

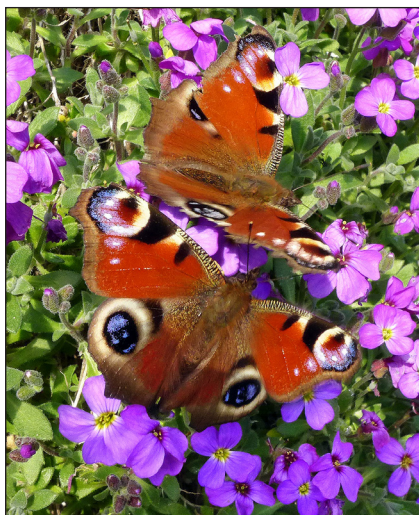
# the Village Voice

Issue No 4, Volume 24

Lanchester, April 2024



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## Pace (Paste) Egg Easter Monday

*page 2*

Left: Liam and Lily Atkins  
Middle: Eleanor Armstrong –  
winner of the best decorated egg  
Right: the assembled group of  
boulders



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## Willow Weaving at Lanchester Community Orchard

Twelve members from the Orchard and Allotments at Margery Flatts spent a most enjoyable morning on March 16th weaving plant supports to adorn their plots or gardens. The sun actually shone, and the wind stopped its howling so spending the morning outside creating something with our own hands under the excellent tutelage of Jo Bolton was a real tonic. Jo runs workshops and yoga sessions at Abundant Earth near Durham but came specially to work with us at the orchard. Do view some of her wonderful creations at [abundantearth.coop/crafts](http://abundantearth.coop/crafts) if you fancy learning some new skills. Or join us at the orchard helping to maintain this peaceful and fruitful spot. It's a great way to meet new friends.

Lanchester Community Orchard is supported by the Lanchester Partnership. For more details email: [lanchesterorchard@outlook.com](mailto:lanchesterorchard@outlook.com)



*Left: Noel Jackson, Paul Martin and Ian McKone*

*Below right: Noel Jackson, Ian McKone and his son Callum collecting a dyed egg which had been prepared for onion dye.*

*Left: Pace Egg winner Paul Martin*

## Pace (Paste) Egg Easter Monday

Thank you to the enthusiastic families that braved an even damper Easter Monday than last year. Certainly plenty of squelching to be enjoyed. It took dedication to join in the annual Easter tradition of egg dying and then bouling the egg down Pace/Paste Egg bank in Lanchester. The triumphant egg bouler, Paul Martin, somehow managed to hurtle his egg across the field further than any other egg without breaking it!

Eleanor Armstrong just pipped the competition to win the best decorated egg having carefully placed vegetation like cow parsley around her egg before covering it in onion skin. When boiled the onion skin produces brown dye on parts of the egg and sometimes flower colours or green patterns from the vegetation stain the egg shell.

Thank you to The Bridge School for providing access to parking and especially hot drinks to compensate for the dank weather.

**Lanchester Wildlife Group**



**Would you like to help with the design and production of the Village Voice?  
A creative flair and knowledge of design software required.**

**email: [lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk)**



## Churches Together Palm Sunday Songs of Praise

On a sunny spring evening, 24th March, Lanchester Methodist Church was full with members and clergy from all churches in the village for our regular Songs of Praise event.

Music was provided by Lanchester Choral Society, Lanchester Band, Bill Gray on the church organ and of course the hearty singing of all the congregation.

Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus's entry into Jerusalem with crowds waving palm branches, gives way to the crucifixion and resurrection at Easter. This was reflected very movingly by Rev Lesley Sutherland, the Vicar of Lanchester, who prepared, and with colleagues delivered, the whole event by means of readings, poems and prayers interspersed between the well-known hymns geared to this season in the Christian year.

The band, led by James Draper, and the organ shared the accompaniments to the hymns. A more solemn note was provided by the Choral Society led by David Hughes with Stainer's anthem 'God So Loved the World'.

Refreshments brought the evening to a close, probably just in time for everyone to recover their voice!

**David Hughes**

## Decorating the cross at Easter

Around two dozen residents basked in the spring sunshine to place daffodils on a cross in a moving Easter day ceremony. Churches Together provided the flowers which participants placed on the cross

on the village green. The event, held at noon on Easter Sunday, was organised by Churches Together in Lanchester and Burnhope as a celebration of Easter.

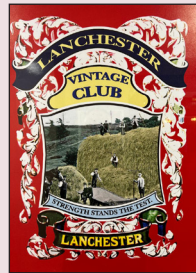
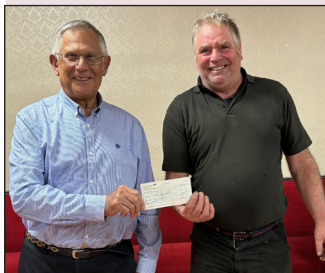
**Neil McKay**



## Vintage Tractor Club is 10 years old and gives over £1,500 to charity

The Lanchester Vintage Tractor Club was formed ten years ago and one of its aims is to raise money for its two charities: the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) and Willow Burn, our local hospice. This year they have raised £762.60 for each of the charities. At their April meeting cheques were presented to representatives of the organisations who thanked the members and explained a little about their work.

The Lanchester Vintage Tractor Club was formed ten years ago and one of its aims is to raise money for its two charities: the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) and Willow Burn, our local hospice. This year they have raised £762.60 for each of the charities. At their April meeting cheques were presented to representatives of the organisations who thanked the members and explained a little about their work.



Left: Peter Suddes presents the cheque to Paul Jackson of Willow Burn  
Middle: Tony Suddes presents the cheque to Sheonagh Jones of the Great North Air Ambulance Service

## Report from Lanchester Local History Society meeting Friday 5th April

Passersby may have mistaken our meeting for the Choral Society as Paul started his talk on Pensher Monument by getting the 20 plus audience singing along with the full unedited score of The Lambton Worm.

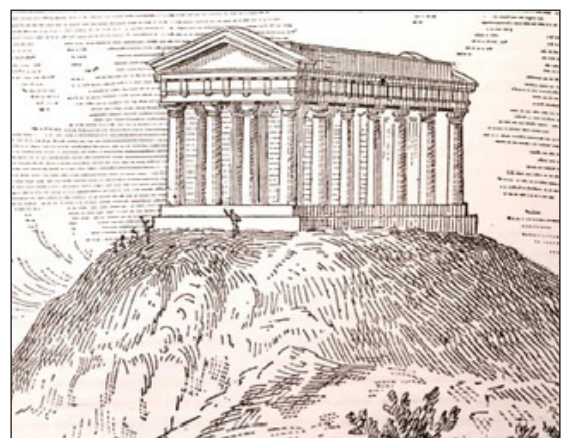
He told us there are many theories as to why there is a copy of The Temple of Theseus on a hill in County Durham and then told us the story. The First Earl of Durham died in 1840, one of his 'titles' was Radical Jack but over his life he had endeared himself to the population of the county. Born in London, educated at Eton, military service in 10th Hussars and became an MP at 21. He was a Reformer and held several overseas appointments on behalf of his country.

Following his funeral, which was a huge celebration of his life, a committee was set up to raise funds to explore some way to remember him. By 1844 John and Benjamin Green Architects had been appointed to erect the monument on Pensher hill. Sketches of the plans were even published in the London Illustrated News and a dedication was held as the building was near completion. The end product is something we all know well.

Snippets of other items we heard. If a worm ever wrapped itself around a hill, it would be Worm Hill at Fatfield. The song that we started the talk singing is not a Wearside song, it was written for a pantomime in a theatre in Newcastle. The monument has been the subject of several April Fools scams over the years.

**Marian Morrison**

Top: Penshaw ("Pensher") Monument  
Below: The First Earl of Durham



## Esmae's 6th birthday party

We would like to thank everyone who came to Esmae's 6th birthday party at Lanchester Social club on Easter Sunday and for all her cards and gifts; she had a wonderful time. Big thank you also to Tyrone's Disco who went above and beyond to make sure everyone got involved and had the best day!

**Lots of love Louise, Gavin & Esmae**



## Dark Skies, Bright Future

I wonder how many people reading this article have spent time looking up on a clear night in Lanchester and enjoyed the view of the night sky, with planets in our solar system visible such as Jupiter and Mars, as well as the constellations of Orion and Ursa Major (the Plough), and star clusters such as the Pleiades (otherwise known as the Seven Sisters).

In lots of ways, we are lucky to be able to enjoy these views as we live in an area classed as level 5 by the Bortle scale (a measurement of light pollution in the night sky). For comparison, Kielder is classed as a level 3, and Newcastle is a level 9, where only the brightest objects, such as Jupiter, are visible. In other ways, we could also be doing a lot more to better preserve our dark skies. If you've ever seen the amazing images of the earth at night from the International Space Station you can see the amount of light emitted by human activity, mostly from street lights. Their glare is scattered by the earth's atmosphere creating sky glows over our heads

I've been inspired to write this piece by an article I read recently about dark sky communities ([tinyurl.com/a425yra8](https://tinyurl.com/a425yra8)), in particular, a story from Presteigne in Wales. With a population of 2,700, they became the first Dark Sky Community in Wales. Similar to many places across the country (including our village), the local authority replaced their orange tinted sodium lighting with LED lighting to reduce running costs. Whilst it did save money, the LED lights flooded the streets with bright white and blue rich colours with a colour temperature of 6500K harming local wildlife populations such as bats and impacting a local observatory from seeing the night sky as well as they had before. The community acted and refurbished 380 light columns with "warm-white" LED lights (colour temperature of 2200K). Half of them were turned off at midnight and the rest were dimmed by 50%. The results meant that not only were they able to preserve their glorious views of the night sky, they also reduced their annual carbon emission output by 4.5 tonnes. Living in Lanchester, you can very easily see the impact that light pollution can have on the night sky. Next time there is a clear night, look north and you will see very few stars, all being obstructed by the lights from Newcastle and the Greencroft industrial estate. Look south west and you will see thousands of stars due to the lack of light pollution over the North Pennines. The longer you stay outside the more you will see as your eyes adjust to the darkness.

Being a Dark Sky Community has far-reaching benefits, extending beyond the enjoyment of the natural beauty of the night sky. By adopting measures to reduce light pollution, we can protect our biodiversity and human health whilst reducing financial costs and contributions to greenhouse emissions. Whilst becoming a Dark Sky Community requires buy-in from the local authority, there are things that we can do as individuals to play our part in reducing light pollution without compromising safety or security, and in turn, save money:

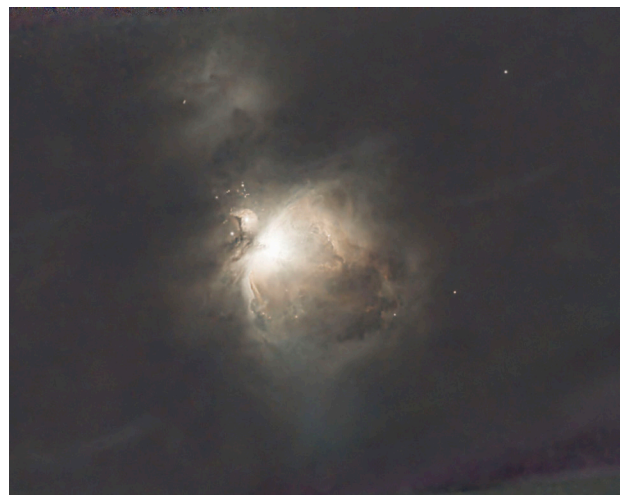
Direct light downwards, minimising upward glare

When you next replace outdoor lighting, consider using warm-white LED bulbs

Turn off unnecessary lights (evidence suggests cameras and alarms act as a greater deterrent to criminals than security lights - <https://tinyurl.com/3muy3zvr>)

As a keen amateur astrophotographer, there's huge potential for capturing the night sky from here in the village. Below are some of the photographs I've taken from my own back garden. My hope is that one day there is appetite for Lanchester to work towards being a Dark Sky Community.

Ben Garside (Lanchester resident)



Top: Full moon  
(24th February  
2024)

Above: The Orion  
nebula (Messier  
42)

Left: Star trail  
rotating around  
Polaris (The North  
Star)

## Cleaning up Lanchester

Over 60 volunteers, individuals, couples, friends and families turned out on Saturday 9th March to give Lanchester a spring clean. They did a sterling job and collected over 30 bags of rubbish and 8 bags of recycling. As usual we collected some interesting items: a traffic cone and a white household fan abandoned in a hedge, and strangely a mobility aid left along the verge opposite Parklands garage!!

Some of the worst areas for rubbish in the village continue to be in the play area (picture included of the horde of bottles squirrelled away under a shrub) and along the main road nearing St Bede's school. The approaches to Lanchester down Peth Bank, Maiden Law Bank, Cadger Bank and out on the A691 were truly awful. Well done to those pickers who collected bags of rubbish including tent poles, bits of cars and an endless pile of drink cans, glass bottles and plastic bottles. I'm pleased and relieved that everyone returned safely and unscathed, if somewhat weary.

It would appear that not only have we reached a situation in society where one must drink on-the-go these days ...no matter whether it's water, sports drinks or alcohol... but also for many to jettison their drinking vessels out of the car window. I do feel that the introduction of a deposit return scheme on cans and bottles might help to add value to waste items and encourage people to recycle more. Just as charging for plastic

carrier bags has meant we now rarely see tattered plastic carriers hanging from spiky roadside bushes we might eventually see fewer bottles and cans in the ditches.

Can I end by thanking once again all those volunteers both the regulars and the newcomers who turned out on a damp cold day and a huge thank you to the Community Café who offered free breakfast buns to all pickers. What a lovely and tasty idea!! There are so many people in Lanchester who strive to make this a better place for all to live. Thank you.

The litter pick is organised by the Lanchester Partnership Environment Group.

Email: [contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk](mailto:contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk)

**Sonny Shepherd**



## KoGs February - April

We've been as busy as always here at KoGs! Our sessions were jam packed with lots of our crazy games and workshops, with of course starting each of our sessions with a two-course meal.

Our latest workshop took place on Monday 4th March where Margaret very kindly came to teach us some flower arranging. We were gifted some beautiful tea cups and saucers from Joy Wingfield (thanks once again Joy and Margaret!) which each of our members used to create their own flower displays for Mother's Day using an assortment of greenery and roses.

We are now working towards our next long weekend residential trip away to Seahouses at the beginning of May. Also coming up in May, we are using the whole month as a "Homeless Awareness" theme where we are hosting various workshops, including talks from people who work with and for various homeless charities and a sponsored outdoor sleepover to see what it is really like to be homeless for the evening. Money raised will be donated to some of the homeless charities that are coming to speak to us.

We have also started to prepare for our next fundraising event which will take place sometime in January/February and are looking forward to giving more details on the event soon!

We have had a few places open up with us and would love to gather new members as always – the more the merrier! (Please see details below)

KoGs (Kids of God) is a Christian based youth group that meets in the Methodist Church on Monday evenings. We offer a range of activities including: 2 course meals, games, messy games, day trips, evening trips, residential weekend trips, crafts, drama, cell sessions and much much more!

We start at 5pm to 7.30pm, Mondays during school terms (and some half terms) and are open to all religions and backgrounds from school years 4 upwards. The cost of the sessions is £3 per person but your first week is free! (All activities and your weekly meal is included)

For more information contact Laura & Peter Cole on 07428500059 / 01207 654291 or email [kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk)

We also have a Facebook page if you'd like to see more or get in touch with us that way, [www.facebook.com/kidsofgodlanchester](http://www.facebook.com/kidsofgodlanchester)

**So, if you're looking to get in on our action, come and join us!**





## Christian Aid soup lunch raised £1,000

The Methodist Church was full for the annual soup lunch. Many thanks to all who helped in any way, whether you were a customer, or a generous donor of soup and tray bakes, it was a great team effort.

A special shout out to Morrisons Consett who donated the bread rolls, the spread, and the milk.

Overall, we raised the amazing total of £1,000!

Thanks again to all who supported the event.

*Judith Brown*

## Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group Anxiety



**Anxiety or fear, the difference-** fear is the response to a perceived threat, while anxiety involves worry about a threat that has not yet or may never happen. If we are alone in a dark place late at night, it's a good thing to have a little anxiety or fear, as this encourages us to be on the lookout and aware of possible danger.

**Generalised causes of anxiety-** having a long term painful illness or having a history of a stressful or traumatic experience can result in anxiety. A history of drug or alcohol misuse can lead to anxiety. It is believed an inherited gene from parents predisposes to anxiety. Over activity in the areas of the brain involving emotions and imbalance of brain chemicals which are involved in the control of regulation of mood, have all been identified as possible causes of anxiety. However, many people develop anxiety for no apparent reason.

**Things to help reduce anxiety-** talking about your anxiety, sharing fears with a partner, friend, or family member can take away a lot of scariness. You could also try a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy approach. Be kind to your body with a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, stop smoking, reduce your alcohol levels, and drink less caffeine. Seek out local self-help groups for anxiety.

### Helpful tips in anxiety:

- It is impossible to think clearly in an anxiety state so take time out so you can physically calm down.
- Concentrate on breathing slowly and regularly.
- Visualise a happy place a place where you feel safe and picture this in your mind.
- Try the three space 333 rule- name three things you can see, three things you can hear, move three different parts of your body.

**Life is full of stresses-** it is important to remember that our lives are not perfect. Bad days and setbacks will always happen. Do not allow yourself to withdraw from friends and family, we all need social interaction with others.

**It is normal-** to experience anxiety at some point in life, sitting exams, a job interview, family worries. But some people find it hard to control these worries and symptoms become constant and can affect daily lives. It is at this point that you should contact your surgery to speak with a health professional.

[www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/top-tips-to-improve-your-mental-wellbeing](http://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/top-tips-to-improve-your-mental-wellbeing)



### Some symptoms of anxiety

- restlessness
- a sense of dread
- feeling constantly "on edge"
- difficulty concentrating
- irritability
- dizziness
- difficulty sleeping, tiredness
- noticeable heartbeat
- muscle aches and tension
- trembling or shaking
- dry mouth
- excessive sweating
- shortness of breath
- stomach ache, headache
- feeling sick
- pins and needles

## Boys' Brigade

We completed our programme up to Easter by using Google Maps to search the world and find a spy and by planting bulbs.

But the clear highlight for at least four of the lads (Ewan Baxendale, Logan Smallwood, Arnauld Lefoyer and Louis Lefoyer) was the trip to Belfast to compete in the National Badminton final against teams from Scotland, Northern Ireland and England and Wales. We flew out to Belfast on Friday evening, arriving at our hotel at around 11.30pm.

On Saturday we arrived at the Queen's University PEC Centre Belfast at 9am ready for a 9.15am start. We played teams from the 1st Largs Company, Scotland, and the 1st Lisburn Company, Northern Ireland. Both were close matches but unfortunately, we were beaten by better sides on the day. We then played the 1st Barnet Company for the honour of being the best English team and we won, so well done to all the lads.

It was around 6pm when we arrived back at our hotel to freshen up for dinner which we enjoyed alongside the family of two of the 1st Lisburn lads who happened to be the cousins of Ewan. On Sunday we could have flown back early but we decided on a later flight and to use the time to visit some of the Northern Ireland attractions. The Giant's Causeway was the choice and with the weather on our side we enjoyed a fantastic day walking along the headland and over the causeway, even sitting on the "Giant's Foot". All the boys had a fantastic uplifting weekend, and they would certainly like to thank all those responsible for the grants we received that greatly helped us to make the trip. Engaging with other companies in sport and fellowship is part and parcel of Boys' Brigade life.

We are eagerly looking forward to next year's national competitions.

**Eric Hepplewhite**



Above: The boys with their medals

Below: The boys and their leaders on the Giant's Causeway

## Police Report



### Police targeting parking in Lanchester

Police will be testing a new solution to the issues of parking in the Burnhope and Lanchester areas. Those caught repeatedly parking on double yellow lines (without a disability badge), parking on keep clears, parking on dropped kerbs and causing an obstruction to a resident's drive/pedestrians will receive a Community Protection Warning – this can't be appealed and will stay with the person for 12 months. If they are caught again, they will receive a Community Protection Notice. If they reoffend within the next 12 months, they will be issued with a fine or subject to court proceedings.

**Connar Milner (30136)**  
**Police Community Support Officer**

Above: PCSO Connar Milner and a colleague attending to parking issues at the EP School.

## The Village Bus

Dear readers

As we all know the village bus provides an essential service for residents with health and mobility difficulties and this service is a lifeline for them. The bus service is provided and managed by the Lanchester Partnership, which is committed to its continuation.

It relies on donations and grants; passengers using the bus also leave generous donations. Many groups in the village organise fundraising coffee mornings and raffles. But we need your support! Please help by donating or holding a fundraising event. It's a community bus and open to all.

Please contact Paul Jackson on 07957871106.

**Paul Jackson, Lanchester Partnership**



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## Wildlife - Notes

### Smile, it's a slug!

Is "Slug love" a step too far? Read on. You can encourage mollusc munchers into your garden space to help control your 'unwanted visitors' ("molluscs", I learned at school is a term for animals like snails and slugs. Munchers include hedgehogs, beetles and birds like the thrush).

Consider creating a wildlife sensitive garden: balancing the visual botanical with the biodiversity. Even a small space helps.

Here are a few reasons to tolerate the intolerable:

1) Some of our favourite critters, like our hoggies, rely on a slug/snail snack! They sometimes struggle to snuffle enough food and our gardens can provide a platter for their palette. Simply ensure they can gain access to your green space (a small hole in a fence helps), avoid using chemical treatments that can harm wildlife and, ideally, provide a source of water (most important during drought!).

2) "Slugs and Co." help improve your soil = happier plants. Not all slug species feed on your pride-and-joy. Instead, they feed on 'unwanted' morsels e.g. rotten vegetation, dung, even dead creatures, thereby recycling them back into your soil to nurture your garden.

3) Some slugs are 'territorial' warding off others. If 'you' move a slug a short distance it may come back and worse, they may take non-native (garden) plant seeds with them into the 'wild'.

Please have patience (with missing leaves, flowers, even plants absent before you get the 'wild' balance right). Cooperation and coexistence are the buzzwords for our bees, butterflies, and biodiversity.

Perhaps put your gardening hobby into perspective? Creatures that we share our space with may prefer 'less tidy'. Make even a small area you mow into a meadow and watch the wildflowers grow (p.s. if you just leave your lawn, it will possibly launch into a disappointing landscape, see links below for advice). If you grow plants that flower across as many months as possible, they will attract more invertebrates, plants like Buddleia, Lavender and Aubretia are magnets for butterflies and bees.

Links:

<https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/>

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening>

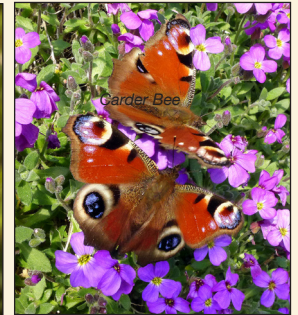
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/planting-plan-for-wildlife-gardens>

Mini meadow: <https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to-grow-plants/how-to-create-a-mini-wildflower-meadow/>

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/lawns/creating-wildflower-meadows>

From our Wildlife Correspondent



Top: Slug control – the song thrush. The RSPB says it likes to eat snails, breaking into them by smashing them against a stone with a flick of the head.

Above left: Small Copper Butterfly

Above right: Peacock Butterfly

Right: Carder Bee



## Community Centre News



### Community Centre News Your Community Centre Needs You!!

Your Community Centre is run by a committee which is made up of volunteers who are responsible for the overall management of the building on behalf of all of us.

The Committee meets every two months to discuss the status of the centre and to plan future projects. We are looking for more committee members who can help and support the centre (especially anyone who has accounting skills).

The centre is a vibrant, active space. We have over 30 groups who use the space regularly and over 300 people come through the doors each week.

If you can give a little time and would like to become part of the team please contact the office, you will be very welcome.

#### Latest News:

- Our Easter competition raised £99, 'thank you' to ASDA Stanley for donating all of the lovely chocolate prizes, our winners were very happy. Thank you everyone who took part. All of these small fundraisers do help the centre with our constant fundraising. Congratulations to the winners: Dennis Laycock, Pat Davis, June Trewick, Stuart Martin and Sam Jafar.
- Our front porch now has a new warm roof, 'thank you' to The Area Action Partnership who funded this improvement.

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 website - <https://lanchestercc.co.uk/> or scan the QR code for our website.**

**Marie Murphy**



## Thursday Club

We have had a super afternoon listening to the artist Maralyn O'Keefe who told us how she came to be in The Glass Gallery, which is on Medomsley Road in Consett.

She is well travelled and has rubbed shoulders with some famous people due to her superb works of art in stained glass. One of her commissions was to create and produce a window for the peace process in Northern Ireland. This was at a moment of grave importance and stirred our emotions.

She runs glass making workshops in the upstairs room of the Gallery, where she has her kiln. Many other local artists also produce work to showcase in her Gallery. She has a Facebook page for The Glass Gallery where everything can be found.

We ended the afternoon with tea or coffee and cakes to celebrate the 44th year of the Thursday Club. Olive led the singing of Happy Birthday to us, the Thursday Club.

P.S. Those who peep into the Methodist church will no doubt see a creation by Maralyn O'Keefe which was inspired by the children of the church family. It is the Welcome window. Truly inspiring!

**Jan Vasey**



Above: The Glass Gallery and examples of Maralyn's work.

## Ladies who lunch

Last time out we were just up the road to Consett, heading for the Steel House Bistro, Derwentside College's hospitality training venue. We have been there before, and it is always an absolute pleasure to go. The students are lovely and make their customers feel most welcome, as does Angelo - the man in charge.

The set menu costs £11.25 for 2 courses and £13.95 for 3 courses - amazing value! We sampled for starters: tandoori chicken skewers with mint raita and mango chutney; paupiette of plaice with wilted spinach and a white wine sauce; cheese and onion soup with melba toast garnish and chopped chives.

Main course was Shepherds' pie (with a turnip and carrot topping), minted gravy and seasonal vegetables; ham, pancetta, cheddar and onion tart with chips and salad.

For desserts we had Biscoffi cheesecake with pouring cream; jam sponge with custard; pear and frangipane tart with vanilla ice cream/custard/cream.

We all enjoyed our meal - our food had arrived piping hot, the presentation had been exemplary, and it had all tasted totally scrumptious.

Not too far to go, not too expensive, totally to be recommended. We shall of course be making our way there again sometime soon.

## The Gourmet Girls



## Lanchester Flower Club - Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday 27th March in Lanchester Community Centre. Our demonstrator was Heather Curry. Heather's theme was "Time for Tea". She chatted and made us laugh, at the same time doing some really lovely arrangements. The arrangements were raffled. So, some ladies went home very happy. We enjoyed our usual tea/coffee and biscuits and of course plenty of chatter and laughter.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th April at 1.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. Our speaker will be Howard Leslie from "Quiet Corner Plants". Our May meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd May at 1.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator will be Susan Hall; her theme will be "Inspirational Treasures". Everyone is welcome to come along and join us. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. It is a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon.

For further information contact Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 or Lestrine Kelly (Secretary) on 01027 521494.

**Lestrine Kelly**

*Heather Curry with her arrangements*





## Poppy's walks

Good day readers and this month's walk takes place in Old Esh, about four miles from Lanchester. While it is possible for some to walk to Old Esh from Lanchester to begin our stroll, it is a steep hike. The Human and I took the car and parked it at the far end of

the village next to a carved owl and a litter bin. This was because a lot of cars had already parked near the school and the village pub, the Cross Keys.

As you will know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale terrier who enjoys sharing with readers the walks I lead my Humans on.

This walk is notable for its views across both the Browney and Deerness valleys, although while the Humans tend to admire these views I find more interest in the surrounding undergrowth. After parking at the side of the road and getting out of the car we cross the road and proceed along a farm track on foot. This takes us to a farmyard called Low Esh farm. We pass a pretty cottage called Byre Cottage on the way to the farm. At the time of writing the daffodils were looking splendid, but by the time you read this they will probably have faded somewhat. From the farmyard we spot a stile – a sort of wooden step on the side of a wall – and cross that onto a path across fields.

This is known as a Saints Trail according to a sign on the side of a wall. We walk alongside a field without livestock on our right and with panoramic views of the Deerness Valley. But there are sheep on the field to our left across a fence, so I am kept on my lead. We

walk across two fields and come to another stile which we have to cross carefully, because it is adjacent to a fairly busy road. We could have gone straight on towards Ushaw College but instead we turn left and follow a path alongside the road. This takes us near to but not past the Board Inn. There is a part of the walk where we have to stay on the verge while the road turns a left-hand bend, but after 100 yards or so we come to a newly laid pavement to walk back in the direction of Old Esh.

The Humans say the views of Langley Park to the right are spectacular – resembling a toy town with Diggerland in the far side looking like a child's Lego set – I heard the male Human rather poetically say. We could now just walk back to the car, but we pass another public footpath sign on our left, and I insist we follow it. I do this by tugging on my lead and refusing to budge in any other direction. We therefore cross another stile and get away from the road, going diagonally left across a field which is the one with the sheep in it. But of course, I am on my lead and am well behaved in any case. At the end of the field is another stile to take us across a fence which guides us back onto the footpath we had left earlier – the Saints Trail. We turn right and head back to Low Esh Farm, then right at the farmyard and back to the car next to the carved owl. The walk – with the detour I insisted on – took about an hour and ten minutes and is highly recommended by yours truly.

## Lanchester resident wins Community Award

Philip McCready, who lives in Lanchester with his wife Gemma and their two children, started Military Incorporated, a military retailer based in Langley Park in 2019. This year they have won the Community Award for the North East of England, Federation of Small Businesses Awards 2024.

Philip has worked hard to create a retail store that welcomes and works with our military veteran community, creating a safe place to visit, with complimentary refreshments and a friendly welcoming team. Military Incorporated also works closely with the Army, Air and Sea Cadet Forces across the UK to ensure the next generation receives the support and correct clothing/kit they need, by uniquely offering a swap option for clothing, to keep the cadets in the correct fitting uniform, at no cost.

Their work with military charities is a passion for the business, working closely with numerous local and national military charities, offering veterans and their families support and opportunities all year round. Military Incorporated are extremely proud to be awarded this award and they look forward to the national finals in May, where the national winner for the UK will be announced. The family moved to Lanchester in April 2016 from Sunderland, as Philip and Gemma were both working in Durham at the time and wanted to move from their apartment to a family home to start a family. In Philip's words, "We have had our two children whilst living in Lanchester, both attend Lanchester EP, and we love the village and the community within it."

**Good luck in the national finals.**



Above: Philip McCready with his award

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

by

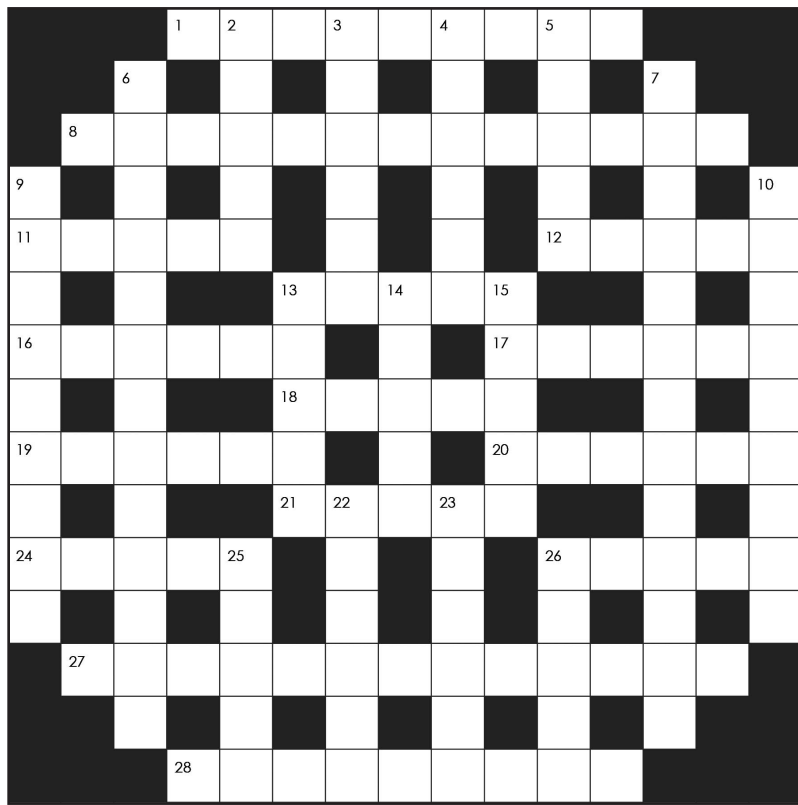
**FRIDAY 3rd May 2024**

The deadline for advertisers is

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\*\*\*\*\*

# CLUES CROSSWORD 196



## Across

1. Overconfident and tactless behaviour (9)
8. Can be decomposed by bacteria (13)
11. Tarka was one (5)
12. At the same height (5)
13. Type of snooker shot (5)
16. Yearly (6)
17. First name of snooker's Rocket (6)
18. Sport or entertainment venue (5)
19. The Scottish type has no 'e' (6)
20. Character played by Edward Woodward (6)
21. Clever (5)
24. Horseshoe shaped lake formed by the meander of a river (5)
26. Thing of value (5)
27. Architectural feature designed to let in lots of light (6,7)
28. Lacking a distinct form (9)

## Down

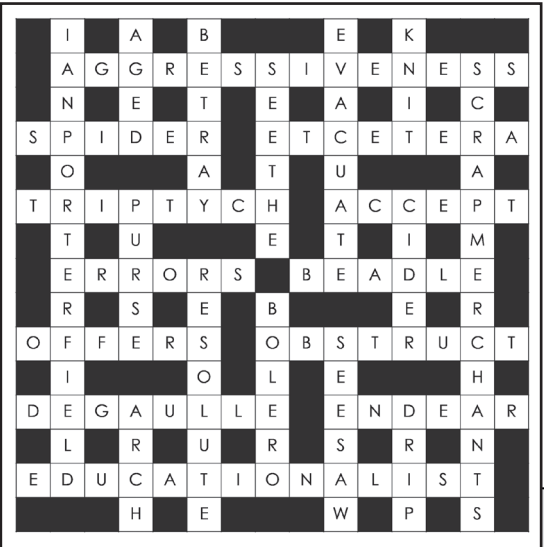
2. Person on a horse (5)
3. Indicator used on a railway (6)
4. Tidy up (6)
5. Garment worn over the shoulders (5)
6. County Durham village (6,7)
7. 'Twelve plus One', or the same result (anagram) (6,4,3)
9. Lanchester beauty spot (5,4)
10. Every other (9)
13. Takes part in a sport (5)
14. Jungle Book character (5)
15. Large area of land (5)
22. Unlucky accident (6)
23. Top up or replenish (6)
25. Mechanical device for lifting or hauling (5)
26. South American mountain range (5)

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Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by **Tuesday 7th May 2024** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



## Winner of Crossword 194

There were 26 entries this month, 20 of which were correct.

The winner drawn out of the hat was **Pauline Westley.**

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## Paradiso Film Club

The Paradiso Film Club has been going from strength to strength since we started up again post COVID but we now need some new volunteers to continue our success. Sadly, some of the people who ran the club pre-COVID were no longer available to restart it so a small group of volunteers jumped in to ensure the club was re-established. It has been lovely to welcome back existing members, but also to welcome a lot of new members and a large number of visitors. We have shown a wide variety of films including comedy, action, romance, drama, and foreign language; recent hits have included Where the Crawdads Sing, She Said, Belfast and Top Gun Maverick. Over the next few months we will be showing Mrs Harris Goes to Paris, Supernova and Golden Years.

However, now we are established, some of our existing volunteers need to stand down and we really need your help to keep the club going.

### What do volunteers do?

As a volunteer you can be involved in:

- Organisation: film selection, publicity and social media, record keeping
- On the door: meeting and greeting visitors, taking money, record keeping
- Activities: sourcing prizes for the raffle, helping organise refreshments, organising quizzes and special activities e.g. at the start the season and at Christmas

We need people who can commit to specific tasks – but not necessarily attend every film (we show ten films a year from September to June) and make an active contribution to club meetings (2-3 times at year).

If you're interested in volunteering or would like to know more email Helen at [lanchesterdfc@gmail.com](mailto:lanchesterdfc@gmail.com)

**Helen McCree**



*Dear Village...*



*Dear Village Voice*

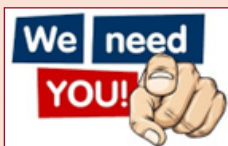
I would like to wish a big thank you to everyone who helped me get through my treatment.

For my family and friends for their help when I needed to get to and from my treatments, for their prayers, cards, goodies, and the love and support they gave me.

Love you all.

*Thank you.*

**Christine Eland, Valley Grove.**



## Lanchester Parish Council

### Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on

**Tuesday 12 March 2024 at 7.00pm**

**Minutes** – Ordinary Meeting 13th February – approved.

**Virgin Media network expansion** – The Community Lead from Virgin Media attended the meeting to inform members of the works that will be taking place in Lanchester. Once the works are completed residents will be able to access Gigabit broadband, and other Virgin Media services. When rolling out the network to new areas, they use a hybrid approach of utilising existing infrastructure and installing their network through civil engineering. Although they always try to keep any disruption to a minimum, they realise that residents may raise concerns about the works in their area, so they want to make sure everyone is aware of what will be taking place. Residents should receive a letter before any works begin outside their property. They hope to only be working outside the same property for a couple of days and are hoping to complete all the work in the village by September 2024. The Clerk will be happy to provide contact details if any residents have further questions or queries.

**Lanchester Wheelchair User Group** – Members from Lanchester Wheelchair User Group attended the meeting to provide Councillors with a presentation describing their objectives as a group, the accessible and inaccessible areas around Lanchester and their three wishes for Lanchester to help with accessibility. These included dropped kerbs, especially around the King's Head. The steep slopes made smaller either side of the King's Head to village green crossing point. Consideration of an allocated crossing point across the village Front Street. The Councillors advised that the group contacts Durham County Councils inclusivity/access officer and we offer our support.

**Police Reports** – Members were updated on the recent meeting with PCSO Connor Milner. This included discussions about:

**Parking** - They have recently visited Lanchester EP and All Saints school and any vehicles that were blocking pavements have been asked to move and explained the dangers of blocking pedestrian access.

**Speeding** – There has been an increased number of vehicles speeding in Lanchester. Speed cameras have been asked to target specific areas to try and promote sticking to the speed limit.

**Dog fouling/fly tipping and littering** – The neighbourhood warden has been made aware of some of the problem areas. The Clerk to organise the next meeting with PCSO Connor Milner.

### **Correspondence** –

**Clerk & Councils Direct Magazine February** – received.

**Tanfield Lea Banner Group** – approval of the loaning of the Lanchester Banner was given.

**Karbon Homes** – Lanchester Parish Council received a letter from Karbon Homes recommending action to be taken to reduce the amount of combustible material in the office space, by reviewing the items that are stored and where they are stored. The clerk to dispose of any paperwork that is no longer needed and to invest in some office cupboards.

**Kitswell Park Play Area** – Annual Inspection - Councillors were informed that the Annual Inspection for Kitswell Park Play Area had been completed. No major or high risk problems were raised, however a number of maintenance issues need to be undertaken. Identified works to be addressed in a future meeting.

**Grants / Donations** – The following donations were approved: £300 to the Parish Church Clock and £500 to Lanchester Partnership for the Village Bus.

**Planning Application** – Application for agricultural land improvements utilising imported soil materials at Spring Gardens Farm, Howden Bank Lanchester DM/21/02616/WAS (amended plans).

It was agreed that the objections raised about the original application still apply and that a further letter of objection is sent to the County Council and the Environment Agency.

**Financial report** – approved.

**Accounts for Payment** – approved.

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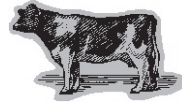
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### From your County Councillors

Giving Children in Care the Best Start in Life

In dry but necessary terms, at the February Audit meeting I attended at County Hall in the City of Durham, I learned a great deal about the "Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy", including the fact that DCC has responsibility for approximately 1,200 children in care across County Durham – up from about 900 before the Lockdown.

I recently joined the Audit Committee, which is made of councillors of all parties and independent nominated experts and helps scrutinise the expenditure of the County Council and one undeniable cost pressure on the Council at the moment is the number of children in care.

However, the world of audit cannot in itself fully illuminate the challenge and value of the work done to support children in care by the Council and other private bodies.

One such body is Vita Nova NE which manages two excellent homes in the Lanchester Council division – both in Burnhope (with a support office in Maiden Law).

Led by Kathryn Cowen, Ian Marshall, and an inspirational team, they do vital work to support their vulnerable young people of differing ages, all under 18. Whilst their needs are varied, they are frequently complex and the team works tirelessly to support their personal and social requirements, as well as providing meals and helping them prepare their homework for school.

Elsewhere in our Council ward, DCC is directly establishing a children's home at Castleside. Meanwhile, I have spoken to various impressive local families who support children in foster care, through adoption, or kinship care (where a child stays with extended family or a friend).

One of the most heartening features of the culture instilled at the two homes in Burnhope is how involved the children are in their community organising cake sales, Easter egg hunts and other charity ventures for local causes like Burnhope Community Centre and Willow Burn Hospice.

It cannot be denied that the picture around care is a challenging one, financially and socially. There are no easy answers to these challenges, and I couldn't hope to find one in a brief article like this - but there is so much to be proud of when we look at work done by people in our towns, villages and communities who give our most vulnerable - but no less valued - children the very best start in life.

If you are interested in learning more about children in care, please do get in touch on [douglas.oliver@durham.gov.uk](mailto:douglas.oliver@durham.gov.uk) or to find more about fostering visit <https://www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk/>

Doug Oliver

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## Cricket Club 50th Anniversary Celebrations

The 50th anniversary celebrations of the Cricket Club continued on Saturday 16th March, with a gala night at The Derwent Manor Hotel. Just under one hundred present and former members were in attendance in suits and sparkly dresses. They were met on arrival with a glass of sparkling wine or a bottle of lager, whilst saxophonist Andrew Usher, who was sponsored by Grahampusltd, serenaded the guests into the room. Bonnies Bows and Bespoke Crafts had set up a glittering corner for photographs, with a giant LED 50, blue, white and gold balloons and a shimmering gold backdrop.

In wedding style, a seating plan was set up, with each of the ten tables being named after a former professional at the Club, such as Styris, Williams and Madushan. At each table, Emma Conlan (daughter of Chair, Neil Graham) had creatively made centrepieces of astroturf, with a cricket ball atop and a little handmade bat with the professional's name on it. Chair, Neil Graham, started proceedings giving a very considered speech in praise of all concerned with the Club, recognising in particular the people who do so much behind the scenes to provide the cricketers with their opportunities, but also recognising the long times that players stay at the Club, as well as the contribution that the Club makes to the community. There was also a minute of contemplation for those who couldn't be present, having sadly passed away or like our Treasurer, Jeff Wingfield, who is currently very ill.

Guests were then served with a three-course meal, whilst magician Martin Duffy wandered the room entertaining everyone with his tricks. There was time for a game of heads and tails, which Nathan Somersall won and a quiz covering the history of the club and a raffle before the DJ got everyone dancing into the wee hours. A great night, appropriately celebrating our wonderful Club.

**Andrew McConnell**



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## Paradiso Film Club

12th May: Supernova Sam, a musician, and Tusker, a respected novelist, and partners of 20 years, are travelling across England in their old campervan visiting friends, family and places from their past. Since Tusker was diagnosed with early-onset dementia two years ago, their time together is the most important thing they have. Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci "are on magnificent form in a drama about love and mortality that is all the more powerful for its restraint" (The Guardian). Lanchester Community Centre, 7pm for 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 May 20th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will discuss 'The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle' by Stuart Turton, who won the Best First Novel Prize in the 2018 Costa Book awards. 'A dazzling, mind bending murder mystery' (Goodreads). This book sounds a little different from a typical murder mystery. We look forward to seeing you there and debating the different opinions that make a book club.

### Thursday Book Club

On Thursday 16th May from 4.00-5.00pm, the group will be reviewing 'A Long Way from Home' by Cathy Glass, a moving true story about Anna, abandoned by her natural parents. How will this group review this account? Will it be your cup of tea? 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 May 2nd from 10-11.30am. Bring along your wool, thread, needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Do you like knitting, crocheting? Everyone is welcome, enjoy.

Scrabble Group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30 pm. 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.

*Travel books:* the library has a good selection of travel books, pop in and have a look, or order a book from their catalogue.

## Musical Memories

Musicals Special: Join us for music, refreshments and fun activities. 1st May 2024

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: April 20th Tennis Club April 27th Guide Dogs May 4th Lanchester Band May 11th Mental Health Charity May 18th Christian Aid May 25th TBA

## Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be held in the main hall of the Community Centre on May 16th at 1.30pm when we shall be hearing Ian talking about the Donkey Sanctuary.

## Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

The next two meetings of the Friends will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 25th April and Thursday 23rd May in the upstairs conference room of the Community Centre. We are currently studying the village of Slatley as there is a record of Roman stonework having been found there and some Roman coins. An investigation by an authorised metal detecting group has unfortunately not found any Roman artefacts. Our next visit will be looking at the structure of a particular building to examine it for Roman stonework.

Arrangements are in hand to conduct a small archaeological dig at a ditched rectangular feature off Peth Bank, which may be an Iron Age enclosure. Arrangements are also in hand for a group visit to the Parish Church to examine the Roman stonework in its structure, and the Roman altars in the church porch. Further information about the work of the Friends may be obtained from Mrs M. Williams, tel: 01207 520063, or from Rodney Hawkins, email hawkins\_15@sky.com. Don't forget that you can find out about our work at www.longoviciumcuk.wordpress.com. (Note there are no dots before or in "cuk")

## 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.

## Vintage Tractor Club

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

## Lunch Club

The next meeting of the lunch held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 14th May, 12 o'clock start, all welcome. Any queries contact Jackie 07908 838452.

## History Society

We will be meeting one week later in May - on the 10th but as usual for a prompt 7.00 start in Room 3 at the Community Centre. Our speaker will be Dave Shotten and the topic will be The Banner of Saint Cuthbert. The meeting on June 7th is Graham Sout on North East Department Stores. Shops like Robbs and Binns places where we all used to go for special things in the day. Come and join us, all visitors welcome and remember we will have someone on the door till 7.00 to open the maglock and let you in.

## WI

Lanchester WI are holding a Coffee Morning on Friday 17th May from 10 am to 12 pm in the Community Centre small hall. Stalls will include bottle tombola, raffle and cake. Please come along to meet friends and enjoy coffee and homemade cake.

## Lanchester playgroup

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

## Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 14th May at 7.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre small hall. The speakers will be Malcolm Donnison & Bryan Watts (Upper Derwent Valley Red Squirrel Group). If you'd like more information, please email lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com.

On Saturday May 18th from 10 am to 12.30 pm we will have a field trip to Low Barns Nature Reserve, Witton-Le-Wear. We will meet at 9.30am in Lanchester Community Centre car park to arrange any lift sharing.

## Choral Society

'A Box of Delights': 100 years of Stage Musicals Friday 10th May, 7.15 pm, Lanchester Methodist Church.

Come along and hear songs from your favourite stage musicals including Phantom, Les Mis., Mama Mia, Oklahoma, Sound of Music and many more. With soloists Anna Foster, Paul Smith and Ian Gray. Tickets available after Easter from any member, 01207 521458 and 01207 520427.

## City Theatre

The City Theatre, Durham, presents "The Railway Children", 23rd to 29th June. This play is adapted from the classic E Nesbit novel. The story of a prosperous Edwardian family, mother and three children, forced into near penury in the north of England, captures the anxieties of childhood with tenderness and insight. Tickets from the Gala Durham on 03000 266600 or www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk and follow the link for tickets. Performances: Sunday and Saturday matinee 2.30 pm, Monday to Friday 7.30 pm. Tickets £8.50, concessions £7.50 Sun/ Mon/ Tues.

## Lanchester Social Club

4th May - Charlie  
11th May - Lisa Marie  
18th May - Mike L  
25th May - Sarah Anne Biggs

## Flower Club

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 1.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. Our speaker will be Howard Leslie from "Quiet Corner Plants". Our May meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 1.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator will be Susan Hall; her theme will be "Inspirational Treasures". Everyone is welcome, come along and join us. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. It is a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon.

## Lanchester Hiking Group

Meets at 10am on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month. 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).

## Willow Burn

Willow Week  
6 May - 12 May  
Get involved in Willow Week 2024 and help to deliver hospice care of the highest standard to patients and those closest to them - now and in the future. So, this Willow Week we are asking our amazing supporters to please do what they can and: donate 56p (or more) learn more about your local hospice share social media with your friends share your Willow Burn story Every penny and thought counts...

If you would like to get involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our team, Ali English at aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk / 01207 529 224  
*Nurses' Spring Fair*  
11 May, 11am - 2pm, Willow Burn Hospice

Free entry for everyone, come along and join in the fun. The Willows Café will be offering some fantastic goodies as will the Potting Shed and there will be a spring raffle, tombola, bottle tombola, toy tombola, garden games for all plus hand massages from Willow Burn's lovely complementary therapist, Sue. We will also have face painting and ice creams courtesy of Iced Dreams plus a visit from a special guest. We look forward to welcoming you on Saturday 11 May and would kindly ask you to please be mindful of our neighbours at Maiden View as parking is limited at the hospice. All proceeds from the fair will go to fund the vital services provided by the Willow Burn Nursing and Care Team.

## Riverside Musical Theatre

Riverside Musical Theatre Company is excited to announce that tickets are now on sale for our next production. 'Curtains, the musical whodunit!!' from the writers of Chicago & Cabaret. A comedic send-up suitable for all ages, Curtains will have the audience laughing until the last curtain falls.

Performances are from Wednesday 15th May to Sat 18th May 2024 at Park View Community Theatre, Chester le Street. Wednesday to Friday evening performance at 7.15 pm and Saturday matinee at 2.30 pm. All tickets are £14. Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/

## The Lanchester Partnership Quiz night

7pm, Saturday 18th May, Lanchester Social Club  
A fun evening with a quiz and a raffle, all fuelled by a pie and peas supper. Tickets are £5 each and include the supper, alternative dietary options will be available (please get in touch beforehand to request this). Tickets are available to buy from Lanchester Social Club, by emailing contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk or follow the event on the Facebook page Facebook/LanchesterPartnership to find out where else to get them. This event is raising funds to support The Partnership, which oversees several projects in the village including the village bus, community orchard, Friends of Longovicium and many more. Raffle prizes will be gratefully accepted, please let us know if you have any by email or Messenger.

# St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

We've had an incredibly busy term at St Bede's this month with several events, fundraising and trips. Here are just a few that we would love to share with you.

## SVP Fundraising

17 St Bede's Youth SVP members completed a sponsored sleepover for SVP Make Poverty a Priority 'Homelessness' at the beginning of March. The grand total has been revealed and they raised a tremendous total of £2,500. What an incredible sum that our young people raised for such a worthy cause.

## Magistrates Mock Trial

On Saturday 23rd March, Year 8 and Year 9 St Bede's students competed in the Magistrates Mock Trial National Competition against other schools in the Regional Final at Teesside Crown Court. They comprised roles such as lawyers and magistrates in front of professional magistrates, judges, and Lord Lieutenant Snowdon of County Durham. Whilst they did not win, they performed to a very high standard and made St Bede's proud!

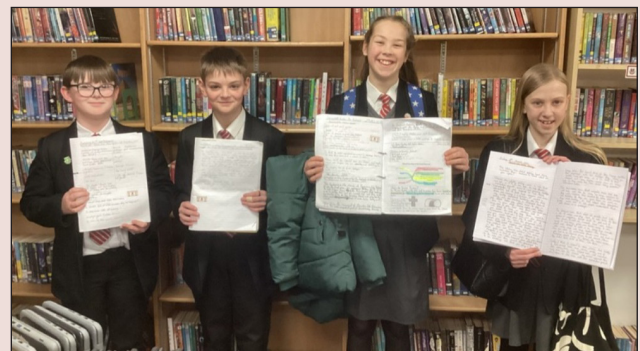
## Fundraising for Lent

During the last few weeks of term Lenten fundraising was in full swing. Students from the school council helped Mrs Brennan to start a tombola. Our calculations so far show we have raised over £600 from the raffle and over £300 from the tombola. We can't wait to see what the final totals might be!

## Gold Standard Work Showcase

Throughout this term students from across the school who had received a gold standard sticker from their class teachers were invited to attend a Gold Standard Work Event. At the event students showcased their high-quality work and received a small gift to congratulate them on a great piece of work. Students brought work from a variety of subjects from across the curriculum. It's fantastic to see some of the high standard work that has been produced by St Bede's students.

**Mrs Catherine Hammill**  
Head Teacher



Above top: SVP Fundraising  
Above: Gold Standard Work Event

## The Bishop Wilkinson Family of Schools – in Lanchester

Here at Bishop Wilkinson our goal is simple: to enable all to flourish. We nurture each person through loving relationships and rich daily experiences. We educate the whole person so that everyone fulfils their academic potential, aspires highly and is optimistically ambitious. We unlock ability and talents so that all can flourish and make a valued contribution to the world.

Our schools welcome all families and, through our Trust structure, enable a unique education pathway for all children in Lanchester, from the age of 3 through to 18. We encompass both primary and secondary education, ensuring the needs of each child are considered and catered for across each phase of education.

Early childhood, spanning up to 8 years, is critical for cognitive, social, emotional and physical development and we believe our nurturing and supportive schools create the right educational opportunities. Starting school and moving school are some of the most difficult experiences for any child, yet are critical to provide the right foundations for learning as quickly as possible.



We focus on the whole child – spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, socially and emotionally and foster in our children the qualities of self-esteem, justice, honesty and respect for other people and cultures.

Our primary school, All Saints', provides an excellent quality of education where all children feel valued and cherished, in a caring and supportive environment. The school ensures that the children's experience of interactions and friendships have a formative and significant influence on their understanding of relationships. Our secondary school, St Bede's, prides itself on the quality of teaching and learning children experience, but believe their excellence of provision rests on their core commitment to forming the whole child. They recognise the value and worth of each child and that they deserve to be safe, happy and able to flourish. They model their understanding

that the most important lesson that children can experience is how to treat others with respect, kindness and compassion.

The Trust's unique education pathway provides continuity of provision and care centred on the whole child. Both schools work closely together, with shared values and deep commitment for each and every child, forming strong links and practical approaches to aid effective transition. In line with the admissions policy, pupils from All Saints', Catholic and non-Catholic, are prioritised above all others at St Bede's.





**DEERNESS VALLEY FC**

**NOW RECRUITING  
AGE 5 UPWARDS**

Deerness Valley FC based near Durham are looking for girls from the ages of 5 upwards. We welcome players of all ages and ability, we pride ourselves on developing girls with our qualified coaches.

The training sessions are held every Tuesday night, 6-7pm at The Sir Bobby Robson Centre, Bracken Court, Ushaw Moor, Durham DH7 7NG. All of our coaches are minimum FA level 1 qualified, and have appropriate DBS checks.

**For more information contact:  
Anja - 07737 395641**

## Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

We have just finished the longest shortest half term ever! We started the month of March with an Ofsted inspection. Our previous one was September 2018 so we were long overdue but luckily (or good planning on their behalf!) it was the week following our residential to Dubai. I had taken my notes and paperwork all over Dubai with me in case we received the phone call that week, ready to fly back overnight if needed. Thankfully though, we received the call on our first day back and were inspected the following two days. We are yet to receive our draft report so expect it will still be some time before it is published.

In the middle of March, we had our annual ski residential to Serre Chevalier in the French Alps. This year we took 22 children and 10 parents along with 3 members of staff for a week of amazing skiing. The weather was perfect with clear blue skies all week. It is always wonderful to see children who are unable to even stand on their skis the first day, progress to skiing confidently (and very quickly!) down blue runs by the end of the week.

The final week of term was all centred around our Easter celebrations. Our Year 5 cohort led our Easter service in church, re-telling the Easter story 'From Tragedy to Triumph' explaining the significance of the symbols before transforming the cross by decorating it with daffodils. Meanwhile, our younger children enjoyed their own version of a similar service in school.

The final day of term finished with our annual egg decorating competition. The children always thoroughly enjoy decorating their eggs in school as well as their traditional Easter egg hunt. Great fun was had by them all!

The summer term awaits us and all the children are looking forward to is being able to get onto the field! Sadly, the weather has been too wet for far too long. Let's hope that the weather takes a turn for the better very soon.

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



Above: The cross decorated with daffodils.

## Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Primary School

All Saints' School has a thriving Early Years Foundation Stage unit, which since September 2022 has included a Nursery. We are very proud of the unit and wanted to share with you some of the fantastic things our children in our Nursery enjoy.

The children have a very busy time learning lots of new things – but don't even realise they are following a carefully planned curriculum as they have so much fun! The indoor and outdoor classrooms they share with the Reception class are carefully set up each week to allow opportunities to learn through play. For example, this week the children have been focusing on the number 3 and are now able to recognise three objects without counting. Their story of the week has been "Farmer Duck" and the children can now join in with the story and have acted out parts of it too! Each week the children enjoy "Welly Wednesday" where, no matter what the weather, they take part in a variety of outdoor learning activities in our lovely grounds. This week this included a minibeast hunt. The children have made spring flowers using different coloured tissue paper in their creative endeavours this week too!

If you would like to come and see our EYFS unit with a view to your child joining us, please do not hesitate to contact me to arrange a personal tour. We understand the importance of making the right choice for your child and will be delighted to introduce you to our "Small Saints" learning environment to help you decide on the first steps of your child's learning journey.

We welcome applications from members of all or no faiths in accordance with our Admissions Policy, which can be read on our website. Along with St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form, All Saints' is part of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust meaning your child could take a learning journey in Lanchester that could continue until they are 18 years old! We can't wait to meet you and your child.

**Alison Conlin**  
**Acting Head Teacher**



## Tennis returns to the grass!

After what has been a miserable outdoor winter season for tennis, Lanchester Lawn Tennis club returns to the grass courts on Ford Road, Lanchester. The grounds team have worked extremely hard on the courts and clubhouse to make them ready for play at the end of April.

The new season's activities begin with the ever popular "LTA Big Tennis weekend" day on Saturday 11th May from 1pm. Come along and enjoy all aspects of the great sport of tennis. Register your interest and choice of activity on the LTA Big Tennis weekend website and follow the links to our club. Watch out for posters and banners around the village too!



**Outdoor coaching for all ages returns on:  
Monday 13th May from 4pm.  
Under 8 years from 4 - 4.45  
9 - 11 years from 4.45 - 5.30pm  
12 - 17 years from 5.30 - 6.30pm  
18 years and above from 6.30 - 7.30pm.**

**Please contact Dennis on 07960494442 for more information and to book a place. Check out our website or follow us on Facebook.  
Dennis Laycock**

*Left: The tennis courts in the sunshine - from a previous season!*



## Lanchester Bowling Club

### Ladies Who... Bowl

There are very few sports in which men and women can compete evenly; thankfully bowling is one of them. Apart from on really heavy rinks, physical strength is much less important than technique and bowls come in different sizes enabling those with even the smallest hands to play the game.

Although you can still find separate male and female leagues and competitions around the country, the leagues we play in have mixed teams and the largest clubs thrive because of female membership. Many clubs have excellent lady players, including county players. Indeed, I remember one of our leads quaking because he was up against an excellent female lead. Some teams can put out strong all female rinks who more than hold their own as three of us found out to our cost towards the end of last season.

When Lanchester bowling club was first formed it had an all-male membership, but females quickly joined and now we have some very good female bowlers who regularly play for us. Indeed, two of them were used as successful skips last season. Two more made their league debuts and were instant hits, whilst others have played for us over several seasons. Sally Laverick, who recently retired, decided to try bowls last year and went on to play numerous matches: "I started playing bowls matches and although I didn't know all the rules, I found both home and away bowlers friendly and happy to help. I would certainly encourage more ladies to come along and try the game. It doesn't matter if you haven't played before."



On Thursday afternoons we run practice and coaching sessions where new players can learn the game. As Lynda Walker says: "I joined the bowls club last year with another female. I lost my husband just under three years ago and wanted to find another group in the village to join. As I am sporty and enjoy the outdoors, I thought I would try bowls. I played every Thursday afternoon at the practice sessions. John [Vickery], the bowls coach, is lovely and very helpful, giving us easy to understand instructions. Bowls of varying sizes are available to use; you do not need to purchase your own. We both found the club very friendly, and we were welcomed and made to feel part of the club straight away. There is a good mix of both

male and female bowlers of varying ages. I haven't yet played any matches but hope that this year I will have sufficiently improved to play for the club."

By the time you read this the green will be open, so if you are interested in joining come down on a Thursday afternoon. Membership in the first year is only £15 and all you need is a pair of trainers.

I'll leave the final words to Sally. "Lanchester is a thriving, friendly club in a beautiful setting. Why not take the plunge and come along to try it out? You never know you may love the sport and you will certainly make some new friends."

**Bob Cuthbertson**

*Above: Christine, one of our experienced players, is watched on by two of our new players, Jane and Lynda.*

## Cricket News

Depending on when the paper hits the streets, the new season may have already started. On the 20th April, the firsts open by travelling to Gateshead Fell while the seconds entertain Burnopfield. The thirds start a week later with a home fixture against Shotley Bridge. The 15s start with a home game against Ryton and the 18s entertain Beamish whilst the 13s visit Ryton. Pasindu Madushan has been retained as the overseas player for a fourth year having taken 154 wickets in his previous three spells at an average of 13.85. He has also chipped in with 1500 runs. Passy is well liked and gets great reviews for his one-to-one coaching. There is just one new signing to the playing staff, with 16 year old fast bowler, Henry Sherwood having been recruited from Durham City. Henry is in the County Academy squad and with his family are residents of Lanchester.

Two cricketing celebrations in the club's 50th year have been arranged with the club running a cup competition for invited teams and the under 19 side has arranged to play the Durham Academy side in July.

All Stars will start on May 10th, Friday nights for eight weeks. The English Cricket Board are having a problem with getting the equipment packs distributed to people who have signed up but are hopeful of getting it delivered on time. Fingers crossed as the sight of 80 boys and girls running round in the same kit on a sunny Friday night is a fantastic scene. There are still spaces available on the ECB Club Spark website if anyone wishes to sign up.

**Andrew McConnell**

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