing flocks of Starlings away from eating all the garden bird food. The spadgers (House Sparrows) created a constant sound. Now, many birds are suffering declines (since 1966 we've lost 22 million sparrows).

Help out by leaving water available for drinking and bathing, try to keep it ice free. Putting food out for birds during challenging cold weather and snow can be a lifeline. They need high-fat, high-energy foods when it's cold. Keep it consistent, they learn where to find food, and try to top up.

Feeding garden birds can be controversial. Some birds gain in numbers, which might impact birds that do not benefit from garden feeding. Most importantly, it can spread disease with large numbers of birds using the same space. So, clean your bird feeders/feeding areas (use gloves). Specialist cleaning solutions are available, you can also use soapy water.

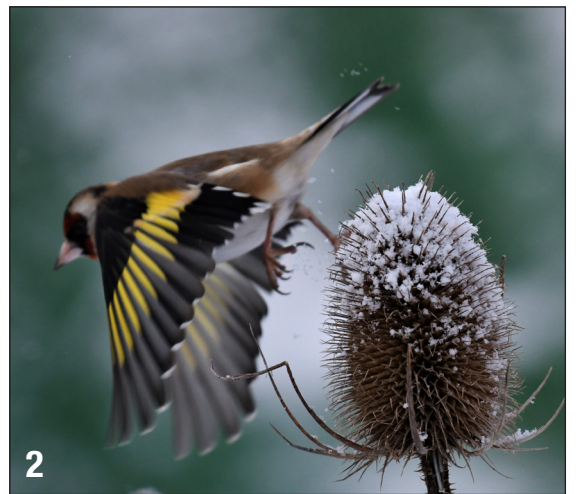
One disease that affects Greenfinches and Chaffinches is Trichomonosis, caused by a parasite (first noted 2005, British Trust for Ornithology). It is transmitted via infected saliva contaminating food/water. It can't infect humans, dogs, or cats. Infected bird's throats get blocked by the parasite and develop lesions. Birds become unable to swallow and breath, often look puffed up, lack energy, and can have matted feathers and food near their beak due to being unable to swallow.

So far, it seems Bullfinch and Goldfinch don't suffer the disease. However, try to "keep feeders clean" and fabulous finches safer. Notice a sick bird in your garden? Remove and clean feeders, only continue feeding after 2 to 4 weeks, if you don't see more sick birds.

Responsible feeding is a bird lifeline and wonderful to watch. Estimated UK bird feeding is a whopping 150,000 tonnes, costing £250 million a year.

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/make-bird-feeder – find how to make our own feeder
<https://www.bto.org/how-you-can-help/providing-birds/feeding-garden-birds/hygiene>

<https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw/gardens-wildlife/garden-birds/disease/trichomonosis>



- 1: Male Bullfinch
- 2: Goldfinch
- 3: Female Bullfinch
- 4: Goldfinch
- 5: Female Chaffinch
- 6: Greenfinch

Lanchester Choral Society Concert Friday 20th October 2023

Storm Babet failed to deter keen supporters of Lanchester's own Choral Society from enjoying an interesting autumn concert. Despite some empty seats, the audience experienced a provoking programme of contrasts, with appropriate enlightening remarks offered throughout by the conductor, David Hughes.

The concert opened with "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace" by Karl Jenkins. Immediately,

the mood was captured by soprano soloist Elizabeth Woods, singing Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy); an exquisite plea so appropriate at this time of strife. Adding to the mood were carefully selected photographs poignantly depicting war graves and soldiers resting. The soloists were accompanied by a sensitive choir with organ accompaniment throughout the Mass.

Interesting contrast was then offered by Edward Elgar's "From the Bavarian Highlands". A dance, energetically performed by choir and pianist, transported us to the glorious hills and forests which inspired Elgar, and visible on the wall projections. Our feet were tapping to "The Marksman" as we joined the lively choir "tramping along" to Elgar's jolly beat.

After a social break, we settled down for probably the most famous of all Latin Requiems: Faure's Requiem. The conductor, soloists, choir, and organist did justice to this glorious work. A special commendation goes to Elizabeth for the "Pie Jesu Domine" and to the bass section for their magnificent "Hosanna". Again, lovely photos on the wall added to the experience.

As a finale what better than a magnificent "And the Glory of the Lord" from Handel's Messiah to set the blood flowing to face the storm outside, ending with a great flourish from David Williams on the organ. Many thanks to the great soloists: Elizabeth Woods, Paul Smith, Ian Gray and Margaret Woods, and David Hughes for all his hard work.

And, of course, to the tea ladies....

Pam Bygate



The finale above, and what better than a magnificent "And the Glory of the Lord" from Handel's Messiah to set the blood flowing to face the storm outside, ending with a great flourish from David Williams on the organ.

Thursday Club

At our last meeting in October, we had 'in house' talent, in the form of our very own Jan Vasey presenting a Variety Session.

We were gathered into small groups and soon hard at work finding the answers to a series of quizzes. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent keeping 'the little grey cells' very busy.

Tea/coffee and biscuits brought the afternoon to a close with the usual chat.



Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 10 October 2023 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 12 September – approved.

Greencroft Forest Park – Pryor and Rickett Silviculture attended the meeting to discuss the proposal for a UKFS compliant afforestation scheme across the former area of Greencroft Park.

Heritage 100 Walk – Keiron Young from Walk and Talk Trust attended the meeting to give us an update on the Heritage 100 Walk project. In February Keiron received funding from the Mid Durham AAP, with this funding the posts for the walks were made. Lanchester's post is ready but just needs a licence agreement from Durham County Council to be able to install the post. Funds of £1500 need to be raised to commission the author to write the story on the walks. The author will conduct research and interviews and if any of the Councillors would like to be involved, we just need to let Keiron know. The author will write the story, present the story to the community, and help create resources for the local primary schools.

Police Reports – The PACT report for September was received. The Councillors were also updated on the recent meeting with PCSO Rutherford.

Correspondence:

Durham County Council – Tax Base and Local Council Tax Reduction scheme grant – Councillors were provided with information on the indicative tax base and Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant. This will support budget planning and precept setting – received.

Letter from resident – Lanchester Tennis Courts – Councillors considered a letter received from a resident about the conditions of the tennis courts – letter to be written to Durham County Council.

Letter from resident – Ford Road footpath – Councillors considered a letter received from a resident about concerns they had with the footpath on Ford Road – received.

Letter from resident – Kings Head parking – Councillors considered a letter received from a resident about the recent changes to the parking situation at the Kings Head – received.

Letter from resident – Gate access from Ashdown Grove – Councillors considered a letter received from a resident about the gate access from Ashdown Grove to the football field – the Clerk to respond to the resident's letter.

Durham County Council – Review of polling districts and polling places –

Councillors were informed that there are no changes to Lanchester's polling districts and places – received.

CDALC – D-Day 80th Anniversary – Councillors were asked if we wanted to be involved in the D-Day 80th Anniversary – a joint event with Burnhope Parish Council to be organised.

Durham County Councillors – An update was received on:

Councillor Oliver has been speaking with CPAL about progressing our lease for the Solar Planet Project

Drainage around the Village

Road works on Ford Road

Meeting with the Headteacher at Lanchester EP School

Christmas Light Switch on Event – Councillors considered and agreed the arrangements for the event – the Clerk to progress with the arrangements.

Lanchester in Bloom – Councillors agreed to the planting of flowers at the entrance signs into the Village – the Clerk and Chairman to progress this.

Access from Valley Grove/Woodlands to Lanchester Valley Walk – Councillors were updated on the possibility of extending the path from Valley Grove/Woodlands to Lanchester

Valley Walk. Durham County Council have arranged to come out to assess the area and see if an extended path is an option – received.

Annual Return 2022/23 – External audit confirmed that no matters had come to their attention which gave cause for concern – The Annual Return was approved and accepted.

Financial report – approved.

Accounts for Payment – approved.

Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

November 2023

The Powerful Act of a Smile: What makes a smile and what effect does it have on us? A sincere smile with our eyes, cheeks and mouth can show contentment, excitement, joy, kindness, exhilaration and so much more. When our smiling muscles contract, they fire a signal back to the brain, stimulating our level of happy endorphin hormones, making us look younger and more attractive. Smiling is relaxing and helps the human immune system to function more effectively. In today's world this can only be a good thing. You can personally reap the benefits of smiling, but importantly also have the power to affect those around you with the simple act of a smile. A genuine smile is saying you're friendly and willing to interact with others. It makes you appear more likeable, more polite, and more competent, more approachable. It can make others feel valued and important.

It is true that some people simply aren't prone to smiling. They may be shy, have problems with confidence, or not feel the need to smile. It may also be that they were raised in a family or culture where smiles weren't readily offered.

Smiling is one of the most important facial expressions. We smile in the womb, we were born to smile, as a young babe we smile in our sleep. A smile is contagious, everyone needs a smile. As Mother Teresa stated: "I will never understand all the good that a simple smile can accomplish."

Who are you going to smile with today?





Community Centre News



YOUR COMMUNITY CENTRE NEEDS YOU!!

This month we are featuring ways that you can help your Community Centre survive and thrive. Here are some ideas for you:

- Come along and support our events, we have lots going on.
- Join a weekly/monthly class or activity, there is something for everyone.
- Follow us on Facebook. 'Like', comment on and share posts so we reach a bigger audience.
- Take a loose change box from reception, fill it and return it to us, it all helps.
- Become a Friend for £2 a month, ask for details.
- Use 'Easy fundraising' when shopping online.
- Join the gym.
- Tell people about us and the great facilities we have to offer.
- Buy a book (80p) from our reception.
- Join the committee and share your ideas.
- Volunteer, spare a couple of hours a week to help out, speak to our office staff for further details.

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

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



Notes from the House

It is horrible to see that Lanchester has been hit so badly by the current flooding. Longstanding residents will be aware of the flooding risks in Lanchester, but it is sad nonetheless to see so many businesses and families so terribly impacted.

After the drains are cleared and the sandbags put away, there will be long-lasting challenges getting everything back in order even once the dust settles. While as your Member of Parliament I cannot be as useful in the first stage of the emergency as our heroic Fire and Ambulance services, I can be helpful in the second recovery stage.

I understand this must be an incredibly stressful time for those affected. Please contact me via www.richardholden.org.uk/contact and I will guide you to the right people at Durham County Council. There is also financial support available from the Government specifically to help businesses and households to get back on their feet after a flood.

This ranges from Council Tax exemptions to business grants of up to £2,500 to Community Recovery Grants of up to £500 per household. Lots of these schemes will be delivered

through Durham County Council. It is lucky that we have two fantastic, hardworking Councillors in Doug and Mike who were on the scene almost straight away.

I also know how difficult insurance companies can be to deal with, even when you have a seemingly strong case. I will help you navigate this complex minefield. All you need to do is get in touch with my office and I will assist however I can.

It is tough to be optimistic given the battering Lanchester and the surrounding villages have taken. It is always so shocking whenever serious flooding happens. Things have been difficult. However, thanks to the fantastic emergency services who have fought tooth and nail against the elements, your local Councillors who were on the ground straight away, but above all the community spirit that is so strong in our neck of the woods we are in a good place.

Something as simple as a warm cup of tea or a reassuring arm round the shoulder can go a long way in difficult situations like this. People coming together in times like this is what makes our area so special.

Richard Holden



Police Report

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

This month, there continues to be antisocial behaviour in the village, particularly the kicking of vulnerable residents' doors. We would again like to remind parents to be mindful of when and where their children are and what they might be getting up to. Any youths identified in such instances will be spoken to in relation to the offences and dealt with accordingly and referred to the council's anti-social behaviour team where they will be given an Acceptable Behaviour Contract depending on if they are known to us.

Durham Constabulary also offers a safer homes service for vulnerable residents whereby window/door alarms can be provided and installed for those who may be victims of similar behaviour. Please make contact with me if you would like to know more.

If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to get in touch via email, Jonathan.rutherford@durham.police.uk. This is for general use and incidents shouldn't be reported this way. Please report any incidents via 101 (or the online report form) or 999 in an emergency.

PCSO Jonathan Rutherford

Lanchester Bowling Club - a reflection

The green has been cut, sanded and re-seeded but is closed; lockers have been emptied; bowls have been cleaned, removing the last vestiges of a season's worth of dirt; flat soled shoes looking the worse for wear have been aired off; a bag jostles for space with sewing bags and paraphernalia; blue and yellow collared shirts hang forlornly in the wardrobe staring at desolately hanging grey trousers, not to be worn for another seven months. The outdoor bowling season is over for another year. Only memories remain.

The end of April and the much-anticipated email arrives - the council has announced that the green is open. So, on an overcast Thursday afternoon I park beside the school to meet more bowlers than I anticipated, all eager for the new season start. It's cold, the grass is slippery and cuts up with every shot, but the ground is heavy, necessitating power over finesse. Getting near the jack is more good luck than skill and those who have played indoors on lightning quick artificial rinks struggle the most. A foot slips and gives way, a crunch followed by a yelp of pain and it's the first injury of the season: a player out for six weeks. Heavy greens, cold weather and missing players are themes for the season.

Perhaps the coldest is a Thursday night in early June. A cup match on White-le-Head's exposed ground. Coats, jumpers and hats are a necessity. The views down the valley to the distant Burnhope wind turbines and the hawk hovering over the nearby moorland being more spectacular than most of Lanchester's bowling.

Not all days were cold though. A very warm day at Dipton. Short sleeved club shirts the order of the day and, for me, shorts. Big mistake! The horseflies, being far more accurate than anything I bowled all afternoon, leave their itchy marks for days after.

Although we are all competitive and enjoy winning, the game has to be played in the correct spirit and appreciating a good shot when it is executed is part of that. The last end of the South West Durham League's open pairs final played on our green, one shot in it and the jack closely surrounded by woods.



The Sherburn skip releases his bowl. It rolls smoothly up the green, curving perfectly towards the jack and then comes to a stop, kissing the target without moving it. It's impossible to move it - a perfect shot at the perfect time and the trophy is won.

Equally as good is Bruce Fox's shot one evening at Consett Park. The last game on the green so the whole team is watching. Lanchester is leading, but Consett have bowls around the jack and have a good opportunity to win. Bruce, as skip, bowls; his wood is well aimed and weighted to gently pick up the jack and move it away from danger. Another perfect shot at the perfect time to secure two points.

Sometimes it's when a plan comes to fruition that gives one the most satisfaction. A friendly game at Birtley and I'm skip, not a position I relish. Paul Monaghan is on the mat and is about to bowl on his forehand, taking him into a congested part of the head (the area where the bowls are around the jack). I stop him and ask him to come in from his backhand, aiming just inside a stray wood on the rink. Paul's much more experienced than I am and is a bit dubious but does as I ask. His bowl is again perfect. It curves inside the stray wood and continues with ideal weight to rest against the jack - another shot closer to the eventual win. During the season there are games and shots that one enjoys remembering (and many you don't!). The shot I remember was also at Consett Park and again I was skip. We'd already won the game through a fantastic team effort, but on the last end we were shots down and every shot is important when there's two points at stake for the overall aggregate. The final bowl is in my hand, their skip has just put a wood in front and to the left of the jack. Aiming for that wood, I bowl on my forehand. The bowl slowly cuts across the head and hits the target bowl, knocking it out of the way. My bowl ricochets, picks up the jack and moves it to give us another three shots. Absolute delight.

A. A. Milne, the author of "Winnie the Pooh", said: "We didn't realise we were making memories; we just knew we were having fun." Here's to April next year and many more memories.

Bob Cuthbertson

Cricket News - Junior Cricket Hall of Fame

Stephen McPhail

During the last 25 years Stephen, with a willingness to help, working with his wife Anne, has turned his hand to many things at the club. He maintains the beer pumps, does many shifts behind the bar, has helped with mowing the field, has put in endless hours at Beer Festivals and especially at match intervals rolls and re-marks the wickets. In summary a real club worker that keeps so many things running smoothly.

Brian Tilley

From the late 70s until 2000 Brian played 1st and 2nd team cricket for Lanchester as a batsman and wicket keeper. Throughout this period Brian captained both teams, spent seven years as Fixture Secretary, two years as Treasurer and helped with many jobs and tasks. With his wife Pam they were the heart and soul of the club particularly organising social events.

Jeffrey Wingfield

Jeff, supported by his wife Joy, has been a club official since 2003, when Darren their son was playing Junior Cricket. In total Jeff has committed over twenty continuous years to the roles of Secretary and Treasurer.

These two jobs have required continuous attention, a lot of paperwork and patience to keep everybody in line. Further he has worked tremendously hard with the Beer Festivals.

Stuart McPhail

Stuart, supported by Hannah, for ten seasons was a very successful 1st Team Captain. Stuart, now Vice Chairman, through his energy, commitment and motivation has driven the club forward to be one of the strongest teams in Division One of the Premier League. Stuart has overseen the growth and development of Junior Cricket with Lanchester, who are now recognised in the County as one of the stronger clubs.

Robbie Selby

Robbie, aided by Fiona, was Chairman, Treasurer, Fixture Secretary and Secretary for a total of 12 years. His enthusiasm for the club and willingness to help out with so many things from supporting Juniors, helping with the bar, advising on legal issues and being available to play when there were late dropouts was greatly appreciated.

Andrew McConnell

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