

the Village Voice

Issue No 8, Volume 24 Lanchester, August 2024



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KoGs

That's us finished for the summer now- phew! A well-deserved rest for our leaders is definitely needed!

We've had a cracking school year for 2023-24 which involved: Christmas fundraisers, festive PJ film nights, our annual trip to Seahouses for a long weekend away, fundraising sleep out that ran alongside our homeless awareness month, flower arranging workshops, recycled/eco fashion show, felting workshop, bowling trip, girls v boys games night and so much more. This was in addition to our usual weekly activities that included games, messy/water games, cell sessions, crafts and a 2-course meal.

We have even had three Chinese exchange students visit us thanks to one of our members and her school programme. We really have had such an amazing year!

A quick update on the Sleep out Fundraising events for the homeless charities, we managed to raise an incredible £1000! Once again thank you so much to all who donated to our event.

We of course ended our year in style with a summer "beach boys" themed party with lots of games/ hair wraps and braids, a BBQ tea and of course the hire of the ice cream truck.

We are already planning lots of new exciting things for our return in September for the 2024/25 school year.

We are heading back to Seahouses once again 2nd – 5th May, a trip to watch Disney On Ice on Saturday 23rd November, the return of our festive PJ film night, new exciting craft workshops and much more!

We are pleased to let you know our books will be opening up to new (and old) members on our return on Monday 2nd September so please come along and give it a try!

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), at Lanchester Methodist Church for all ages 8 – 18 years!

The cost of the sessions is £3 per person weekly or £30 per person a term but your first week is free! All activities (excluding additional trips) and your weekly meal is included.

For more information contact Laura & Peter Cole on 07428500059 / 01207 654291 or email 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

We hope to see you soon!

KoGs Leaders.

P.S – We are in need of any kind of fabric (old bedding/towels/blankets etc) in autumnal colours for one of our crafting sessions. If you have anything like this heading to a charity shop or sitting in your loft, please could you let us know! Thank you SO MUCH!

*Top: Laura's silly water games
Middle: Well it's Christmas!*

*Bottom: group photo with Angelina our first Chinese visitor
Cover: DIY recycled herb planting tins*



Consett Based Youth Project needs new trustees

Most people agree that the loss of youth workers and youth clubs has been a disaster for young people across Britain. New pressures that face young people through the growth of technology and social media are driving an epidemic of mental ill-health in the young, and savage cuts to publicly funded youth work have only worsened their position.

You may be surprised, therefore, that one local charity that for forty years has been successfully raising funds to provide youth work to some of our most deprived local young people is threatened by a very different challenge: the challenge of finding local people willing to help steer the project over the coming decade.

Derwentside Detached Project, which started life as the Consett Churches Detached Youth Project in the wake of the steelworks' closure, has been guided by a largely unchanged team of trustees for the last 15 years. The challenge is that some of the trustees were pensioners when they started and are now no longer able to provide the drive and energy needed to progress the project. That is why they seek new trustees with a passion to help young people, and a willingness to give some of their time and energy for the benefit of the next generation.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the project, and how they could help it move forward, is asked to contact the Project Manager Jackie Forbes on 01207 501863 or consettchurches@btconnect.com

Another local author launches their latest book

Matthew James has just released his new book: *Drag Stars*. He describes this as an enthralling dive into the dazzling yet perilous world of drag competitions. Set during the high-stakes third season of the fictional reality show "Drag Stars," this book promises to captivate readers with its blend of drama, LGBTQIA+ romance, and mystery. *Drag Stars* was released on August 2nd and is his first book for adults. He created the book cover for the book.

Matthew has written and self-published four other books under his pen name Matthew James. The first book, *Let's Start a Business* was written to help others start their own business (from his experience of owning several businesses in the past) and he has written three books as part of a series called *Skin Crawlers*. These were horror books aimed at kids, similar to *Goosebumps*. The first was called *Monstrous Mobiles*. He is currently writing Book 4 in *Skin Crawlers* named *Zombie Mansion*.



Matthew recently moved to Lanchester with his husband and their dog Fleur. "We absolutely love it here and feel so lucky to live somewhere so beautiful." In addition to being a writer he is also a creative and makes greeting cards and sells them online via screenpanda.etsy.com. He is currently creating Christmas cards with scenes of Lanchester on them and possibly some postcards too if anyone would be interested in these. He also offers services to other writers from book design to ghost writing - see his website for info.

All of Matthew's books are available on Amazon or his website www.matthewjameswriter.co.uk.

If any reader would like a signed copy of any of his books or his greeting cards, you can email via letsstartasomething@gmail.com.

He has the following presence on social media:

@matthewjameswrites on Instagram;

@matthewjameswrites on TikTok;

@matthewjameswrites on YouTube

Nigerian evening in All Saints' R.C. Church Parish Centre

On Saturday 6th July parishioners of the church enjoyed a wonderful evening of entertainment, along with a lovely tasty menu of Nigerian food.

Friends of Father Charles, from the African Caribbean Catholic community of St Joseph's Church Gateshead, prepared all the lovely food.

When Jerome and Chimaobi Nwachukwu-Courtois arrived on the Saturday morning, the food was ready to prepare. Three little helpers arrived, parishioners from our own church. They were given tasks, prepping and peeling, for the cooking. My goodness Chimaobi and Jerome, what a feast they prepared on our behalf: chicken dishes, beef dishes, rice dishes, yams, plantain. They were all served in wonderful sauces, with such lovely flavours, my favourite was Jollof rice.

Jerome and Chimaobi also came with lots of items they had used to decorate the hall at their own wedding celebration. The Parish Centre looked stunning. Later other helpers appeared: Ugochukwu Chidiogo and Obioma Nwosu, who also helped with the preparations. After we had all eaten our fill, Father Charles gave us a talk on his homeland Nigeria, which was extremely informative.

This was followed by a Nigerian dance by two of the ladies. Father dressed in a celebratory Nigerian outfit. Deacon Peter took a liking to the little maroon embroidered hat Father was wearing. Maybe he could wear it on the Sunday morning! A couple of parishioners joined the dancing.

The atmosphere was electric.

On Sunday the 7th July many of the African Caribbean Catholic Choir and musicians from St Joseph's Gateshead visited. They played and sang; it was a wonderful African, Caribbean and English mass in our Church. We had three celebrants for the mass, Father Charles, Father Anthony Ohaekwusi, and Deacon Peter. As you will see from the photo of the choir, Deacon Peter got his wish and very smart he looks. (The wearer of the little embroidered maroon hat.)

We are looking forward to our next event: A children's Bingo Night in Lanchester Social club on Saturday 21st September 2024. Keep watching for tickets going on sale.

Lestrine Kelly



Top: The choir with Deacon Peter with the embroidered hat

Left: Two of the Nigerian Dancers

Right: Father Charles dancing

Bottom: Tables set ready for the celebration



From the House



My first month as North Durham's new MP has passed in a whirlwind of activity. The atmosphere in the Commons has been influenced by the very large numbers of us who are new members, we are one of the largest new intakes ever. I'd like to thank both returning MPs and the parliamentary staff for the kindness they have shown in helping us all navigate our way round the procedures and processes of Westminster, and indeed to physically navigate our way

round a maze of a building.

Nowadays MPs receive a very comprehensive induction, with training on everything from how to ask a question in the chamber to how to set up your constituency office. Unfortunately, one month in, none of us has been allocated a physical office in the Commons yet!

I am fortunate in that I have been able to rapidly re-hire very experienced staff who had worked for my predecessor Kevan Jones, and re-open the constituency office, so we are now working our way through the best part of one thousand casework and policy enquiry emails that have already arrived. If you need to contact me, please email luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk.

In Westminster, I've already made my Maiden Speech, which by convention praises your predecessor and the constituency, but which I also used to highlight some of the local policy issues I want to tackle. You can read it here: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2024-07-22/debates/67C8D6FC-BDA4-47FF-BECC-537443D53120/details#>. [Editor: you will need to scroll down to 9:21pm.] You can also see written questions I have started to table, primarily on local issues, here: <https://members.parliament.uk/member/5112/writtenquestions>

The business of the House has been dominated by the King's Speech, which set out the Government's heavy legislative programme, but we have also moved on to start debating some of the bills in it already, for instance public ownership of rail. There have also been very serious moments such as the Chancellor's statement on the state of public spending we have inherited and the Home Secretary's statement on the horrific murders in Southport, which happened just as the House rose for summer recess. I have been appalled by the violent disorder we have seen across the country, which I am sure will be debated as soon as Parliament returns.

In the constituency I have had a busy programme of activity including visits to schools and voluntary organisations, attending local events, and meeting constituents to discuss their personal casework and issues affecting them locally.

If Village Voice readers have events or organisations they would like me to visit, or need to meet me, please do email luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk so I can try to add this to my diary.

Luke Akehurst

Member of Parliament for North Durham



Lanchester WI

President Marie welcomed 39 members and 1 guest to the August meeting of the Lanchester WI and gave out information about future outings including a visit to Binchester Roman Fort and the Pantomime at Richmond Georgian Theatre.

Flowers and cards were presented to Ann Grosvenor to celebrate her 80th Birthday and 60th Wedding Anniversary. The lucky raffle winners were Eileen Reay, Liz Burdon and Shirley Lamb. The speaker for the evening was Steve Palmer from Three Valley Honey who told us how he started keeping bees 14 years ago. The hives are made up of several layers, including the Floor with a mesh to collect mites and the Brood Box where the Queen Bee lives and is looked after by Drone bees. The Worker bees that collect the pollen have a 6 week lifespan. Each hive holds between 40 to 60 thousand bees and produces between 20 to 25 pounds of honey. Samples of honey were available for members to taste, and the evening finished with refreshments and a chat with friends.

Tracey Dobson



Steve Palmer
with one of
his hives.

Dear Village Voice

Comment on the report of the hustings in Lanchester on 29 June 2024.

I thank the participants and organisers of the hustings, which I attended.

In the interests of fairness and as a Lanchester resident, I am moved to comment on what I regard as a cheap jibe by one of the candidates, regarding why Mr Akehurst did not attend. To say that Labour's failure to attend was a show of contempt was grossly unfair.

Looking further into the reason for non-attendance — as reported in the Northern Echo, Durham Police said that about 40 people (pro-Palestinian protesters) turned up at his campaign launch in Pelton, and a scuffle broke out. It is important to bring attention to the intimidation and danger that many candidates faced in the election. This is unacceptable. (My motivation to write perhaps partly derives from being a Labour member, but I hope I would do this for others in the interests of fairness.)

Incidentally, Mr Akehurst's support for Israel is in line with the new and the previous Governments' positions of seeking a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

I ask the people of Lanchester to be measured in their judgement after listening to what Mr Akehurst says and does over time, being swift to listen and slow to judge — not vice-versa.

Alan Myers

Lanchester Local History Society

Report from the July meeting

David Butler presented his talk on 'The Guests of Queen Victoria 1851'. The year being the clue to who those guests were going to be. The 1851 census has 13188 inhabitants in Durham and 226 in Durham Jail. He explained the legal system of the time and how many of the incumbents were debtors. Sadly, the census did not include reasons for being in jail however with research into local newspaper archives and order books and prison records David was able to bring some of the prisoners to life.



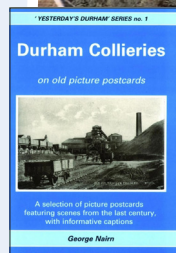
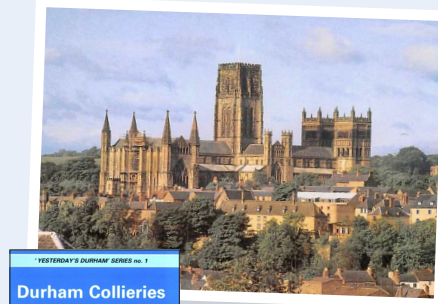
Report from the August Meeting

Our August meeting saw the return of one of our regulars: George Nairn with another of his interesting postcard talks. He took us back in time to recount their history going back to September 1894. The layout of pictures, space for messages and addresses has changed with time. Not forgetting in days past there were several postal deliveries a day so you could arrange to meet friends for an evening social event by sending a card in the morning. He explained the hidden language of stamps where a stamp put on upside down meant "I love you". The whole of life could be viewed through postcards, and we had a trip down memory lane with all the cards dedicated to advertising. Reflections of a bygone age produces a host of books all using old postcards to publicise various topics. George has edited several which show the post cards with informative captions.

Marian Morrison.

Above left: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. 1857 Durham Sheet xxvii.1.19. Interestingly the County Court is attached to the prison.
Above right: One of the sites of the gallows from 1868. Previously the hanging was public and took place at the front of the Court House.

Right: An interesting postcard - spot the scaffolding covering the Rose window, that would point at the year the photograph was taken. One for the researchers among you all.



Community Centre News



There has been quite a lot happening since our last News Bulletin.

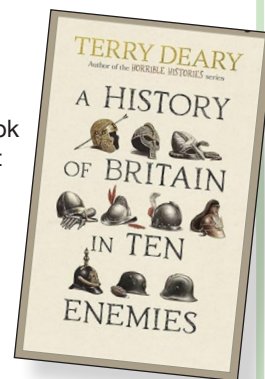
Our Elvis Tribute night was a great success, thank you to everyone who supported it. We raised £870. A big 'Thank You' to the Spar; Lanchester Country Basket; Asda Stanley and Morrisons for providing all of the food for the night and to Stuart from the community cafe for volunteering to cook it all for us. Thank you to Marty, aka, Moorside Elvis (see photo).



Coming Soon:

Saturday September 28th 7pm, An evening with Terry Deary. This will be the beginning of Terry's new book launch for his first ever adult book, 'A History of Britain in Ten Enemies'. Tickets are £12.50, this includes a talk from Terry, wine and nibbles and £5 off your first book purchase. All books purchased on the night will be signed by Terry.

Get your tickets early, they are available from reception now.



What's New:

Our new windows have now been installed on the Newbiggen Lane side of the building. 'Thank You' to our local Councillors Douglas Oliver and Mike McGaun for funding this project and to Derwentside Glass for the installation.

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

Our summer trip went smoothly and was well attended. The weather was kind and some of us managed a stroll along the promenade at Whitley Bay after our tasty fish and chips at Trenchers restaurant.

Worth it for an ice cream.

The driver of Weardale coaches then took us for some retail therapy at Boundary Mill.

We returned to Lanchester much later refreshed, but a little tired, after a super seaside adventure.

Jan Vasey

PIANO LESSONS

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In Celebration of the Life of Pat Campbell

With sadness we recently said goodbye to our mum, Pat Campbell. Many of you will have known Pat, who lived in Lanchester for almost 60 years, especially as a volunteer in the Red Cross shop for over 30 years where she always welcomed you with a smile and a listening ear.

Pat was a long-time member of the WI and Thursday Club and was involved with village life for many years, working as a lunchtime supervisor at the EP School, in Peter's Bakery, in Lowson's shop and then as Sales and Marketing manager for the co-operative Impress Printing based in Kitswell Road. In recent years she has spent much of her time looking after and enjoying her beautiful garden and time with her family. She was a wonderful mum to Doug, Jane and Catherine and grandma to Duncan, Rebecca and Hamish (the dog).

Following a stroke last year, she lived at home and was cared for by her family and wonderful carer, Simone, until she passed away peacefully on July 19th.

We miss you and love you, always.

As per Mum's wishes, a private cremation was held, and the family take comfort in knowing mum was thought of so highly by so many of you.

Doug, Jane, Catherine and family.

Lanchester Flower Club

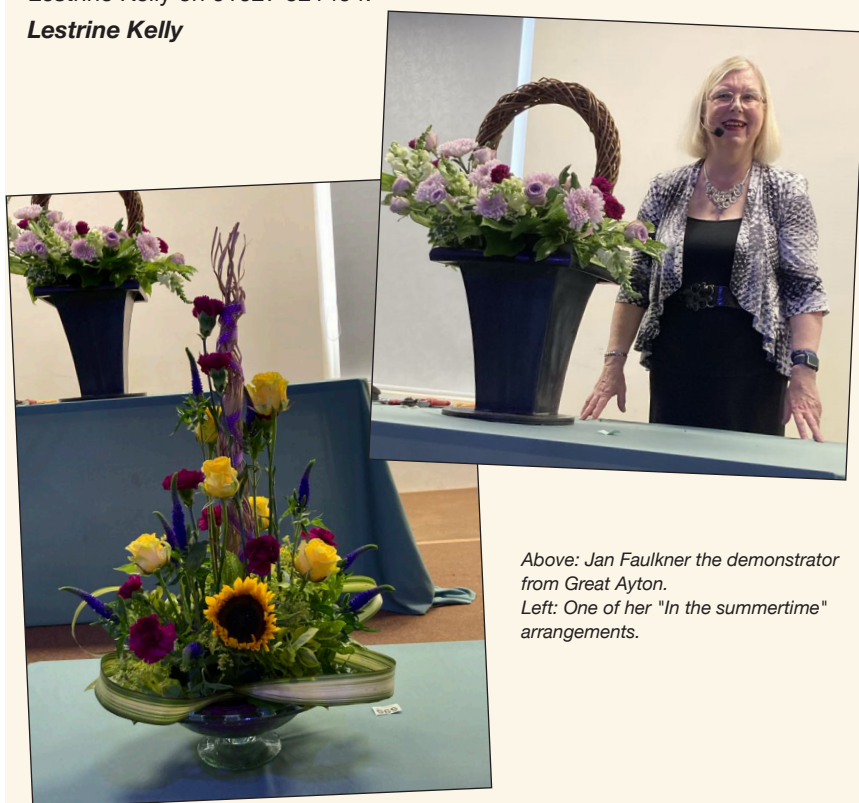
Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday 24th July in Lanchester Community Centre. Our Demonstrator was Jan Faulkner from Great Ayton, her theme was "In the Summertime". It was once again a lovely relaxing afternoon. Jan chatted as she arranged and presented us with some lovely flower arrangements. As always, the arrangements were raffled, and we had many happy winners. We all then had tea/coffee and biscuits and much more chatter. The flower club would like to extend a big thank you to Stephen who sets up the hall and helps with so many things to enable us to have our monthly meeting.

We do not have a meeting in August holiday time!! Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 1.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator will be Sue O'Brien, her theme will be "Inspired". Our October meeting is a friendly social afternoon with one of our own club members doing a demonstration. Also a quiz or bingo maybe both. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us at all our meetings. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. It is a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon. Don't forget tea/coffee and biscuits served.

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

Lestrine Kelly



Above: Jan Faulkner the demonstrator from Great Ayton.

Left: One of her "In the summertime" arrangements.

Ladies who lunch

On a glorious summer's day, we were at The Stables at Beamish. The entrance is through a totally enclosed courtyard - an absolutely wonderful sun trap, which has outdoor seating set amongst a myriad of beautiful, vibrantly coloured hanging baskets, planters and small garden areas - it was really lovely.

The staff were most welcoming and attentive. Menu comprised mains, sandwiches, burgers and salads. For folks not driving a delightful summer cocktail menu.

We sampled, Waldorf pear salad - walnut, chicory, pickled celery, grapes, plump raisins and a blue cheese dressing to which you could add either salmon or chicken; pan fried chicken supreme with mushrooms, whole grain mustard and thyme mash with garlic cream; Northumberland diced beef ragu, pappardelle pasta, salsa verde with parmesan shavings.

Desserts were homemade sticky toffee pudding with butterscotch sauce and vanilla ice cream; ice cream with berries, fruit coulis and wafers; Biscoff cheesecake served with cinder toffee ice cream, toffee sauce and toasted almonds.

Our meals were beautifully presented, quite delicious and everyone thoroughly enjoyed them.

For a summertime lunch venue, it seems just the place to be!

The Gourmet Girls



Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group



Are you an unpaid carer?

A carer is someone who provides care and support to a partner, disabled child, relative, friend or neighbour who could not manage without their help.

Caring for someone can be both physically and mentally exhausting so it's very important to look after yourself at the same time. Everybody's needs differ but there are many resources that can help support you:

Your GP practice

Please let your practice know if you are an unpaid carer. Lanchester Medical Centre can mark your records to indicate you are looking after someone who cannot manage without your help, and that you may need extra support and advice.

Durham County Carer Support

Durham County Carer Support is a voluntary organisation which provides free high-quality services and support to unpaid carers over the age of 18, who support or care for someone living in County Durham & Darlington.

They offer:

- Specialist advice and information
- Home visits offering one to one support
- Help with completing forms
- Access to grants and funding
- A listening ear and telephone support
- Opportunity to meet other carers
- Signposting to other services which may be of benefit.

Tel- 0300 005 1213 www.admin@dcarers.org

Willow Burn

Willow Burn Hospice can offer help and support to anyone caring for someone with a life-limiting illness.

On the last Tuesday of each month, between 1pm and 3.30pm, they offer a monthly drop-in service where carers can meet in the Café and access complementary therapies. If needed, their loved one(s) can be cared for within Day Care. No referral or booking needed.

Tel: 01207 523290 www.willowburnhospice.org.uk/support-for-carers

Age UK

Age UK Durham offers advice on the emotional, practical and financial support available to carers.

Tel: 0191 386 3856 www.ageuk.org.uk/countydurham

Additional Online Resources:

Durham Carers Info Point - www.durhamcarers.info

Carers UK - www.carersuk.org

Mobilise Online - work with local authorities and other organisations and provide free online support to unpaid carers. www.mobiliseonline.co.uk



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Wildlife Notes

Incomers

Did you used to see Water Voles on our local rivers? American Mink, an invasive non-native species is known to decimate water vole populations as well as being a problem for fish and ground nesting birds. Their small size and semi-aquatic lifestyle allow them to fill a niche in our food chain that none of our native species have evolved alongside. Water voles are completely defenseless against them.

Late summer is 'dispersal season' for young mink, exploring to find their own territory. During their first few weeks leaving the den they'll stick to a fairly small range, but later they wander searching for new territories. A female born this year will establish a breeding territory next spring and while feeding young can cause extinction to an entire water vole population.

Keep an eye out for them:

A Mink's body is around 35cm with a 18cm tail, smaller than an otter but larger than a stoat. They can range in colour, but most mink in the North East will be dark brown. They have a long body and narrow furry tail. They have a white spot on



their chins and often a patch on their underbellies too. Their faces are more triangular and pointed than otters.

Mink scat/poo can be found along watercourses, on rocks, logs and open ground. It has a pungent, unpleasant odour; is long and thin and has a pointed and curled tip. It is usually black, and you may be able to see fur, feathers, bones and fish scales in it.

They have five-toed paw prints ranging in size between a 20p to 50p piece, males are larger. They often have claw marks present which often join up with the toe pads to form a teardrop shape. Thanks to Durham Wildlife Trust (DWT) for this month's article, edited by your usual contributor. Please contact DWT if you see evidence of Mink.

Another article of interest:

<https://www.durhamwt.com/blog/elliot-lea/polecats-ferrets-and-american-mink>

For further information please contact Paul Rogers email: prodgers@durhamwt.co.uk

Or phone DWT Rainton Meadows 0191 584 3112

From our wildlife correspondent.

Above: Mink caught on a trail camera by Roland Ascroft

Orchard Moth Event

Lanchester Community Orchard held a 'Moth' event on the morning of the 20th July. Terry Coult, a local Naturalist, set up a specialist trap the previous evening to see how many different species we had on site. Thankfully rain held off and a warm still night ensured that the moths were active.

Members and families gathered to witness Terry disassemble the trap and identify the moths in the trap. In total, 31 species were positively identified and released back into the orchard. Some of the moths listed have fascinating names such as: The Snout, Smokey Wainscot, True Lover's Knot, and many more!

It was a lovely session, and it was very exciting to see so many beautiful moths that we would not usually get the chance to see!

If you would like to get involved in the Orchard, we would love to welcome new members!

Why not come and get involved in one of our work sessions or join one of our events.

Please get in touch at lanchesterorchard@outlook.com.

Lynn Hedley

Right: Terry with a captivated audience!

Below l-r: Burnished Brass moth; True Lovers Knot moth; Large Emerald moth; Poplar Hawk moth



Lanchester Environment Group

Where have all the insects gone?

I remember a time when I was young, and my father would have to scrub the car windscreen to remove the large numbers of squashed and splattered insects. Not many years ago my lavender plants were positively noisy with the hum of bees and the buddleia plants were adorned with peacock butterflies. Not so now. I'm sure you too will have noticed.

It's difficult to find the exact reason for this demise in wildlife but I suggest there are several. A warming planet has messed with our seasons and disrupted the normal life cycles of many insects. The human race has poisoned many with insecticides in our gardens, parks and farms. We have become too tidy in our management of verges, green spaces and gardens, (something hinted at in the June issue of the Village Voice by our excellent wildlife correspondent) and so destroyed the habitat needed for insects to thrive. And of course, there is the pollution of our air from burning too much fossil fuel, and of our rivers with chemical run off and sewerage. I guess it's not surprising that these invertebrates are having a bad time. Sadly, for us and the rest of nature they play a critical role in the food chain of many species and are hugely important in pollinating many of our food crops.

So, what can we do in our parish to tackle this demise of invertebrates and provide a range of habitats? Perhaps our verges could be cut less often, or our grassy squares that are scattered through the village could be planted with bird friendly shrubs or some blossom trees? Could the Green along the bypass support wildflowers or some more clumps of trees? Are there roadside verges that would benefit from planted hedgerows? The village flower beds are always very colourful but do these bedding plants provide the best habitat for pollinators?

What do you think? Should we carry on as we are, or should we try to bring about some changes? Do you have thoughts about a patch of mown grass by your house? Do you wish to see some changes, and might you be keen to help bring them about? If you do, please contact the environment group: contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk.

The next informal meeting of the Environment Group will be on Sunday 15th September at 7pm at the King's Head. All welcome.

Sonny Shepherd

Boys' Brigade news

Only two weeks of normal activities in July with outdoor games at Kitswell

Road and then a bike ride which unfortunately became a victim of the weather. However, the highlight for eleven boys from Company section was the annual camp held this year at Broomley Grange near Stocksfield. Arriving on the Friday evening, they were allocated their tents and played games before lights out. Saturday arrived overcast but dry and after breakfast and washing up they were all looking forward to Archery and the Tyre Roller Assault course. They were split into two teams and each team spent an hour doing each activity under the watchful eye of qualified experts. Arnaud and Shane scored the highest in archery and both teams were very similar in times on the assault course although several different and interesting methods were used to complete the course.

A very welcome and well-cooked BBQ lunch of sausage, burger and pork slice followed before everyone helped Alex, the Manager at Broomley, by raking up some of the tall grass he had cut the previous day. As a reward for this hard work, we were allowed into the house to watch England beat Switzerland on penalties. The compulsory campfire and toasting marshmallows took place on Saturday night and then with everyone tired from the day's activities it was straight to bed. After Sunday breakfast everyone packed their clothes and helped take down the tents ready for collection by their parents. It was another very successful camp and even though the weather was overcast with some rain it did not stop anyone from enjoying themselves.

Boys Brigade will restart on Wednesday the 11th September with Junior Section 8-11 years starting at 6.15pm and Company Section 11-17 years starting at 7.30pm. Anchor Boys start on Thursday the 12th September starting at 6.10pm for 5-8 years. All meeting at Croft View Halls. We welcome new members in all of the age groups and more information can be found on our Facebook page "Lanchester Boys Brigade". Please message us if you would like more information. We are recycling old ink cartridges and would also welcome any Boys Brigade jumpers that are no longer required.

Eric Hepplewhite





Poppy's walks

Good day readers and for this edition of the Village Voice I am going to describe another of the Thursday summer walks which my friend Noel leads.

For those of you who don't know, Noel is a walk leader who runs a

weekly 90 minute Monday walk from Lanchester Village Green starting at 1pm. During the summer he has also been leading an evening walk during the first Thursday of the month. His last one of this season will be on Thursday, September 5 at 6pm - again from the village green. So don't say you haven't been told.

Yours truly and my two humans joined 16 other humans and a terrier called Millie on the August Walk.

Noel, whom I described as a prince of a man in a previous article - this caused his two daughters some considerable mirth, but I stand by my description - said he was worried at ten to six because nobody had turned up. But we all appeared just before six. As you will know by now, I am a Patterdale Terrier called Poppy who enjoys sharing with readers the walks I lead my humans on.

We set off across Station Road then along the line in the direction of Langley Park. We walked at a brisk pace although I like to stop to explore the surrounding verges. But we kept on walking past Malton picnic area and along the line for about 45 minutes until we came to a stile on our right. We crossed the stile and walked along a footpath with a field on our left and a hedge on our right. This led us up a gradient until we came to another gate which we

passed through and then another stile. This brought us into a farmyard at Biggin House farm. I was kept on my lead at this point.

We passed through the farmyard and turned right and walked along a farm track with a farm and a caravan storage yard on our right. Soon we could proceed no further along the footpath because it said Private but the field to our right was accessible and we walked diagonally over that with wonderful views to our right. We came to another stile across a burn and continued diagonally downhill to yet another stile.

We crossed that and went along an overgrown footpath until another stile on our left which we crossed to take us into Malton nature reserve.

We walked through the nature reserve then past the cottages in the hamlet of Malton before returning to the road bridge which spans the Browney.

From there we turned left and walked along the river path - I was able to have a cooling dip there - and from there onto the railway path which leads us back to Lanchester. At this point Noel announced drinks in Crinnions for anyone interested. The male Human certainly appeared interested! We walked back to Lanchester - my male Human with an extra spring in his step - but when we reached Crinnions I was delighted to find a pleasant garden area where I could sit and relax. As could Millie, the only other dog on the walk. Someone there had also thoughtfully provided a water bowl for dogs.

From Helen Armstrong and family including Chelsea the assistance dog.

Helen would like to thank all our friends and neighbours who turned out to support her birthday bash and gave so generously to Chelsea's charity "Dogs for Good".

Special thanks to the Acapella choir for singing, Olga for organising bell ringers, and Stuart Wright for the wonderful music from his Barrel Organ. We all had a wonderful day and were able to send £500 to "Dogs for Good" and £100 to Willow Burn Hospice.

Thank you all.

Helen, Adrian, Margaret & Chelsea.

Dogs for Good wrote the letter below which also includes a nice description of the day.

**"Dear Helen
A Birthday Celebration!"**

I hope this message finds you well and still basking in the glow of your fabulous 50th birthday celebration!

I wanted to extend my warmest and most heartfelt thanks for including us in such a joyous occasion and for your incredible generosity in raising £500 for our charity.

What a day it was! The sun shone brightly, the choir's melodies filled the air, the charming tunes of the barrel organ added a nostalgic touch, and the church bells rang out loud and clear for all the village to hear.

It was truly a celebration to remember, brimming with joy, laughter, and community spirit.

Your kindness and thoughtfulness in marking this milestone birthday by supporting our cause means the world to us. The funds raised will make a significant difference, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

Thank you once again for your incredible generosity and for creating such a memorable and heartwarming event. Wishing you many more years of health, happiness, and wonderful celebrations!

Warmest regards,

Lydia Martin

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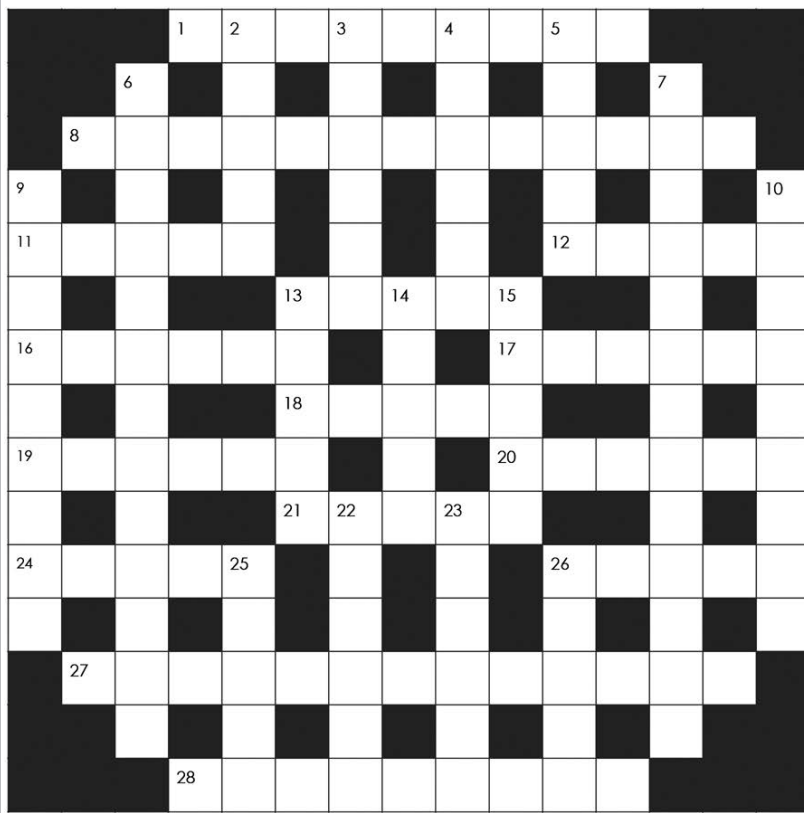
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Across

1. Worzel Gummidge (9)
8. Series set on the fictional continents of Westeros and Essos (4,2,7)
11. Newcastle art gallery (5)
12. Brother in a religious order (5)
13. Strikes repeatedly (5)
16. Unattached (6)
17. Lung condition (6)
18. Regarding (5)
19. Pillar (6)
20. Inflatable mattress (3,3)
21. Ancient Greek or Roman place of entertainment (5)
24. Short, promotional description of a book (5)
26. Long for (5)
27. Place of education (7,6)
28. Changed into a suit for a job (Anagram) (9)

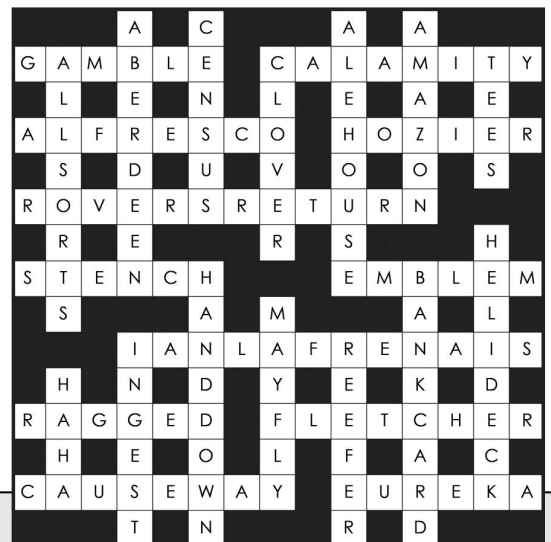
Down

2. Nick, former Deputy Prime Minister (5)
3. Disarrange feathers (6)
4. Band of associates (6)
5. Simple type of switch (2-3)
6. U.S. military reserve body (8,5)
7. Part of a Zebra Crossing (7,6)
9. Old type of camera accessory (9)
10. King Canute was one, and so is Scooby Doo (5,4)
13. Party at which you might find Dennis and Minnie (5)
14. Dwelling place (5)
15. Old Nick (5)
22. Strange sense of having experienced something before (4,2)
23. Starting point or beginning (6)
25. Disney film (5)
26. Hurrah for this search engine (5)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by
Monday 9th September 2024 to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester
 Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



Solution to crossword 199

There was a total of 23 entries this month, 21 of which were correct.
 The winner, drawn out of the hat, was Graham Davison.

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From our councillor - *Planning and Durham County Council*

The topic I spend most time on as a ward County Councillor is planning. Planning has always been a hot topic in and around the village; in large part it is a symptom of its success as a desirable place where people want to live, run businesses and build.

My main role in the planning process is to represent local residents and feed in ideas relating to proposed developments to Durham County Council which is our "Local Planning Authority".

Alongside this, I act as Vice Chairman for what is called the Central and East Durham Planning Committee, which considers applications in the City of Durham and East Coastal region.

In terms of the first role, I always try to share concerns about how applications that have been proposed locally can be improved – and sometimes why they should be stopped or reconsidered in a fundamentally new way. I can also help the way applications are considered, as whilst the vast majority of applications are considered by officers, I can "call in"

controversial applications for a review by the area "North" Committee that covers the northern part of Durham, including Lanchester, when necessary. But this role is also informed by my experience in the latter role looking at applications covering the City of Durham and East, because local input only ever forms part of the planning process.

Whilst local Council officers and committees make decisions on what can be built, they also work within a tight framework which

covers all of the UK – the National Planning Policy Framework and also local plans, which authority areas are required to develop (such as the Durham Plan, which will run from 2020-2035). As many readers will know, Lanchester also adopted a local plan, in consultation with the County Council, back in 2021. Even if a decision is made locally on an application, it can be overturned by the Government Inspector if it judges the decision to have been outside of policy.

This all creates some complexity, but the intersection of local perspective on the existing environment and infrastructure, with national requirements for key projects, like housing, energy and transport can inevitably create friction. Our approach to planning is generally referred to as discretionary, in contrast to countries like Germany which have a more top-down zonal approach.

Planning is back in the headlines again, as the new Government is keen to promote reforms to housing supply especially in the South East. There is no easy answer to where we should build and how much, but it is likely to always be contentious. Applications can be improved – and whether you have concerns about Greencroft Forest Lodges, the proposed local Solar Farms or the Oakwood Planning application, turned down for now – let me know your thoughts. In planning, as with any issue, you can email me on douglas.oliver@durham.gov.uk

Doug Oliver

Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Annual Meeting, Ordinary Meeting 11th June – approved

Clean Earth Energy

Members of Clean Earth Energy attended the meeting to provide us with information on the planning application DM/24/01272/FPA. They presented us with the facts and answered all Councillors' questions.

Police Reports

Members were updated on the recent PACT report for June. The police were called when the SPAR in Lanchester reported a shoplift of various goods from the store. Officers attended to collect CCTV after the individuals could not be located from descriptions. The crime is still being investigated with positive identification of two males still outstanding.

A member of the public made off without payment at the Jet garage in Lanchester. In this circumstance, the incident was not malicious, and the driver simply forgot to pay. This is being dealt with via a civil route.

Officers attended Lanchester Social Club after police received a call about an altercation outside the premises. When officers arrived, no suspects were identified to be in the area. After speaking to bar staff, the suspects were identified, and CCTV enquiries were made. With the help of witnesses and CCTV, the investigation is ongoing.

PCSO's 30136 Milner and 8740 Hart have been moving drivers along who are illegally parked on Kitwell Road, Front Street and The Mill. PCSO Milner is still working with the council and various other partner agencies to try and ease the issue in Lanchester. Engagement with local schools and residents has been positive.

Correspondence

Letter – Virgin Media – Councillors raised some concerns with the recent works that have been carried out by Virgin Media. One being the yellow box at the end of Ford Road, this was a temporary box and has now been replaced with a taller, grey box which matches others in the Village.

Signage

As Lanchester is in a conservation area Parish Councillors recommend that all business owners work with the guidance and approval from Durham County Council regarding all signage.

Solar Planet Project

Councillors were given an update on the project.

Kitwell Park Play Area

The matting under the swings has worn away. Councillors approved new matting could be obtained and installed.

Access from Valley Grove/Woodlands to Lanchester Valley Walk

Durham County Council have approved works to improve the entrance from The Woodlands/Valley Grove to Lanchester Valley Walk. This will hopefully be carried out in the near future.

DCC Planning SPD Consultations

Councillors were updated on the responses the Parish Council have sent regarding some of the consultations. Councillors were also advised to respond individually to consultations where appropriate.

Tree Surveys

Members agreed to carrying out any tree works when we have a new survey completed.

Flooding improvements

Councillors had a number of suggestions to put to Durham County Council on the maintenance of the Village. The Clerk to contact Durham County Council with these suggestions.

Grass Cutting

Members discussed the grass cutting in the Village and confirmed that the contractor's licences/qualifications were all up to date.

Heritage 100 Walk

The post for Lanchester's Heritage Walk has been installed, just off Newbiggen Car Park. Councillors agreed that the post looks lovely and hope many residents enjoy the walk.

Fenhall Park – Overgrown shrubbery

Members were updated on the situation.

Newsletter – approved.

Financial report – approved.

Accounts for Payment – approved.

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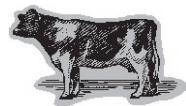
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25 YEARS OF THE LANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP

Past, Present and Future

Lanchester is a special and beautiful village with a strong sense of community. I think we can all probably agree how we would like it to be in an ideal world, a Lanchester which is:

- Safe, welcoming and inclusive
- Caring for those in need
- Connected
- Visually attractive with a unique character
- A good place for people all ages to work live and socialise
- Environmentally sensitive
- Aware of and able to protect its heritage
- Responsive to current and future needs

Behind the scenes all sorts of local people and groups contribute to this aspiration, and it is generally better if they are connected together with a common purpose - our joint efforts can be more effective. That was exactly the thinking that led to the formation of the Lanchester Partnership back in 1999.

Our Past

Our village owes an enormous amount to a host of people who have given time, energy and drive to support a plethora of partnership activities. It would be impossible to name, let alone thank them all. Nevertheless, at our AGM, very special thanks were given to Mike Gladstone whose drive and expertise as our first chair set up the Partnership in 1999. Mike finally retired as a trustee at the AGM this year, our 25th anniversary.

Activities Past and Present

As part of a 25th anniversary review we celebrated the full range of activities from past years. The following list is far from exhaustive but highlights how the existence of the Partnership has impacted on the village we all know today. Perhaps you remember or were/are involved in some of them?

Neighbourhood Plan

Youth Club

Welcoming Lanchester

Friends of Longovicium

Ceilidhs, quizzes, and coffee mornings

Litter picking

Tree planting

Flood Prevention and alleviation

Village Link Bus

Community Fayre

Christmas lights - live streaming

Warm Spaces with Community Centres and Churches

Lanchester Community Orchard

Cycle Track

Safer routes to school

Parking and toilet facilities

Monitoring planning applications

Environmental education and projects

Parish appraisal (needs analysis)

Christmas Trail

Covid relief programme

Family Fun Run


And so to the future

Trustees and current members are in complete agreement that now is the time to reimagine and refresh plans for the future. We want to secure arrangements which solidify the best of the past and bring the benefits of our Partnership to a new and upcoming generation of families, new residents and young people. We are setting up a special renewal group. Over the coming year we'll be talking and listening to residents of all ages, businesses, clubs as well as formal organisations such as the Parish Council, Churches and the Community Association. The important outcome is to discover the best way to mobilise your support for ensuring that Lanchester remains the lovely village we have already created together.

We're looking forward to talking to you!

Henry Edwards

contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk



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Below left: Mike is shown first in around 2010 at a Partnership event
Below middle: most recently, at the AGM next to Elaine Williams, a founder member holding her original membership card.



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All Saints' Family Fun Day

The Friends of All Saints' RC Primary School are organising a Summer Fayre on 8th September from 1-3 at the school and the RC Parish Centre. Go along to join them in celebrating the start of a new school year. Families old and new are welcome - make some new friends in the community. There will be a bouncy castle, games for all the family, cakes, refreshments and face painting.

WHAT'S ON - August / September 2024

Flower Club

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 1.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator will be Sue O'Brien, her theme will be "Inspired". Our October meeting is a friendly social afternoon with one of our own club members doing a demonstration. Also a quiz or bingo maybe both. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us at all our meetings. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. It is a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon. Don't forget tea/coffee and biscuits served. For further information contact Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 or Lestrine Kelly on 01027 521494.

Fashion Show and Sale

Saturday 5th October, Lanchester Social Club, 2.00 pm, doors open 1.30 pm. Tickets £5 includes light refreshments. Autumn/winter collection and accessories available. For tickets contact lanchesterwi@talktalk.net or buy at Lanchester Red Cross Shop

Lanchester Medical Centre Patient Group

The bi-monthly meeting is on Wednesday September 4th at 10am until 12pm in the surgery meeting room. Come along, you will receive a warm welcome. Anyone who is a registered patient at the surgery can attend.

Art Group annual exhibition

Lanchester Art Group Annual Exhibition will

weekend of October 19th and 20th at the Community Centre, 10am until 5pm, £1 admission, cakes, teas and paintings for sale.

Wildlife group

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th September at 7.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre small hall. The speaker will be Dr Vivien Kent, 'Tracks and Signs (how to find out who's been where)'. If you'd like more information, please email lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com.

Vintage Tractor Club

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



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Paradiso Film Club

The 2024/25 Season starts on 8th September. "The Old Oak" is a special place. Not only is it the last pub standing, but it's also the only remaining public space where people can meet in a once thriving Durham mining community. TJ Ballantyne (Dave Turner) the landlord hangs on to The Old Oak by his fingertips, and his predicament is endangered even more when the pub becomes contested territory after the arrival of Syrian refugees who are placed in the village without any notice. In an unlikely friendship TJ meets a curious young Syrian Yara (Ebla Mari) with her camera. Can they find a way for the two communities to understand each other? So unfolds a deeply moving drama from Ken Loach (Kes, I, Daniel Blake) about their fragilities and hopes. Lanchester Community Centre, 7pm refreshments and raffle. Film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £4, Non-members: £5. Annual membership: £5

Lanchester Library

Library Book Club

On Monday September 23rd at 2.30 to 3.30pm, this group will be reviewing Valley of the Moon by Melanie Gideon 'a captivating novel about love that transcends time' If you liked The Time Traveller's Wife you may like this novel. We look forward to seeing you there and hearing everyone's opinion, that makes a Book Club very interesting.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday September 19th from 4.00-5.00pm, this group will be reviewing Copy Cat by Alex Lake 'the

unputdownable thriller' from the Top Ten Sunday Times bestselling author. Will we all agree with this statement, and all read this thriller to the end? If You would like to join this group, pop into the library and speak to the Librarians.

Pins and Needles will meet up on September 5th 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. Borrowbox now has newspapers and magazines, click ePress, look for extra news and comment and find the magazines that fit your lifestyle.

Musical Memories

"The colours of the rainbow": join us for music, refreshments and fun activities.

4th September 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. 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. If you would like to organise a coffee morning for your organisation, please contact Judith Brown on 521898.

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will take place in the Main Hall of the Community Centre on September 19th at 1.30pm. Our speaker will be Carol Graham giving a talk entitled 'A shoulder to lean on'.

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

There will be no official meeting of the Friends in August, we're having a day off! Our next meeting will therefore be at 7.30pm on Thursday 26th September in the Community Centre. We are hoping to do more trial trenching at a ditched enclosure near the village in order to determine its purpose. Our investigations into the Romans in Slatley have stalled for the moment. In its place some of our members are researching a possible Roman presence at Witton Gilbert.

Darker nights will be with us again soon and, as a trial, our October meeting will be held in the afternoon of Thursday 24th (time to be advised in next Village Voice), instead of during the evening. We'll see how that goes down with the members as some of us are finding that driving at night is

difficult now. Further information on our activities may be obtained from Mrs. M. Williams, 01207 520063, or by emailing Rodney Hawkins on hawkins_15@sky.com. You can see us on Facebook or read all about our work at www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com (note no dots in couk).

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.

Lunch Club

The next lunch held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 10th September 12.00 pm start, all welcome.

History Society

We will be meeting on Friday 6th September for our short AGM followed by an illustrated talk from Julian Harrop sharing A treasure of Memories Durham Advertiser images 1934-1961. The following month Friday 4th October will be David Mason on Archeology of the Sedgefield Dig. Please remember the talks start at 7.00 but due to the entry system it helps if folks arrive early to ensure not being locked out.

WI

The next meeting of the WI will be Monday 2nd September 7.00 pm in the Community Centre, the speaker is Julien Harrop from Beamish Museum, visitors are always welcome to come along and join us. The October meeting of the WI is Monday October 7th 7.00 pm in the Community Centre is our AGM, Lesley

Jerrard from WI House Spennymoor will be attending.

Lanchester playgroup

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

City Theatre

'A Fine Bright Day' by Philip Goulding (a love story) will be on at The City Theatre, Fowlers Yard, Durham, DH1 3RA from September 2nd until 28th. Margaret mourns her long lost husband, but after her daughter thrusts Milton, an American painter, into her home, her life changes. Warm, moving and funny, 'A Fine Bright Day' explores love in later life.

Tickets from the Gala box office or on 03000266600, or www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk and follow the link for tickets. Performances Sunday and Saturday matinee at 2.30, Monday to Friday 7.30. £8.50 with concessions (£7.50) on Sun mat, Mon and Tues.

The Lanchester Community Orchard Work Sessions

We meet regularly to maintain and care for the orchard. Come and join us to find out more and help look after the trees. There are jobs for all ages and we always stop for coffee! New members are always welcome. September and October's sessions please visit the What's On page of our website lanchesterorchard.org.uk.

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).

Newcastle Refugees Lend a Hand at Lanchester Community Orchard

Twice a year members of the Lanchester Orchard have the privilege of hosting some refugees from Newcastle, organised through our links with the West End Refugee Centre. This year was no exception and in July we shared a rewarding day together.

Amongst our twelve visitors there was just one familiar face, the rest were new refugees who came keen to lend us a hand with jobs at the orchard. They assisted with painting the shed, barrowing woodchip, weeding, scything and digging a trench. Some even ventured forth to visit the resident bee colonies!

But the day was far more than completing those useful tasks. It was a day to meet people from across the world, a day of sharing stories, eating together and a chance to share the pleasures of being outside in nature.

When we next meet in late September I wonder how many familiar faces we will see or will the journey to seek asylum in the UK have taken these young men and women on a new journey away from Newcastle?

Sonny Shephard

Lanchester Community Orchard is supported by the Lanchester Partnership.

For more details email: lanchesterorchard@outlook.com



*Right: a refugee with Chris Davies demonstrating scything grass
Above: A group photo of refugees with the Orchard Group volunteers*

Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

August might always seem to be a quiet time for schools, but it is a time when lots of work takes place behind the scenes. We are always very fortunate to have Mr Graham's Holiday Club taking place for 2 weeks and this year we also have OASES using our site once a week during August for a holiday club too.

In between all this, the caretaker and cleaning staff are working hard to get all those jobs done that they never get chance to do during the term. In addition, we are having some essential repairs done to the windows at the Junior side of the building. I know that by the time the children return in September, the place will be glowing – for a day anyway! The end of term was very special again with the children enjoying the most amazing weather for their Water Day. The Water Slide is always a big hit with them all. However, my favourite part of the day was using my super soaker in all the classrooms. If a head teacher can't break the rules every now and then, who can?!

Our Leavers' Service in church on the penultimate day of term was very special and such a poignant time for all children and families. Prayers and readings were interspersed with some special memories shared about each and every child before some perfect words from Revd Abbey Hughes, who just brought the whole service together.

The highly sought-after awards were also presented. George Tilley was the very worthy winner of the Henry Dancer Award whilst Rosa Diaz-Bloor was presented with The Citizenship Award.

The final day was one of laughter and tears for us all. Our Year 6 children led a tremendous leavers' assembly which consisted of making fun of lots of the staff. Isaac's terrific Irish accent mocked Mr McLoughlin perfectly, Two Dinners Innes (Will) was probably the funniest sketch whilst Mrs Davis (Rhona) tried her hardest to train Mr Stoker (Oliver) in the same way as she has Woody! They were all simply brilliant in their roles and acted with such confidence and expertise! I was one of many very proud adults in the packed hall that morning, especially considering what a close cohort of children and parents they are. The staff are now enjoying a well-earned break after a very busy year and re-charging their batteries before the new academic year begins. I am currently enjoying some time island-hopping in Croatia but also managed to bump into one of our families on Hvar too! It really is such a small world.

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



Henry Dancer Awards

*Right: George Tilley presented with the Henry Dancer Award
Cover photo: Rosa Diaz-Bloor with her Citizenship Award.*

Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Primary School

Although it is the summer holidays and the school is a touch quieter, there is still lots to be thinking about and looking forward to! Following a lovely maternity leave, I was thrilled to return to school in July for a few days to say hello to the children, families and staff and a big good luck to the Year Six children who were preparing to take their next step into their secondary education! I now look forward to the new school year and the opportunities it presents.

We have had some ground works completed over summer: a new prayer garden, a development to our eco-garden and new railings at the front of school. We have a larger improvement to the school yard planned for the coming months. Although you can only see minimal outside space from the front of school, we have a yard, trim trail, multi-use games area, early years yard, running track, prayer garden, eco-garden and field at the back of school so we have lots to take care of!

If you'd like the chance to see our grounds or if you'd enjoy the opportunity to meet up with some other families for an afternoon of fun, why don't you come along to our Family Fun Day? Organised by the wonderful Friends of All Saints', this event will be held on Sunday 8th September, 1-3pm at All Saints' parish centre and on our school field. This will be a great opportunity to meet up at the beginning of a new school year – all are welcome.

If you cannot make our Fun Day and you would like to visit the school to consider us for your child (either for Nursery or Reception), please request a visit (in person, via phone or email) and I will love to show you and your family around. Otherwise, join us for our Early Years' Open morning where families can look around our Early Years Unit – Saturday 5th October drop in between 10am and 11.30am. Take the opportunity to see our facilities and meet the staff – again, all families are welcome! I do hope to see you soon and, in the meantime, take care!

Frances Stephenson
Head Teacher



Lanchester Bowling Club For the Love of the Game

The idyll: a balmy summer's afternoon in Lanchester. The sun shines down on a perfect bowling green; shadows scuttle over the succulent grass as cotton wool clouds carried on the light breeze briefly cover the sun; two teams dressed in pristine gear battle it out, their excited voices duelling with the chirping birds in the surrounding trees; bowls gently curve on a perfect trajectory before caressing the jack, drawing polite applause from the enthralled crowd.

The reality: a miserable summer's afternoon in Fishburn. Torrential rain slants down on to a deeply pitted bowling patch that has been feasted on by rabbits as witnessed by the round presents they have kindly left; angry, black clouds unleash heavy dollops of water that smash into the already heavy turf; two teams dressed in a variety of inadequate waterproofs shout instructions to each other, their voices drowned out by the torrent; refusing to curve and as if inspired by Barnes Wallis, bowls bounce down the rink trying to forlornly breach the wall of woods lying yards from the target; no applause, just the thought of an uncomfortable twenty mile journey home in wet, steaming clothing.

Why do we do it? Simple really – for every really bad day like the mauling at Fishburn there's the really good ones like eight-nil victories over White-le-Head and View Lane or the A team still pushing for promotion in the SW Durham League.

Then there's the camaraderie of the club. It always amazes me how willing club members are to give up their time to ensure the club not only runs smoothly, but also thrives. This month it was in answer to the call to replace a series of rotten wooden backboards. A dozen members turned up to remove old boards, dig away overhanging turf, hammer and concrete in new fixing posts, screw new boards in place and of course tidy up the mess. Yet more members then stained the new boards and replaced the rink markers. On behalf of the committee, thanks to all who helped, especially those that did a lot of the physical work and provided the expertise.

The bowling season is rapidly coming to an end, but we still have league and cup matches to play as well as our own finals weekend. This will take place on the weekend of 31st August/1st September so if you want to see what will hopefully be some good tight games then come along and watch. You'll be made welcome, and we don't charge!

Bob Cuthbertson



Above: Carol Page bowls in our 8-0 victory over White-le-Head
L&R: Members hard at work replacing the backboards



Cricket News

In the past month, the firsts have won one, lost one and had two league games washed out. They are also still going strong in at least two cups. The league win was a big one, beating league leaders Shotley Bridge by 56 runs. Lanchester laboured to 172 and were grateful for a final wicket partnership of 42 between Callum Barnes and Henry Sherwood. Lanchester took regular wickets with Kieron Taylor taking three of the first four and then the spin twins of Pasindu and Callum Barnes took over and hurried the last six batters out for an epic win. The side continue on in the Heineken T20 which they won last season and beat Ryhope easily to face Seaham Harbour next and, in the Roy Coates, they beat Consett to earn the right to face Tynedale.

The seconds had an exciting tie with Seaham Park, where the scores ended level after chasing 183 but probably should have won as they lost their last two wickets with the scores tied. They had a losing draw against Tynedale and were well beaten by Shotley Bridge. They then got their first taste of the Hundred at Castle Eden and won their group beating hosts Castle Eden and Tynemouth.

The thirds got two games in beating Eppleton and losing to Seaham Harbour. In the Eppleton win, 13 year old Alfie Armstrong took 3-17 and Ibs Khan took 3-18 and then batting, David Barnett made an unbeaten 50 and John McGilvray an unbeaten 44 in the no wicket win. In the Seaham Harbour game, Dan Scott took 3-10 and Mae Deaville 3-14 and there was a great final wicket stand between father and son combo Duncan and Jack Morris.



Junior Cricket

Our under 11s have had an outstanding season and wrapped up the league title with a comprehensive win over Annfield Plain. The team won 8 of their 9 matches, with the other rained off. They won that final game despite three regulars being missing. This is the same group who two years ago won one match and last year won half their games and additionally this season half the team were girls.

The under 13s finished fifth of the 14 teams in their league and are into the semi finals of the Cup following a very good ten wicket win at South Northumberland, thanks to retirement 30s by Nathan Watson, Riley Sayer and Alfie Armstrong. They have a home tie v Newcastle in the semi final and if successful, Castle Eden await in the Final.

The under 15s finished bottom of their group of six teams but played better than that in the last three matches, beating Annfield Plain in the league, then

Whitburn in the Cup before losing to champions Blaydon by just 3 runs. The next cup tie will be a struggle with players away on holiday as we face Castle Eden.

The under 18s have barely played but are in the semi final of the Cup after a crushing win over Blaydon, scoring 202-4 in their 20 overs. John McGilvray scored 71 off 42 balls and Toby Somersall 46 off 27. They will face Lintz in the semi final.

The under 19s have played a single match beating Shotley Bridge by 63 runs, thanks mainly to a superb unbeaten 101 by Charlie McPhail.

Andrew McConnell

Above: Under 11s team photo..

*Back-Stu McPhail (Coach), Harriet McPhail, Ben Smith, Kate White
Front- Lyla Garside, Finlay Tennant, Ollie Wainwright, George Tilley, Rosa Diaz-Bloor
Missing- Reuben Temple, Jack Harrison and Ben Gaudern*

Tennis Club News

Postponed from the day of the Men's Final at Wimbledon due to awful weather, the Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club held their annual Strawberry Tea on the following Sunday. Although, due to the change of date, there were a reduced number of attendees, good food and tennis were enjoyed by those who were there. The photographs show some of the families and friends enjoying the lovely fayre. Team news is not so good where the mixed veteran team is concerned. Due to a lot of mitigating circumstances, they finished bottom of their league. However, it's a different story for the veteran ladies. With one match to play, they currently lie third in their league, a fine performance given the limited number of ladies available at the club. Club tournaments are nearing completion with just a few outstanding matches to play. Finals weekend is on 7th and 8th September.

Coaching continues on Monday evenings and if you would like any further information about the club, please contact Dennis at lanchestertennis@gmail.com or call 07960494442 or follow us on Facebook

Dennis Laycock



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