

the Village Voice

Issue No 2, Volume 24

Lanchester, February 2024



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Willow Burn Pavilion Banquet

In celebration of the Chinese New Year, the year of the Dragon, an event was organised for Willow Burn Hospice. Lloyds Bank, represented by Dianne O'Neill from the Stanley branch, were involved to match fund the 5-star raffle. The Pavilion restaurant team was led by Michelle who helped to deliver a delicious 4 course banquet. A great time was had by all and £1927 was raised plus the matched funding from Lloyds Bank. A huge thanks to all the staff from the Pavilion, the supporters, and those who donated the prizes.

Paul Jackson



L-r: Dianne O'Neill from Lloyds Bank, Michelle from the Pavilion and Paul Jackson Chair of Trustees for Willow Burn

Willow Burn Hospice

Win a pair of 18ct White Gold Diamond Stud Earrings with Berry's Jewellers and Willow Burn Hospice. This year, Berry's Jewellers and Willow Burn Hospice are giving you a chance to win a pair of 18ct White Gold 0.90ct Diamond Stud Earrings in the Diamond Raffle to be drawn on 1 March 2024 at the Willow Burn Hospice Diamonds and Pearls Ball. Worth £3,895, the Berry's Everyday Classics 18ct White Gold 0.90ct Diamond Stud Earrings have been donated by Berry's Jewellers, a luxury, independent and family-owned top quality retail jewellers with a store on Grey Street in Newcastle and across the UK in Leeds, York, Nottingham, Hull and Windsor. This is the third year the jeweller has supported Willow Burn's Diamond Raffle, raising over £7000 in 2022 and 2023.

The Prize

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Raffle Tickets - £10 each

Tickets can be purchased online at: www.willowburnhospice.enthuse.com/diamonddraffle2024 or in person at the Hospice. You can find out further information here: <https://willowburnhospice.org.uk/berrys-jewellers-diamond-raffle>. Every two tickets sold in the Diamond Raffle will pay for one hour of vital nursing care for people living with a life limiting illness in Derwentside.

Lucas wins Angel Award (front cover photo)

We're thrilled to announce that Lucas Wainwright, a year 11 student from St Bede's and a local resident, has been honoured with a prestigious Angel Award by Liz Twist, MP for Blaydon. Lucas was nominated to receive this award in recognition of his outstanding voluntary contributions to the community, notably as a young leader at forest school sessions through Stomping Grounds, a local social enterprise dedicated to connecting communities with nature.

Stomping Grounds, active throughout the North East, strives to provide children and families, regardless of background, the opportunity to connect with nature and foster community relationships. Actively partnering with local organisations, they prioritise services for those with the least access, aiming for a holistic impact and inspiring sustainable practices. Their approach, championed by participants like Lucas, fosters self-discovery, challenges biases, and provides space for personal growth. Stomping Grounds' ethos aligns seamlessly with Lucas's passion for making a positive difference in the lives of those around him, and their focus on providing access to historically excluded groups resonates with his dedication to inclusivity.

In addition to his role at Stomping Grounds, Lucas is an active member of the Durham Youth Council and plans to run for a Member of Youth Parliament constituency seat in the forthcoming elections, further showcasing his commitment to positive action and well-being. [See the article from St Bede's School – editor].

As we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Lucas for this well-deserved achievement, let's also acknowledge the commendable work of Stomping Grounds in providing a platform where young leaders like Lucas not only cultivate valuable skills but also contribute meaningfully to both the community and the environment.

Congratulations, Lucas, on this exceptional recognition, and thank you for being an inspiring force for positive change in the community.

<https://www.facebook.com/forestschoolortheast>

<https://www.stomping-grounds.org>

Front cover photo features: Liz Twist MP with Lucas Wainwright and his certificate.

Lanchester WI

President Marie welcomed 28 members and 1 new member to the first meeting of the year on Monday 8th January and updated us with news from WI House, including the proposed resolutions for 2024.

Raffle winners were Gladys Robson and Jean Forster. The speaker for the evening was our Vice President Tina Naples who told us about the Pendle witches including details from the trial in 1612 - the most famous witch trial in the 17th century. The 12 women accused of witchcraft all lived in the surrounding area in Lancashire, 10 were found guilty and executed by hanging.

The Witchcraft Act 1735 was repealed in 1951, the last person to be convicted under the Act was Helen Duncan in 1944 who was sent to Holloway Prison for 9 months. Marie thanked Tina for her interesting talk. Members then enjoyed a warming cup of homemade soup and crusty bread while catching up with friends, Tina, Janis, and Marie were thanked for making the soup.

Tracey Dobson

Trees for Lanchester

Over 600 tree saplings have been planted this January by an active group of volunteers from the village. Both young and old alike have been busy greening up our valley with native British trees. The trees are mainly gifted from a sister group of an energy company called "I Dig Trees" but a good quarter have also been grown from seed at our tree nursery tended by our volunteers.

Our planting this season has focussed on two areas, one at a farm near Dyke Nook another along the public footpath near Manor House Farm. We've also been busy revisiting and tending or replacing trees previously planted at Low Meadows and land off Newbiggen Lane.

If you'd like to join us for a few hours of planting, there are always plans afoot for further digging. But also we are looking for new places to plant so if you're a land owner and have a space for some native trees do let us know. As well we're keen to expand our tree nursery and looking for hawthorn, hazel, oak, rowan, and crab apple seedlings. Do let us know if you have any growing in your garden.

'Trees for Lanchester' is an initiative of the Lanchester Partnership Environment Group. If you'd like us to collect seedlings, view land with a potential for planting or to join the digging squad please contact us on: lanchestertrees@gmail.com or text Sonny on 07817369160.

Sonny Shepherd

Front cover photo: Max, who was one of the helpers
Right: the planters having a well-earned rest
Below right: The finished product



Congratulations

The Village Voice is proud to announce that Lanchester resident Andrew (Andy) Graham was awarded the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the New Years 2024 Honours list. This was awarded for public service and to the community in County Durham. Andy is Deputy Director, Strategic Finance Directorate, Department for Education.

Andy says, "I am very surprised, humbled and immensely grateful to be named in the King's New Year Honours list and receive this award for public service. I have had the pleasure of working in some great teams and been inspired by some fantastic people over the years. I also take great pride in my volunteering work and being in a position to give back to my community by supporting officials, colleagues and friends in schools and grassroots sport".

Andy is awaiting a date for his investiture, but we will bring you details (and hopefully photos) when it happens later this year.



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Proposed holiday village, at proposed Greencroft Forest

Dozens of Lanchester residents attended a public presentation at the community centre to learn about proposals for a holiday development at Greencroft.

True North outlined plans for 140 holiday lodges, a hub and a spa and pool on the site of the former Greencroft Hall.

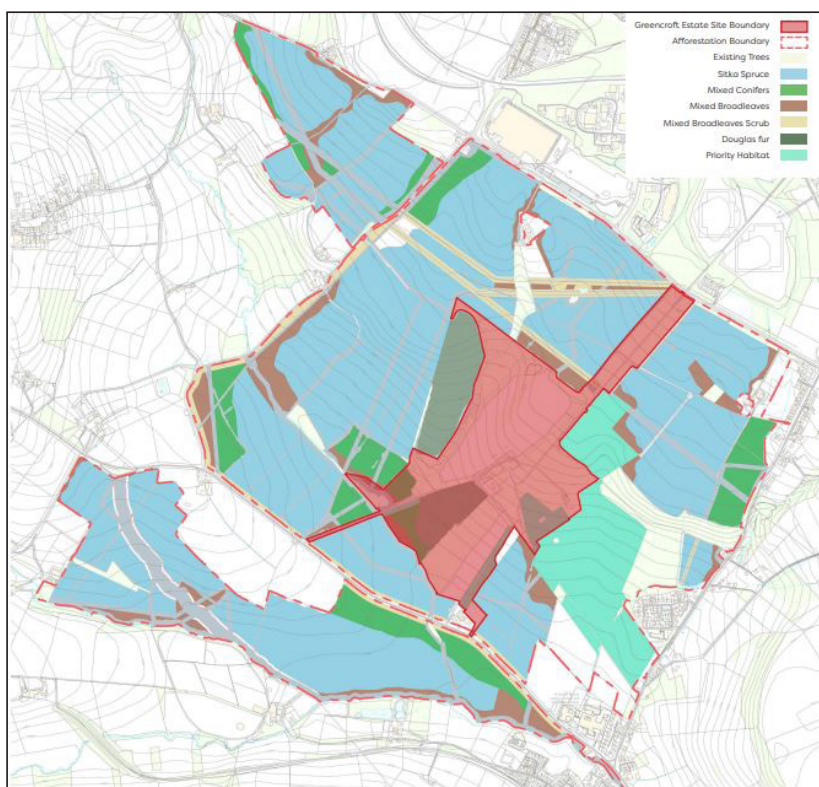
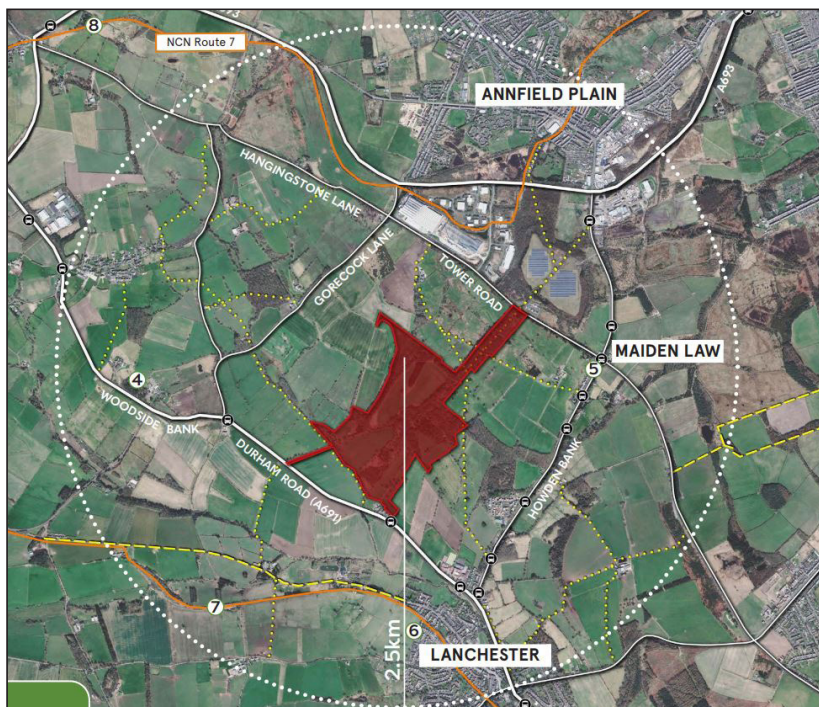
The proposed tourist development would be incorporated in a planned forest on the site and include a one-way access road from Durham Road to the west of St Bede's School to Tower Road.

The developers have stressed that local residents and schools would have access to the site, which could include a farm shop, Pilates, yoga and paddle tennis, as well as walking and cycling routes.

By mid-afternoon on the day of the presentation, Tuesday, January 23, at least 50 interested residents had attended the community centre to scrutinise the plans.

Reactions appear to be mixed, with many residents welcoming the potential of an influx of holidaymakers boosting businesses in Lanchester, while others expressed concerns about the impact of such a development on the environment.

Neil McKay



We would love to hear your views on this proposed development. This was a public presentation by the developers, and it has yet to go to the County Council for planning approval when residents will be able to present their views to the Council. Further information on the forest and tourism proposals is on their website www.greencroftforestpark.co.uk. The application for the afforestation project was submitted in December 2023 and a decision is awaited from the Forestry Commission.

*Top: This shows the tourism proposal superimposed on a satellite image.
Below: This shows the proposal within the context of the proposed forest.*

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Volunteer with Lanchester Partnership

We need your help and your bright ideas...

We all benefit from a clean and tidy village. [See the article on the litter pick] What else could we do together?

The Lanchester Partnership is keen to work with anyone (an individual or group) who has good ideas about how to make the village a better place for everyone. A good example is the litter pick taking place next month. It started as a bright idea of our Environment Group. Maybe there are other social and practical activities we can organise that can bring the community together? Let us know.

If you would like to give us your views and ideas, please look on the website lanchesterpartnership.org.uk or Facebook page and get in touch via our contact email contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk. This month we are issuing a questionnaire asking for your good ideas. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Trustees and Working Groups of the Lanchester Partnership



Ladies who lunch

Well, we're in New Year celebration territory, so really, there was only one place we would be - the Pavilion at Iveston. Such a delightful, unique, and near to us destination - absolutely spot on for unpredictable January.

A warm welcome awaits, as does the spotlessly clean and shiny surroundings with pristine tablecloths, napkins, and cutlery or, if you've decided to be adventurous, chopsticks. Impeccable and totally unobtrusive service is the order of the day, and we were soon ordering our meal.

We always have the set lunch menu - a great value option which gives you chicken and sweetcorn or sweet and sour soup with prawn crackers, followed by a stacked tray of scrumptious starters: prawn wantons, sesame toasts, spareribs, chicken drumsticks, pork ribs - with a spicy dipping sauce.

The main event arrives onto the lazy Susan table and allows everyone to indulge in all dishes on offer: sizzling beef, succulent prawns, chicken, and pork dishes, all wrapped up in delicious sauces and ready to be piled onto bowls of rice.

It's all quite decadent and we love it!

A lovely cup of coffee or tea rounds off the meal to perfection. I expect you'll have gathered from the report - we shall most definitely be going again.

This report is dedicated to a much loved and well remembered Gourmet Girl - Sonia Farthing, who died on the morning of Friday, February 9th 2024. We had our very first meal together at Sonia's and all that fellowship and goodwill has continued to this day.

The Gourmet Girls



Lanchester Spring Clean 9th March

Winter has done its worst and blown litter, often from our bins, into the hedges. But the grass has not yet grown around it so now seems the right time for a good clean up. So don your stout shoes and protective gloves and join members of the Lanchester Partnership and the Wombles to help in our Annual Spring Clean. Round up your friends, family and group members to join us on the village green anytime between 9:30 and 12 noon on Saturday 9th March where litter grabbers and bags will be available. Lanchester is a handsome village, and we can keep it that way if we all lend a hand.

Sonny Shepherd





Poppy's walks

Good day readers.

As you all now know, I am Poppy a Patterdale terrier who shares with Village Voice readers the walks I lead my Humans on.

Some of you may know that there are a number of organised walks in

and around Lanchester. One starts at 1pm every Monday from the village green, and on Wednesdays another starts at 10am from outside Langley Park Miners Institute opposite the post office. These walks are for me a bone of contention. The only sort of bone I am not keen on. For although well behaved dogs are welcome, for some reason I am never invited.

The female Human enjoys them very much and seems completely unmoved by my mournful expression when she leaves the house without me, even though I can see fine well that she is dressed for a walk. But now and again she will agree to drive myself and the male Human to Langley Park, where we can walk back home ourselves while she goes on the 10am Wednesday walk. And I do enjoy a scamper back along the railway path, where we start out just outside Diggerland in Langley Park.

We follow the river Browney most of the way as it criss-crosses the path, while on our left as we leave Langley Park there is a lot of building work going on. A new housing estate is being built. There are lots of diversions on the way to Malton, including a nature reserve on the left which we could detour through. But, if we carry straight on it is a most pleasant walk past farms, fields, through woods and across bridges.

At Malton I can always divert along the river path and – if it is not too cold – plunge into the river for a paddle. (I haven't quite mastered the art of swimming.)

The last time I led the Human on this walk it was very cold and the ground underneath was solid. So, we made a detour through Dora's Wood as well. This can be off putting when it is muddy – I don't mind but the Humans do – but when the ground is solid underfoot there are lots of paths to explore through the trees.

The total distance along the railway path is about three and a half miles and takes us around 90 minutes.

We arrive home before the female Human has returned from her walk, but it has been very enjoyable nevertheless.



Police Report

Clamp down on use of illegal off-road vehicles

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

and around Lanchester.

This month Consett Neighbourhood Team have put in place Section 59 around Consett, as well as other key areas where this issue has been raised. [This includes the cycle tracks]. The Section 59 signs remove the need to give warnings to those caught with illegal off-road bikes, quads or 4x4s before seizing their vehicles.

The notices also cover e-scooters which are currently illegal to use anywhere other than private land. Due to the fact they hold no valid documents, off-road bikes are illegal to use on public roads and public/council land. Traffic 183 written notices will be issued to riders of illegal off-road bikes in locations where these section 59 signs are not displayed. After this your vehicle/bike can be seized if used in an illegal or anti-social manner.

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

**Jonathan Rutherford
PCSO 8725**

Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

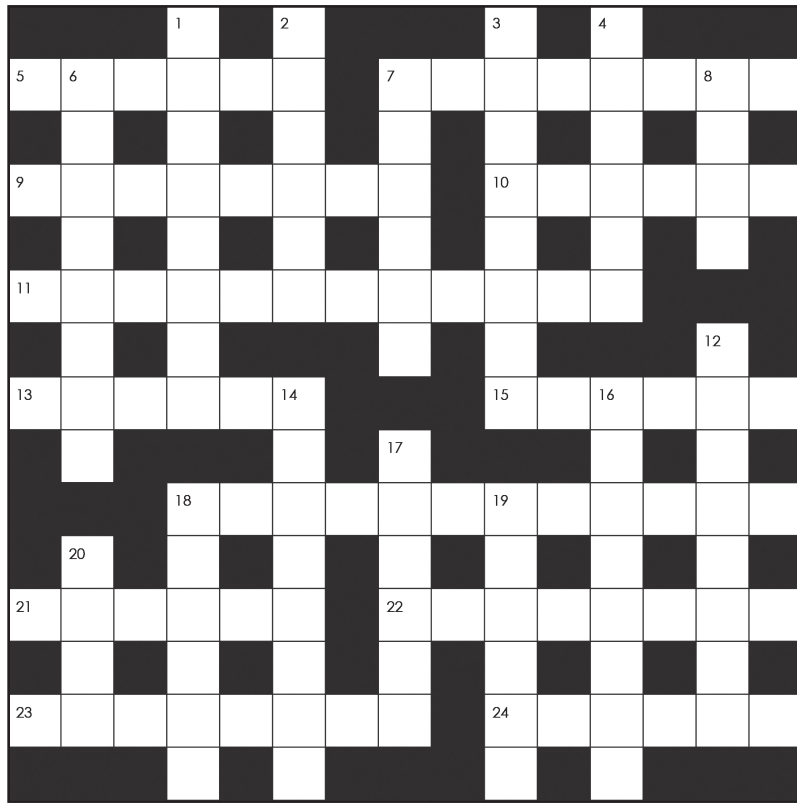
Our first meeting of the new year was a lovely belated Christmas outing to the Beamish Park Hotel on Wednesday 24th January 2024. 24 ladies enjoyed a really lovely lunch; food was beautifully cooked and served. The Beamish Park Hotel staff were so pleasant, efficient and helpful. They made us all feel so very special. We enjoyed a table picture quiz and a general knowledge quiz. We also had fun and laughter playing alternative bingo. Three small flower arrangements were won by Eileen Brown, Jan Vasey and Pat Spencer, so everyone went away smiling. Our next meeting will be our A.G.M. on Wednesday 28th February at 1.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. We will enjoy a social afternoon. The March meeting will be in Lanchester Community Centre in the main hall at 1.30 pm. Our demonstrator will be Heather Curry and her theme is "Time for Tea". Come along and join us, everyone is welcome.

Once again can we give a big thank you to Beamish Park Hotel for a lovely lunch and afternoon at our January meeting.



Above: the raffle prizes

CLUES CROSSWORD 194



Across

5. Danish city (6)
7. Places where ships are secured (8)
9. Volume (8)
10. Sedgefield born member of The League of Gentlemen (6)
11. Wife number four of six (4,2,6)
13. 1992 Men's Singles Wimbledon champion (6)
15. Piece of wood used to hold food (6)
18. Occurring continually throughout the calendar (3-4-5)
21. Geordie term for lumps of mud (6)
22. Teacher (8)
23. Term used when one race horse has impeded another (8)
24. American name for a nappy (6)

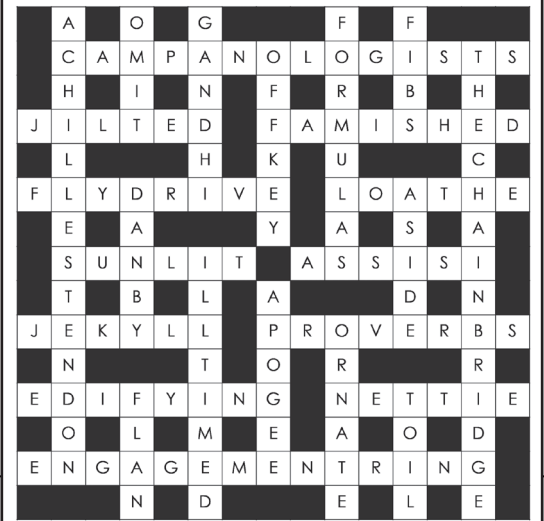
Down

1. Comes undone (8)
2. Faith (6)
3. Pardons (8)
4. Pause in continuity (6)
6. System of water removal (8)
7. Aquatic insect (6)
8. Severe cut (4)
12. Tall, thin person (8)
14. False, but appears to be real (8)
16. Infamous Superfortress air craft named after a pilot's mother (5,3)
17. Rely on (6)
8. Sudden (6)
19. Units of ammunition (6)
20. Entreaty (4)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by **Wednesday 6th March 2024** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



Winner of Crossword 193

There were 17 entries of which 15 were correct.

The winner, drawn out of the hat, was **Martin Joyce**.

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Remembering...

Remembering Doris Brown

The funeral of my mum, Doris Brown (nee Anderson), was held at Durham Crematorium on January 17th. The service, officiated by Rev John Squares of Elvet Methodist Church, was attended by friends and family from across the UK. Philip Richardson welcomed us into the crem with a beautiful rendition of Acker Bilk's *Stranger on the Shore*, played on the clarinet.



Mum was 96 when she died and had spent 94 of those years living in Lanchester. Having been brought up on Deneside, she spent her married life in West Drive, with my dad, Alan, until his death in 2013.

Mum was well known in the village, having spent over a decade teaching in the infant school, finishing her years there as Deputy Headmistress. It was heartwarming to see a number of her ex-pupils attend the funeral.

She will be greatly missed, especially by me, but also by family, neighbours, and the huge number of friends she made through her long and happy life.

Many thanks to everybody who supported me over the last few weeks and months. You know who you are.

We didn't have a collection at the funeral as mum preferred people to give to a charity of their own choosing or to buy a bottle of wine and some flowers, take them home and remember her!

Sleep tight mum.

Carole Smith



Kneeler in memory of Brenda Craddock

In December, Revd Lesley Sutherland blessed a kneeler in memory of Brenda Craddock, who passed away last April. Lanchester Church

Wives all donated to the purchase and it was decided that a kneeler representing The Children's Society would have been Brenda's choice, as she had been an active supporter of this charity since being a child.

The kneeler was lovingly stitched by Brenda's friend, Hazel Gaskill.

Deanna Leyland



Lanchester past...

Photographs kindly submitted by Brian Naylor

Left: Knitters at a sponsored Knit-In in the Community Centre in 1974

Below: A Lanchester Lions carnival parade along Front Street in 1969 or 1970



Look familiar...do you recognise anyone?
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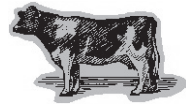
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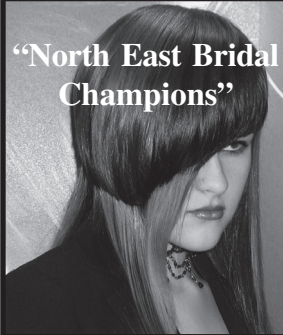
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Wildlife Notes

Who are you calling a Twit?

Listen out for the owl's shout. She calls "twit", and he says "who". Tawny owls actually duet their calls causing the twit-twoo sounds. The female call, really more of a "keewik", fits in between all the huhuhuhooo hoots from him. The young owls also make "keewik" contact calls, the male mostly sticks to the "who". Infrequently heard during the day, their nightly calls begin in late autumn when they establish their territory prior to breeding in spring.

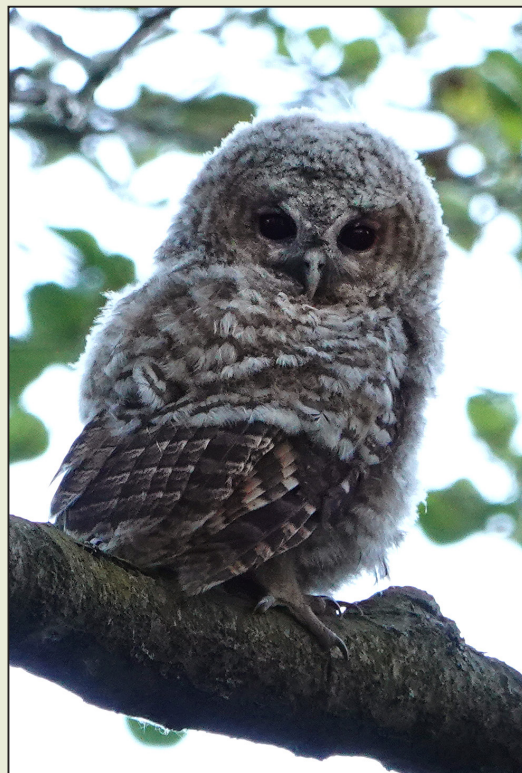
Tawnys breed early, usually laying 2-3 eggs in March. Eggs are laid 1 or 2 days apart (called asynchronous) and immediately incubated. After about 30 days the first egg hatches, later hatchlings will be smaller, giving the first a competitive advantage if food is scarce. As they grow owlets hop or crawl out of the nest and sit around in nearby branches, they can even crawl back up a tree from the ground. They fledge after 5 weeks but rely on parents for food for 3 months after leaving the nest. Owlets disperse from 2 to 20 miles to find their own hoot spot.

They live where there are trees, even parks, the densest populations in deciduous woodland, but also use coniferous woods. Their colouration gives perfect camouflage.

They're reluctant to make sea crossings so are absent from Ireland and our outlying Isles. They nest in tree holes, but can use large bird nests, even squirrel dreys. Their diet is opportunistic, as well as hunting small mammals, they'll turn their beaks to a juicy worm or frog. Their feathers are specially designed for silent flight, catch up on BBC iplayer with the recent Winterwatch for further explanation. Their special 'special memory' helps them recognise every landmark in their territory and the best places to hunt.

Checkout <https://www.barnowltrust.org.uk/barn-owl-facts/uk-owl-species/tawny-owl-facts/> - it's a hoot.

Right and below: Photographer Tom Coulson,
Top: Tawny Owlet, this one is changing from the creamy fluff ball of
cuteness to revealing its flight feathers. Photo Anne Kelly.





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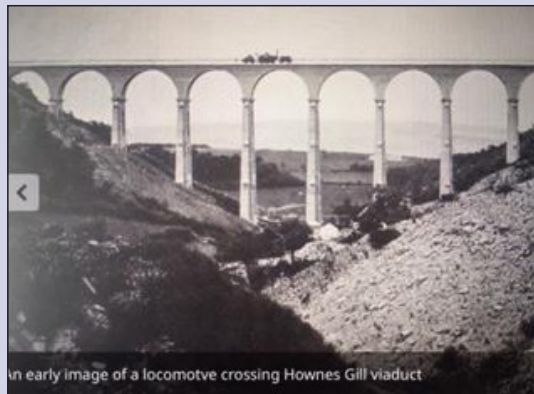
Langley Park, 43 Front Street, Langley Park, Durham, DH7 9SA

History Society

Lanchester History Society February meeting

There was standing room only at the talk from Peter Shaw from The History of Consett Steel Works group. He held us captivated with both his knowledge of the steelworks, the manufacturing process and the vast work that has been carried out through the use of technology in mapping the site and associated industry. Everyone seemed to have a great night as Peter was kept talking well after he had finished his planned session. The website is very well populated and a great browse.

Marian Morrison



Top: the website for the History of Consett Steel Works
Below: a locomotive crossing Hownes Gill Viaduct.

WHAT'S ON - February / March 2024

All Saints' RC Church

Talk on St Paul's Journeys by Greg Ryan (Durham University) at 7pm on Wednesday 13th March at All Saints RC Church Hall. Ticket £3 (includes light refreshments) available on the door. All very welcome to attend.

Litter Pick

Annual Lanchester Litter Pick. Meet on the Village Green anytime between 9:30 and 12 on Saturday 9th March. All are welcome.

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/

Christian Aid Fundraiser

Friday March 8th, 12-2pm. Soup lunch at the Methodist Church, Lanchester. Tickets £6 to include soup, tray bake and a hot drink. Tickets available from Kathleen Bell (521793), Dianne Emerson (520817) or Judith Brown (521898).



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Paradiso Film Club

10th March - LIVING - It's never too late to start. A drama starring Bill Nighy, Tom Burke and Aimee Lou Wood. Overwhelmed at work and lonely at home, a council bureaucrat's life takes a heartbreaking turn when a medical diagnosis tells him his time is short. Influenced by a local decadent and a vibrant woman, he continues to search for meaning until a simple revelation gives him a purpose to create a legacy for the next generation. 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 March 25th 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, will everyone enjoy this novel, will this book divide opinions? We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

Thursday Book Club
On Thursday March 21st from 4.00-5.00pm, the group will be reviewing Purgatory by Tomas Eloy Martinez. An excellent atmospheric novel about the disappearances in Argentina during the Dictatorship. It is thought provoking and a hard but sensitive read. 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 March 7th 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.

Musical Memories

Spring Special: 6th March, 2pm at Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. Join us for music, refreshments and fun activities. 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:
February 24th Susan Hayton
March 2nd World Day of Prayer
February 24 Durham Donkeys - Susan Hayton
March 2nd World Day of Prayer
March 9th TBC
March 16th Charity for underprivileged children in Sri Lanka
March 23rd Male Voice Choir
March 30th Churches Together

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be held in the Main Hall of the Community Centre on March 21st at 1.30pm when Carol Graham will be giving a talk entitled 'A shoulder to lean on'.

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

The Friends will be meeting again on Thursday 28th March at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. No doubt we'll be discussing the proposed building of a replica Roman ballista, something like a crossbow but on a much larger scale. We'll also be discussing an archaeological dig off

Peth Bank, looking at a possible Iron Age site. This year is beginning to look like a busy one for us. Further details may be had from Mrs. M. Williams, 01207 520063 or from Rodney Hawkins at hawkins_15@sky.com. To find out what we've achieved so far check out our website at www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com. Note that there are no dots before or 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. For further details please visit: <https://thriveleisure.co.uk/index.php/activities/move-walking/>

Walking Group

Meets at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month (next dates are 13th and 27th March). Walks are about 5 miles long within a 30 minute radius of Lanchester - lifts provided. For further details please call Helen Thomas on 07712425623 (or email hdbthomas@live.com).

Vintage Tractor Club

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

Lunch Club

The next meeting of the lunch club held at Lynwood House will be the 12th March, 12pm start, all welcome.

History Society

We will be meeting on Friday 1st March, 6.45 for 7.00, for a talk from Richard Pears. The topic will be Harriet Carr (1771-1848), Tyneside artist on the Grand Tour. She is related to Ralph Carr from the Whickham Carr-Ellison family. Then on Friday 5th April, Peter Heatherington is with us talking on 'Penshaw Monument, Myth Legend and Fact'. Come along and join us, they both sound interesting. Community Centre Room 3.

WI

Lanchester WI's next meeting is Monday 4th March at 7.00pm in the Community Centre. Member Diana Williams will be showing us how to

make a decorated Easter basket.

The following meeting is Monday 8th April at 7.00pm in the Community Centre, speaker for the evening is Gordon Henderson telling us about the Roman NHS. New members and visitors are welcome to join us, make new friends and enjoy a chat over tea and biscuits.

Flower Club

The next two meetings are:
Wednesday 28th February - A.G.M. and social
Wednesday 27th March - Demonstration by Heather Curry, her theme "Time for Tea"
Both meetings will be at 1:30pm in the main hall of the Community Centre.

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 12th March at 7.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre small hall. Rachel Richard (B-Lines Officer, Bug Life) will be speaking on "B-Lines and how you can support pollinators". If you'd like more information, please email lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com.

Choral Society

Upcoming concert May 10th: 'Box of Delights-100 years of Stage Musicals'. If this appeals to you, come along and join in. Rehearsals on Fridays 7.15pm, Croft View Halls. For information call David Hughes 01207520427.

City Theatre

'Snake in the Grass', a thriller by Alan Ayckbourn, will be on at The City Theatre, Durham, DH1 3RA from Sunday 21st April until Sat 27th April. Miriam has cared for her dominating father for years until his death, with the help of Alice, a nurse. When her elder sister Annabel returns from Tasmania how do blackmail and murder fit into the equation?

Tickets from Durham Gala box office on 03000266600, or www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk and follow the link for tickets. £8.50 with concessions of £7.50 on Sunday matinee, Monday and Tuesday evenings. Performances Sunday and Saturday matinee only 2.30pm, Monday to Friday 7.30pm.

Lanchester Social Club

2nd March - MARK HOWELLS
9th March - JO KEYLOCK
16th March - LAURA CAIRNS
17th March - SPRING MARKET
23rd March - MARTIN SCOTT
30th March - TERI MAC

Community Centre

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 18th April at 7pm in the upstairs conference room - everyone is welcome. We are appealing for volunteers to join the committee to help in any way they can. We are looking to fill the roles of Treasurer and Secretary. Please come along to a meeting to see how you can help your Community Centre thrive. The committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of every other month at 5.30pm.

World Day of Prayer

Lanchester Methodist Church Wives & Friends Group is hosting a World Day of Prayer service on Wednesday 6th March at 1:30pm. The service has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women living in Palestine. All are welcome to join in prayers for peace and to hear of the experiences of Palestinian Christian women, from three different generations.

World Day of Prayer Coffee

Morning: Saturday 2nd March at 10:00 - noon. Proceeds from the coffee morning at Lanchester Methodist Church will be donated to World Day of Prayer and for projects run by Christian charities at home and abroad.

St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

We have had a great start to the year at St Bede's with many exciting opportunities to kick off the new year. These are just some of the exciting things we have been up to this term.

Year 7 Emmaus Village Retreat

At the start of January, many of Year 7 enjoyed a 2-night residential trip to the Emmaus Village in Allensford. We participated in the 'Lost and Found' retreat and students took part in a variety of activities, social events and prayerful moments that were facilitated by the Youth Ministry Team (YMT). Students loved sharing rooms in the dorms and partaking in making gratefulness bracelets to give to those they're thankful for. We also participated in quizzes, workshops and a game of capture the flag! Bringing the retreat to an end we took part in a Mass led by Fr Tom.

Year 11 Personal Best Day

Later in the month, Year 11 took part in a Personal Best Day. The focus of Year 11 Personal Best Day was 'Career Management Skills' which can be broadly defined as the skills, attributes, attitudes and knowledge that individuals require to manage their career. We were joined by Durham University, Teesside University, Durham Works and New College, Durham to explore how essential career management skills can be employed to enhance transitions into the world of work.

Students in Politics

Lucas Wainwright, a Year 11 student, spent a lot of time campaigning to represent our community in Youth Parliament this month, creating a manifesto and videos to show his vision and dedication. Voting took place from the 29th of January – the 5th February 2024 for any young person aged 11-18. We look forward to learning about the election results and wish Lucas the very best.

Catherine Hammill, Head Teacher



Above top: Lucas Wainwright
Above below: Year 7 students at the Emmaus retreat

Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

Even though January seems to have been a very long month, it is amazing how much we have managed to do during that time. We have been working hard to improve our school environment even further, ensuring that our children really do have the best experience possible. Staff have been very creative in re-designing our reading areas in each of the classrooms as well as ensuring our library is very cosy and welcoming.

We held our first residential this month (we have at least one during every single month this year) to London when we took some of our digital leaders to the Bett Show at the Excel Centre in London. They were, as usual, wonderful ambassadors for our school, and tried out many different products during our time there, as well as demonstrating some resources on various stands. We finished our few days there with a trip to see Mrs Doubtfire in the West End – I don't think any of us had laughed quite as much in a long time! Spending time with digital leaders and staff from our partner school in Birchwood was also valuable.

Our second residential takes place this month when 8 very fortunate children and 2 staff head off to Rajkot, India. This really is a trip of a lifetime for them all. I have utmost respect for the parents allowing their 9-11 year olds to go on such an adventure. However, huge thanks must go to Paul Collingwood who knows one of our co-chairs of governors. Our final day in India coincides with the first day of the third test match in Rajkot and he has given our school tickets for it. That is going to be another incredible experience for them and one they will most certainly never forget!

Jane Davis
Head Teacher



Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

Looking for gentle exercise?

We all know the benefits of being active but sometimes we need a little help to get started.

The Patient Group from Lanchester Medical Centre has been looking for suitable gentle exercise programmes for people who are struggling with their fitness or lacking confidence with exercise and feel traditional gym work would be a bit beyond them.

Although presently nothing is available in the village, the Move Hub at the Abbey Leisure Centre offers an excellent facility for people who would benefit from seated exercise, at minimal cost. (Concessions £17 per month, unlimited sessions each week.) Membership also includes use of the facilities at the Louisa Leisure Centre and the pool at Chester-Le-Street.

The Move Hub is a dedicated room in the Leisure Centre, always staffed and installed with the latest power assisted equipment which is simple to use and offers a safe and comfortable form of exercise with assistance to help you move. The equipment makes exercise accessible to nearly everyone and staff are always on hand to discuss your fitness goals and help you get started.

Exercising regularly can reduce the risks of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure and improve mood.

Improving:

Muscle strength - important for all daily activities

Balance - reduces the risk of falls and injury

Flexibility - helps to reduce the risk of pain and injury

Social wellbeing - the Move Hub supports social interaction with friendly staff on hand and only a small number of users in the room each session. Also, there is a nice cafe by reception for a post exercise treat!

Members of our group have used the equipment regularly and found it to be a very safe and effective way to exercise. For anyone ready to progress beyond the Move Hub, other seated exercise classes are available and are included in the subscription.

More information is available from Abbey Leisure Centre, Durham, DH1 5DQ.

03000 266 443 <https://thriveleisure.co.uk>

email: enquiries-abbey@sport.durham.gov.uk



Lanchester Medical
Centre



Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Primary School

At the beginning of February, we took part in Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week in school. Although we discuss mental health and wellbeing each week in school, we took this week to focus on how to recognise our emotions and how to regulate them. We thought carefully about how positive relationships can improve our mental health and wellbeing. This led us to think of the many qualities a good friend would have and how we can develop these qualities ourselves. Our Year 4 children also presented an assembly to the whole school and their families on Safer Internet Day on how to stay safe when using the internet. We were so proud of them. During half term, the liturgical season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday. On our return to school, in our first Celebration of the Word, we learnt how Jesus went into the desert for 40 days before beginning His special mission for God. We talked about the three important things we do during Lent: we give alms, we fast and we give more time to God in prayer. To do these three things each class is taking turns during Lent to lead a prayer station. This gives all our children an opportunity to spend more time in prayer. We have all made Lenten promises – some to give up something, like chocolate or sweets, and some of us are doing something positive, like helping around our homes. Finally, to fundraise for the local food bank, we are holding an Easter Egg raffle. We are delighted that our children take part in Lenten observances with such enthusiasm.

Our Year 4 had an exciting residential retreat to the Emmaus Youth Village at the very end of February. The children spent this religious retreat thinking about the life of St. Paul and how he changed from Saul of Tarsus to one of Jesus's great followers. The children participated in drama, games, crafts, and lots of other fun activities. They were a delight to take away and a credit to their families and school.

We thank the YMT team for a fabulous time.

Alison Conlin

Acting Head Teacher

The Green School memories

Did you go to the Green School
1975-76?

My name is Rubin Sowerby, and I attended the Green School 1975-76. It was a very memorable time and left a very lasting happy feeling. I travelled from Burnhope; it was exciting and a huge adventure for a small boy.

The headteacher was Mr King, with teachers Mr McDonald, Mr Jefferson, and Mr Cornew. I remember one of my classmates Steven Hall, and he still lives in Lanchester.

If you were there or remember me, please get in touch and let's catch up. Call me on 07986890222.

Hope you too had a wonderful time at the school!

Rubin Sowerby



Community Centre News



We will start with some great news:

We have received a £7,000 grant from the Area Action Partnership to improve the front porch roof, which will be done as soon as the weather improves.

In 2023 we raised £593.00 from selling second-hand books, thank you for this support.

The 'Welcome Space' will be running until the end of March. It is based in the community café and provides a warm area with free hot drinks (and a free soup if needed).

AGM Information:

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 18th April at 7pm - everyone is welcome. The committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of every other month at 5.30pm. We are looking for volunteers to fill the roles of Treasurer and Secretary. We are appealing for volunteers to join the committee to help in any way they can. Please come along to a meeting to see how you can help your Community Centre thrive.

Other ways to help:

Pick up a loose change box from reception, fill it and return it to the centre.

Give your support by becoming a 'Friend' for just £24 a year (or spread that out with a standing order of £2 a month).

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.

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!

'Lanchester Community Centre' or check out our website - <https://lanchestercc.co.uk/> Scan the QR code for our website.

Glad tidings, Mrs Gladstone... (cover photograph)

The Lanchester community has paid tribute to the hard work and tireless effort of a dedicated lady.

Jill Gladstone has given many years of faithful service to the people of the village and surrounding areas. Jill has been involved in playgroup, youth group, a childminding group, and the British Lung Foundation, where she supported Breath Easy, a group for people suffering from lung disease.

Professionally, Jill was a social worker specialising in supporting under 5s. She came to live in Lanchester in 1970 and stayed here for almost two decades, until husband Mick's job took them to Croydon.

The village welcomed the Gladstones back after their time in Croydon, and they have lived here happily since, with Jill a constant support to Mick in his role as Chair

of Lanchester Partnerships, for 20 years.

With a passion for supporting people and projects in her community, Jill has been at the centre of many projects, always supporting and offering encouragement to others working to improve services in and around Lanchester. Since 2015, she has been an active member of Lanchester Medical Centre's Patient Participation Group, ever since it became a contractual requirement of all practices to have such groups. After nine years of hard work, she is now stepping down from this group, and her knowledge and thoughtfulness for others will be sorely missed.

Nancye Carr

Front cover photo: Jill presented with a rose from the staff at Lanchester Medical Centre and her friends at the Patient Group.

Thursday Club

We had a very entertaining and amusing reminder of many of our North East language idioms. Our guest was Mr Eric Gasgill, a genuine Lanchester authority on the subject.

He reminded us of our everyday choice of expressive words, even though many are not in general use. For example: 'hunkers' means crouching down, as the miners did when working.

'Gadgie' is a bloke-generally older.

'netty' is an outside earth closet.

'checky' for a chequered material.

We don't see many 'snecks' but they are still found on gates, when lifted the gate will open; or could it

be your nose?

Other words could have more than one meaning for example 'fond', an endearing greeting or someone not 'all there'!

Maybe you have your own favourites!

We all sang out to the chorus of the Lambton Worm while Eric recited the verse. About 30 ladies braved the cold weather to experience this super episode of our Thursday club and had a good chatter also. **Jan Vasey**



Above: Eric Gasgill

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Email: daveyjamesuk@yahoo.com

Lanchester Parish Council

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

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 12 December – approved.

Police Reports – The PACT report for December was received. The Clerk to check the figures in the report are for Lanchester area only.

Correspondence

Letter – Lanchester Choral Society - Members considered the letter of thanks from the Choral Society following receipt of their recent donation - that the letter be received.

Royal Garden Party 2024 - Members considered nominations for the Garden Party draw for the County. Details of the Garden Party are still to be released - Councillor Keith Harrison and guest be nominated.

County Durham Association of Local Councils - The nominations for President were considered - members agreed to not take a vote on either nomination.

Durham County Councillor – An update was received on:

Flood – The County Councillors are continuing to work closely with Durham County Council regarding the recent flood.

Greencroft Forest Park – The consultants are now working on a formal consultation. The Parish Council should be informed when this is available.

Karbon Homes – County Councillors have had a meeting with Karbon Homes recently regarding repairs/maintenance of their buildings.

Community Centre – The County Councillors were able to offer funding towards new windows at the Community Centre.

Planning – The County Councillors are still trying to help progress leases for the Solar Planet Project, Grass Cutting and the Coffee Van at Malton.

Budgets 2024/25 - that contingencies are increased from £1000 to £2000 because of the increase in inflation and that the proposed budget for 2024/25 be approved.

Precept Report 2024/25 – It was agreed that the precept be set at £77,043.58 for 2024/24 and the precept requirement be forwarded to the County Council

Financial report – approved.

Accounts for Payment – approved.

Lanchester Bowling Club

A Secretary's Tale

No organisation runs itself. All need people who are willing to give their time and energy to ensure continued success and survival. We are lucky in that we have a large group of people, not just those on the committee, who willingly volunteer to help run events, maintain our facilities, and generally keep the club functioning. The glue holding these people together is club secretary - Richard Hall. This is his tale.

"My 2023 in bowls was a rather strange and, in parts, surprising one.

This was going to be just my second season in outdoor bowls, and I was looking forward to it, having thought about what I wanted to achieve: perhaps win a trophy or two (after all I'd managed to get to two semis in my first year), play for the club in County and league competitions, and play regularly in league games. All good, achievable objectives - or so I thought!

The season started reasonably well. Come May, however, we began to struggle to raise teams at times - illness, injuries and holidays all took their toll. This resulted in me being made skip for the first time and I soon realised how different the role was from my normal position of lead.

At this time my career took another turn! Stuart, our secretary at the time, took ill and needed to step down. Needing a new secretary, I volunteered.

So here I was playing bowls, trying to understand the complexity of my secretary's role (will I ever?) and trying to continue on my road to success.

Throughout May and June I grappled with my new role whilst continuing to play regularly. Things looked rosy. I participated in County and league competitions, sadly losing some tight games like the narrow defeat to past County triples champions, Jarrow West End. Most pleasing were my club competitions which were

going well, even coming back to win from 15-2 down in one of them! In June I also became a Hotshot. Oh yes, success was just around the corner!

But how the mighty fall!

Bowling wise things were pretty good at the beginning of July. David and I reached the N.W. Durham pairs semi and I was playing reasonably well in all games. Then it struck! What exactly I don't know, but some sort of bug attacked me and laid me low. I lost my strength and felt terrible with migraines and pain all over my body.

Bang went my bowls. I just couldn't play throughout August. So, my promising season was turned on its head. All my hopes of a trophy dashed by illness.

On the bright side though, Stuart is well on his way to being fully fit, and I've received so much help from people in my secretary's role. I'm grateful to all our members and look forward to next year with renewed optimism."

Bob Cuthbertson

Below: Richard Hall



Wednesday 13th March from 3.15pm - 5.45pm

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Lanchester Orchard's Group Wassailing Event - 13th January 2024

The annual wassailing event took place on a mostly sunny Saturday morning

early in January. It had been very wet for several months as many of you know, and despite it being a little 'squelchy' underfoot, many members from all age groups of the Lanchester Orchard group, and several musicians, assembled for our annual wassailing event.

For those of you that do not know what wassail is, it can briefly be described as the blessing of the fruit trees in the hope that they will provide a good harvest in the autumn. It involves making lots of noise by clashing pots and pans to chase away bad spirits and the playing and singing of songs to waken up the trees ready for the spring, and we certainly followed tradition and made lots of noise!

Part of the tradition involves placing cider-soaked bread into the trees to aid the blessings, and drinking warm mulled cider and generally having a good time, which we did! Led by our own Green Person, we moved from tree to tree, accompanied by music, singing, clanging pots and reading poetry to bless the trees in the orchard, and generally having a wonderful time!

It was a thoroughly enjoyable morning and hopefully we will reap the rewards in the autumn with a bountiful harvest of fruit!

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

Facebook users may like to search for, and like, our newly setup page, Lanchester Community Orchard, for more information.

Lynn Hedley



Monday Walking Group is one year old!

Our Lanchester walkers were out celebrating 1 year since the walk began. It's been lovely to see the group grow over the year and to see so many people become regular walkers.

Thank you to all the participants supporting the group, and to the three walk leaders, Chris, Claire and Noel who live in the village.

We would love to attract new walkers and if you would like to join the group, they meet every Monday at 1pm at the Lanchester War Memorial, Village Green. We walk for about 90 minutes and do about 3.5 miles.

No booking is required and for more information contact: <https://thriveleisure.co.uk/index.php/activities/move-walking/>

Noel Harrison

Below: The Monday Walking Group on their anniversary walk.



Cricket News

The launch of the book setting out the fifty-year history of the Cricket Club was held on Saturday 27th January. There was a very good turnout with over half the stock of books being snapped up.

The 250 page book looks great and is good value at £12.50 with a foreword by New Zealand International cricketer, Scott Styris. The author, Andrew McConnell, has uncovered some little known facts on the previous history of the club which should be of general interest to people.

It was great to see many people in the club who haven't been for some time and lovely to see them getting reacquainted with each other and seeing the work done in the club. Andy was all too pleased to sign each copy and chat to each customer, whilst photographs used in the book were displayed on a large screen. Three days after the event, the number of remaining books left for sale were down to just four, so if anyone is interested in making a purchase, please contact Andy on 07952546694 or email mcconnellaj63@gmail.com and if numbers suffice, it may be possible to make a second print run.

A reminder that we will be holding a 50th anniversary party on Saturday 16th March at The Derwent Manor. Starts at 7pm finishing at midnight. A few tickets are still available at £40, and you get a drink on entry, 3 course meal, disco and guest speaker. Contact Stuart McPhail, Neil Graham or Andy McConnell to get your tickets.

Andrew McConnell



Right: The book signing
Above: The cover of the book



**Early morning photograph taken by Bill Stalker, looking east from the village.
Captured are nacreous clouds, or Mother of Pearl clouds.**



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