

# the Village Voice

Issue No 1, Volume 24 Lanchester, January 2024



Lanchester  
celebrates  
Christmas



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## Former Lanchester Paper Boy wins Drag Race UK

Donald Marshall, a former paper boy from Lanchester, has won nationwide fame and acclaim through his alter ego Ginger Johnson.

Last month Ginger Johnson became the winner of the fifth series of RuPaul's Drag Race UK. Donald has described his creation as "a helium balloon in the shape of a woman and her drag as "silly" and "camp."

But to his sister, Marion Park, Donald is "still and always will be my little brother." Marion, who still lives in Lanchester, as do her and Donald's parents Lorna and Don, told the Village Voice she is enormously proud of her "talented and artistic brother."

And it is more than possible that a number of Lanchester residents will recognise themselves if they watch Ginger perform. Donald, 35, who attended St Bede's School, once said in an interview that he had drawn inspiration for Ginger from women he had known during his childhood and teenage years in the village, in the fish and chip shop, Red Cross shop and other businesses.

Marion said: "It is true, he worked in the paper shop, and was also involved with the Red Cross and went into the shop there quite a lot. He was always into performing and was involved in a youth theatre group. He has been based in London for the last ten years or more, but it is

Lanchester where he grew up and still has a lot of friends and where a lot of people still remember him and have been in touch to congratulate him on his success." She added: "I am just so happy for him that he can make a living doing what he loves doing."

**Neil McKay**



Top: Donald's alter ego Ginger Johnson

Above left: Donald in front of a poster advertising his show.

Above right: Donald

## Santa visits the village

In December Santa came to visit the village on more than one form of transport, in addition to his reindeer pulled sledge of course!

### Biking Santas (front cover)

These Biking Santas were in the village raising awareness and funds for Brain Tumour Research, in memory of Adam Forster (son of one of the bikers). He was a farmer in Shotley Bridge and this year is the 10th anniversary of his death.

Every year the bikers can be seen in and around Consett.

Photo: Christine Monaghan

### Santa's Bus (front cover)

Santa and at least one elf visited the village on the top of an open topped bus – looks very cold!

Photo: David Filmer

## Lanchester WI

### Happy New Year from Lanchester WI.

We are a friendly group of women who meet on the first Monday of the month (2nd Monday if it's a bank holiday) in Hall 1 of the Community Centre at 7pm. We have interesting speakers who give us an insight into a wide variety of subjects, we arrange outings and various craft sessions and always enjoy a catch up over a cuppa and cake!

As well as the events that we organise there is a wide-ranging number of events organised by our Head Office in Spennymoor that we can attend, enjoy and meet other WI members.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. You can come along to three meetings before you need to decide whether to join us. If you would rather meet a few members before coming to a meeting we are always happy to arrange this too. Our next meeting is Monday 5th February.

Why not try something new for 2024? Check out our Facebook page 'Lanchester WI' or email [lanchesterwi@talktalk.net](mailto:lanchesterwi@talktalk.net). It will be lovely to see you. **Marie Murphy**





Above top: The band play seasonal pieces  
Above: The appreciative audience

## Lanchester Brass Band Christmas Concert

A week before Christmas, on the evening of Sunday 17th December, All Saints Catholic Church hosted a Christmas Concert by the Lanchester Brass Band and friends.

The carefully selected programme of music and the performance were both first class and very much enjoyed by those attending. We are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful musicians in amongst us. The seasonal pieces were introduced by the Band Conductor, James Draper, and these were interspersed with congregational carols and poems reflecting the season of Advent. James dedicated the concert to the memory of Brenda Craddock, well known in the village and a long-standing supporter of the band. An intermission provided the occasion to meet and greet fellow villagers.

Closing thanks and best wishes for Christmas were given by Fr Charles Ejieji, followed by an encore by the band. Afterwards there were mince pies, ginger and mulled wine, tea and coffee in the Parish Centre.

A voluntary collection raised £300 split equally between Lanchester Brass Band, for its running costs, and CAFOD.

Thank you to the band and friends for a fabulous evening, all who attended, and all who helped stage the event - including the home-made mince pies, mulled and ginger wine!

**Heraldo Biasi**

## Lanchester WI

Lanchester WI celebrated their Christmas meeting on Monday 4th December with 32 members and 1 visitor.

After a warm welcome from President Marie, we started the evening decorating Christmas baubles; there were some lovely designs. Raffle winners were Jennifer Macdonald, Carol Troy, Kathleen Morris, Phyllis Reed, Hilary Taylor, Helen Gardner, June Wallis, Liz Burdon, Julie Leckenby, Judith Collins and Lynne Hodgson.

A delicious buffet provided by members was enjoyed while completing a Christmas quiz.

**Tracey Dobson**



Left: WI members decorating baubles



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## Dear Village...



### **Dear Village Voice,**

Apologies for the lateness of this letter, however I have only just received my Village Voice and thought you might be interested in the attached article from an old book I have entitled Esh Leaves of 1914, recording past histories. I hope it may be of interest.

**John Gall**

*From Esh Leaves – being drafts upon the memory of an Old Parishioner (W.R.Wiggen.) Durham 1914*

*“On the 21st June, 1852, about 4 pm., a rain cloud burst in the upper valley of the Browney during a short but extremely violent thunderstorm, which killed a young horse upon Langley West House farm. A dark and pendulous cloud was observed to be descending with unusual rapidity upon Humber Hill. Its shape was like an inverted beehive, and simultaneously with a terrific explosion of thunder and lightning, it appeared to burst into fragments. Then came a veritable deluge of water on the southern slope of the hill, carrying much soil from several fields in its descent to the Browney, down which came a rush of water like a tidal wave, ten feet in height, drowning some sheep and numbers of rabbits, levelling down fields of newly sown turnips, flooding Wallnook Mill, and the neighbouring houses to the depth of several feet with only a few minutes warning, and subsiding again to nearly its old level in little over an hour, but the fine soil it had carried in suspension was deposited thickly in the buildings it had invaded. A mural tablet records its height at the Mill.”*

## Remembering...

### **Remembering John Williams**



John Williams died suddenly on 20th December 2023 aged 81. Although spending much of his time in the US, he passed away in his beloved Lanchester the day after flying over for Christmas.

Hailing from South Shields, John moved to Lanchester in 1983 with Gillian and his three sons, Christopher, Michael and Roger, after relocating back to the North East from Berkshire. He immediately felt at home here, quickly making many

friends and getting involved in the community by joining the Lanchester Lions. Amongst book sales, firework displays and Christmas collections, his favourite duty was donning a red coat and becoming Santa, distributing presents to the residents of Lynwood House Care Home, children at Lanchester Primary School as well as visiting the pubs in costume.

A regular at All Saints Church and the Queen's Head, John and Gillian lived in Lanchester until 1991, when they moved to Slaley, Northumberland. They returned in 2003 so they could be back amongst their friends when Gillian was ill, and she passed away in the same year.

John remarried Karen in Lanchester at All Saints Church and began splitting his time between Florida (and most recently Pittsburgh) and the village. He always loved coming back to catch up with friends and have his Sunday pint in the social club, and it's fitting he was back in Lanchester when he died.

Thank you to all the letters, cards and messages we've received – it's been comforting to know just how much he was loved by so many.

**The Williams family**

### **Remembering Jean Hockaday**

The funeral of my wife was held at Lanchester Methodist Church on 14th December 2023.

The family were overwhelmed by the full church.

I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support over the last few weeks. I would particularly like to thank the District Nurses, Macmillan Nurses, and Marie Curie Nurses for their excellent care while Jean was at home.

I would also like to thank the Willow Burn Hospice where Jean died on 21st November 2023 for their care, not only for Jean, but also for the family.

The collection at the funeral was for the hospice and I would like to thank all who attended the funeral for their generosity as £611 was donated.

**Jeff Hockaday and family**



## Cricket - Hall of Fame

### Andrew McConnell

Andy was a junior player from the establishment of the club, playing in several successful junior teams of the late 70s and at the same time scoring for senior sides. After a spell at Annfield Plain, Andy returned to the club in 2006. He became heavily involved with the running of the junior teams, and a key playing member of the second and third teams, captaining the thirds for seven years culminating in winning the NEPL third team knockout trophy. Supported by wife Jacqui, Andy as a Committee Member and Vice Chairman has contributed financially to the club, helped with the bar and undertaken many administrative tasks as well as compiling the history of the club.

### Jeff Wilkinson

A Founder Member and playing all-rounder, Jeff supported and helped the club in many ways. He was a key part of the original building works, sourcing or scrounging materials from many sources including the former Maiden Law Hospital. This help was to continue for many years as only recently Jeff was to be seen painting the club. He was a long serving committee member and held senior posts including Fixture Secretary and Treasurer.

### Peter Thomas

A regular player in the early days of the club Peter kept wicket and was also known for his skilful batting. He is also remembered for his many years as an excellent Club Treasurer and very regular and active social member. He was supported by his wife Joyce and actively encouraged son David to play as a junior and later to become involved with the club management as Secretary.

### Joy Wingfield

Since 2003, when her son Darren, started playing as a junior, Joy has actively supported the club and helped husband Jeff with his many tasks. During the beer festivals Joy was an ever present, preparing lists of attendees, checking tickets, selling drink tokens and providing help to ensure the events ran smoothly. Her 'mix ups' consisting of a variety of sweets were legendary.

### Bob Cooper

For over 20 years Bob was an ever present in the club. He helped to organise club functions, with his quizzes being popular. Bob, with wife Irene, enthusiastically embraced many social events especially if fancy dress was required and also helped to raise money for local charities. He held the position of Treasurer in addition to spending many years on the Management Committee and helping with the bar.

### Andrew McConnell

## STOP PRESS

### Stop press: Proposed Greencroft Forest – update

The developers of the proposed Greencroft Forest have produced a plan to incorporate a tourist development within the forest. This would include up to 150 lodges and associated infrastructure and would be designed to attract tourists to County Durham. Further details are on [www.greencroftforestpark.co.uk](http://www.greencroftforestpark.co.uk). Comments go back to the developer at this stage as no formal planning application has been made.

**More details in future Village Voices.**

## Ladies who lunch

Our Christmas outing of 2023 was supposed to be at the Derwent Manor but unfortunately atrocious weather conditions persuaded us to put safety first and our reservation was cancelled - we will go and give them a visit in the New Year.

Where to go?

The Duke of Wellington in Durham is a most welcoming, hospitable establishment - they had availability, and we could get there - so off we went.

Well, they were very welcoming, the fires were burning brightly and although it was too late to avail ourselves of their Christmas menu, we were soon perusing the choices on offer - light bites, a set menu - 2 course for £9.79 and 3 course for £11.79 and the main menu.

We sampled grilled sea bass served with glazed baby potatoes, asparagus and a bearnaise sauce; chargrilled chicken breast served with seasoned chips and garden peas; mac and cheese served with garlic bread slices and topped with crushed tortilla chips and onions; sausage and mash; premium thick cut gammon steak served with chips, garden peas, grilled tomato and egg/pineapple and gobi dhansak curry served with steamed coriander rice - a vegan dish. Desserts were Eton mess, sticky toffee pudding with ice cream and caramel apple crumble and custard. Lovely lattes with smarties to follow.

What a lovely 'last minute' choice.

A very enjoyable occasion - warm and cosy venue, welcoming staff, excellent food, perfect companions, what a good start to the Christmas season!

***Wishing you all a wonderful New Year full of joy and lots of sociable mealtime occasions.***

## The Gourmet Girls



## King's Head Quiz

January marks the second anniversary of Derek Turnbull beginning a stint as quizmaster at The King's Head, Lanchester.

And in the two years he has become a huge hit with regulars and staff through his quirky presentation, outgoing personality, and variety of questions. So much so that there is invariably a scramble for tables on Tuesday evenings when Derek hosts his weekly quiz.

Yet Derek only came to the King's Head by following a staff member - who has since left - when she came from a pub in Winlaton Mill, Gateshead.

"I was asked by a girl called Rebecca when she

came here if I would put on a quiz. I love it here now and all the regulars are great. My wife Beryl comes with me, and they have all made her welcome too."

Derek hosted a Christmas quiz on December 12 after which he took a five week break, resuming in the middle of this month. "I don't make it too serious; it is about having fun. We have general knowledge, a music round and a card bingo game. So long as people enjoy the night, I will keep on doing it," he added.

**Neil McKay**



Above right: L to R Julie Sheldon, Derek Turnbull, Lestrine Kelly, Neil McKay  
Right: L to R Doreen Callaway, Derek Turnbull, Angela Main, Annice Casson.





## Poppy's walks

Good day readers and festive greetings to all my canine companions.

The walk this month lasts two hours so it is perfect for burning off the calories the humans will have consumed. As you know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale terrier who enjoys

sharing with readers the walks I lead my humans on.

Starting on the village green, which always looks splendid at this time of year, we proceed up Station Road and turn right along the Lanchester Valley railway walk in the direction of Hurbuck.

In fact, this walk takes us all the way along the line to Hurbuck farm, a distance of around two miles and a good hour's walk.

When we reach Hurbuck there is a sign warning that we must be kept on our leads. I don't mind this because on the way along the railway path I am given free rein to run around, unless we encounter any horses, in which case I am put back on my lead.

At Hurbuck, instead of continuing on the path towards Knitsley we turn right at a gate with a funny sort of metal handle on the top which the human always makes sure is fastened again after we have passed through.

This takes us on a path alongside two fields where I am again able to let off steam if there are no livestock in the fields. At the end of

the second field, we turn right through another gate which again we make sure is closed behind us. We then turn left, walk across a long straight path used as a bridle way I think, and then walk through some woods on a marked footpath. This is known as a Saints Trail. I know this because it says so on a sign on a gate we pass.

We keep walking and reach some farm buildings which are known as Low Meadows. We walk past them and across a bridge which takes us over a stream known as Smallhope Burn. After crossing the burn, we could go straight ahead through a gate to the left of a cattle grid and this path would soon take us onto Kitswell Road and back into Lanchester.

But I prefer to turn right just before the cattle grid along a small track and across not one, nor two but THREE stiles and two fields. This leads us back onto the railway path we left earlier. We turn left and follow the path back to Lanchester.

As I said before, the walk lasts about two hours and is well worth the effort. Whether my humans agree, well you would have to ask them.



Poppy with her "human" - Neil McKay, spotted and photographed by Daryl Taylor

## Monday Art Group

The Monday Art Group ended its year in fine style with a collaborative picture which only revealed itself when the pieces were assembled. Then we had a good lunch together at Ravello's. The jigsaw picture rounded off an enjoyable year of demonstrations by visiting artists and our own members, still life, from life painting, a visit to Brancepeth church to paint on a warm sunny day, and 'free' time to work on our own projects.

We look forward to another enjoyable art programme next year. New members are always welcome.

**For further information contact Jim Rafferty at [tojimrafferty@yahoo.com](mailto:tojimrafferty@yahoo.com)**



## Police Report

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

This month, during the early hours of the morning 3 males have been caught on CCTV trying car door handles in the area. A similar post on Facebook regarding 3 males in the area of Deneside was also reported. No vehicles appear to have been accessed,

footage was uploaded to police systems as intelligence and a crime of interfering with a vehicle was recorded. We encourage residents to ensure no valuables are left in vehicles overnight and they are made secure when left for periods of time. If you see anything suspicious, please call it in on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

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

**PCSO Jonathan Rutherford**

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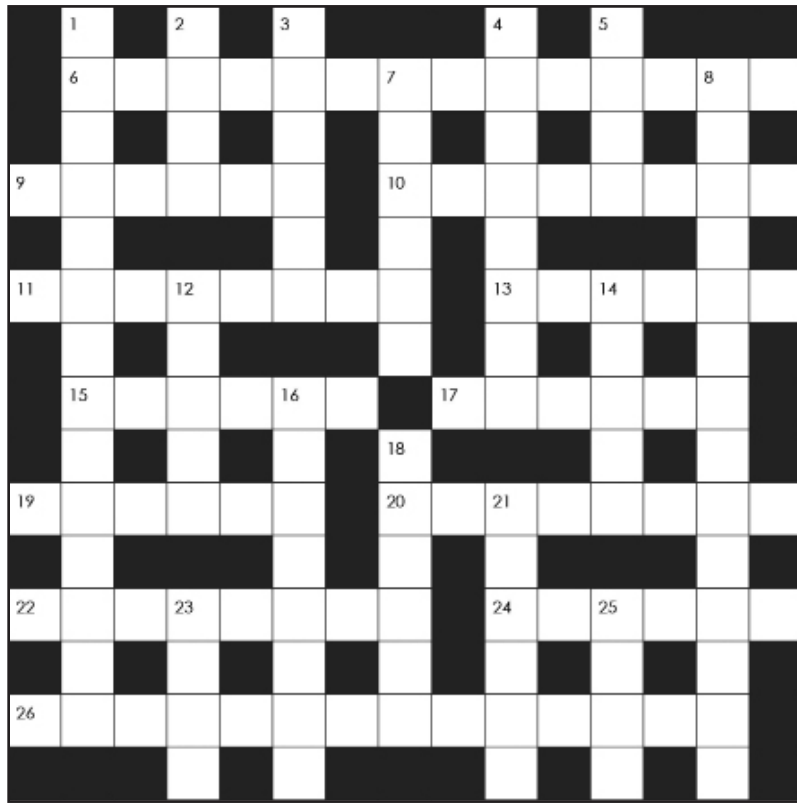
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## CLUES CROSSWORD 193



### Across

6. Bell ringers (14)  
 9. Suddenly abandoned by a lover (6)  
 10. Extremely hungry (8)  
 11. Type of package holiday (3-5)  
 13. Feel an intense dislike for something (6)  
 15. Illuminated naturally (6)  
 17. Birthplace of St. Francis (6)  
 19. Alter ego of Edward Hyde (6)  
 20. Book of the Bible (8)  
 22. Providing moral or intellectual instruction (8)  
 24. Where Geordies might spend a penny (6)  
 26. Band of betrothal (10,4)

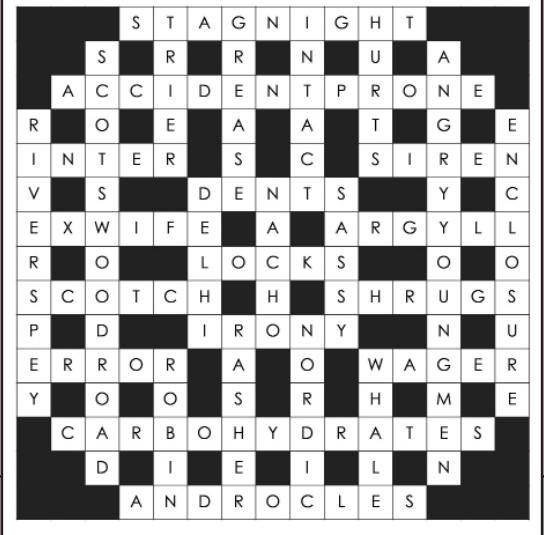
### Down

1. Strong cord in the leg, named after a Greek Warrior (8,6)  
 2. Leave out (4)  
 3. Renowned proponent of non-violent resistance (6)  
 4. Maths rules expressed in symbols (8)  
 5. Little lies (4)  
 7. Out of tune (3-3)  
 8. Structure that once spanned the Tyne at Scotswood (3,5,6)  
 12. Graeme, Consett born opera singer (5)  
 14. Remark intended for the audience but not the cast (5)  
 16. Done at an inappropriate moment (3-5)  
 18. The highest point (6)  
 21. Highly decorated (6)  
 23. Open pie or tart (4)  
 25. Work hard (4)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by **Friday 2nd February 2024** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



### Winner of Crossword 192

There were 18 entries of which 17 were correct.

The winner, drawn out of the hat, was  
**Helen Taylorson.**



### Well done the Royal Mail

This envelope – and the card within – amazingly did reach its intended destination before Christmas Day.

Sent from North Tyneside, recipient Neil McKay said: “Full marks to the Post Office and our local postmen!”

The envelope – which did have a first class stamp attached, read: “Mr and Mrs N McKay, somewhere in Lanchester, Co Durham.

“Sorry Postie – lost his address. Maybe by a Xmas miracle you will find him.”

**Neil McKay**

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## Lanchester Boys Brigade

After a busy November we continued into December with another busy month. We competed in three national competitions: the chess at Hartlepool where we unfortunately lost 5-4; the Masterteam Quiz competition, again at Hartlepool, where we came third by one and a half points and the badminton at Lanchester where we won a closely fought match by winning more sets than Nottingham our competitors. We play another Nottingham team in the next round of the badminton, this time at Nottingham. Our second round of the table tennis competition is against Leeds and is scheduled for mid-January.

On one of our normal Wednesday meetings, we painted the Christmas scene that was attached to the railings at the Methodist Church over the Christmas period (see photo) and the following week we had our Christmas party. Our thanks go to Gemma and Ian who brought along some creepy crawlies (not sure everyone was happy to pet them!) and this was followed by games with hotdogs and beef burgers to finish off.

We are now looking forward to another great session of interesting activities and would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

**Eric Hepplewhite**



Handling the creepy crawlies!



## Art Group Christmas Challenge

The Art Group held a Christmas Challenge where they painted the "Elf on a Shelf". Readers might like to see if they can identify the "Elf on a Shelf"!

Right: The model for the painting  
Below: The group hard at work  
Bottom: Showing their results!



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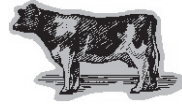
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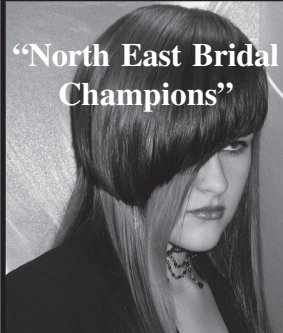
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## Wildlife notes

### Strange Screaming heard?

Not easily observed, frequently controversial in popularity; that'll be the fox. Whatever your stance, it is difficult to avoid respecting this red 'character', a native of our countryside and towns. Sometimes referred to as 'Reynard', a hero of medieval animal tales. These tales connected a shared human/fox weakness of character:- sly, self-seeking and amoral, but deserving respect for an artful cunning by which crafty critters survive (brains over brawn). This has perhaps contributed to the largest natural distribution of any land mammal (besides us).

They've spread into urban areas since the 1930s. The urban population density is high. Fox populations are self-regulating, with food and territory availability limiting them. Humans have coincidentally provided 'localised' areas of plentiful food via farming, field sports and rubbish tips. Foxes' immune systems have adapted over time to allow them to eat rotting food, aiding survival in towns, and allowing caching of excess food for later. Not the only mammal to kill more than they immediately require with a view to returning to feast later, they are one of the best at digesting putrid morsels. They also vary their diet (including invertebrates-fruit-carrion).

They are part of the dog family. In the mating season, December-February, the vixen (female) will 'scream' to alert the dog (male) where she is. Foxes communicate via a range of vocalisations; use scent to 'message' each other and glands on their feet lay a trail to follow. Family groups of a few related adults occur, but during tough times, a single male and female may struggle to raise cubs. They use 'earths' dug into the ground, sometimes modifying holes made by other animals. Cubs peak birth period is mid-March, they venture out after about 4 weeks. Three years is a good age, but up to nine years was recorded in an urban setting.

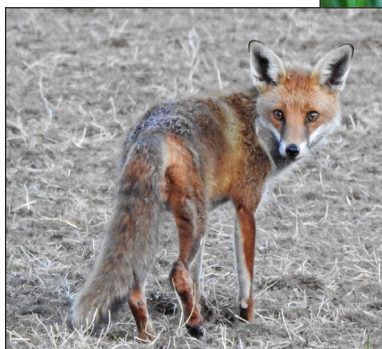
**From our Wildlife Correspondent.**



**Photography: Dave Sumpton**

Left: Fox in winter

Top & above: Fox cubs

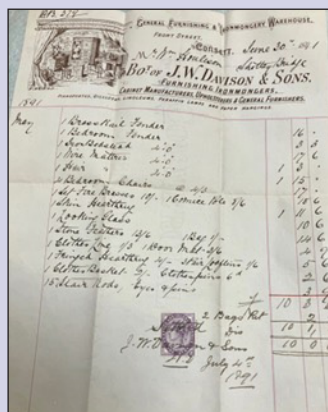


## History Society

### The History Society met on Friday 5th January for our annual "Show and Tell" event.

15 of us brought items which we thought would interest the members. The first out of the blocks was a pair of black with white piping bathing suits. The ones you will all remember from early seaside postcards when bathers entered the water from changing vans reversed into the shallows. Another item was a 1966 Football World cup programme which had space for personally recording team player details, the game results, and other interesting facts. We heard a fascinating story about an incident in India in 1946 involving some RAF personnel who challenged orders which asked them to drill in woolly blue uniform rather than Khakis.

**Marian Morrison**



Top left: An 1891 invoice from J. W. Davison of Consett.

Right top & bottom: A couple of handmade items from a member's family collection

Left bottom: Quiz question: What's this tool?

The tool is clamped to a work bench to make sweeping brooms or a besom of the witches type.

It allows all the wood bristles, often birch twigs, to be held tight around the handle, often hazel, and lashed securely so they form a robust broom.





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**If you would like to apply for a plot please contact Jean Dougherty on 07964 473510.**

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## Paradiso Film Club

11th February – WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING starring Daisy Edgar-Jones (Normal People) and David Strathairn (McMafia, Nomadland). Abandoned by her family, Kya Clark, otherwise known to the townspeople of Barkley Cove as the Marsh Girl, is mysterious and wild. "Where the Crawdads Sing" is a coming-of-age story of a young girl raised by the marshlands of the south in the 1950s. When the town hotshot is found dead, and inexplicably linked to Kya, the Marsh Girl is the prime suspect in his murder case. Based on the book by Delia Owens. Lanchester Community Centre. 7pm quiz, refreshments, raffle and DVD sale. Film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £3, Non-members: £4.

## Lanchester Library

### Library Book Club

On Monday February 20th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing The Red Tent by Anita Diamant. Using a character from the Bible, this novel reveals the traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood. This book has been rescheduled from 2023. Will this book divide opinions? We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

### Thursday Book Club

On Thursday February 15th from 4.00-5.00pm, the group will be reviewing The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle, a bestseller 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 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 February 1st 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 3.30pm. Do you enjoy this word game and want to get on the Triple Word Square? Come along and enjoy the company. *Children's crafts* are available every afternoon and Saturday. Different crafts, ideas and materials are set out in the library for children to be creative, pop along with your children and enjoy.

## Musical Memories

Valentine's Special: join us for romantic music, refreshments and fun activities.

7th February 2024 at 2pm, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group using the ability of music to improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email [lanchesterdfc@gmail.com](mailto: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: January 20th Guide Dogs January 27th Boys' Brigade February 3rd Durham Donkeys February 10th Orchard Group February 17th Church Charities February 24th Susan Hayton March 2nd World Day of Prayer

## Thursday Club

Thursday Club meetings will take place in the Main Hall of the Community Centre at 1.30pm. On Feb 15th Dave Dean will

be giving a talk on 'Myths and Legends'.

## Lanchester Partnership

**Friends of Longovicium** Following the Christmas recess our first meeting for 2024 will be on Thursday 25th January, as usual in the upstairs Conference Room of the Community Centre at 7.30pm. This will be followed by our next meeting on 22nd February, same time, same place. We already have a talk booked for 2024 on the impact of the Romans on the local population, and a Roman exploration day at Ebchester. We have also gained a new member over the Christmas period, so it's looking to be an interesting new year. Further information may be gained from Mrs. M. Williams, tel: 01207 520063, or from Rodney Hawkins, email: [hawkins\\_15@sky.com](mailto:hawkins_15@sky.com). Detailed information on the Friends and our work can be found on our website :- [www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com](http://www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com) (note that there are no dots in 'couk' in our address!)

## 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](http://www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham) or call 03000 262539.

## Walking Group

Meets at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month (next dates are 14th and 28th February). 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](mailto:hdbthomas@live.com)).

## Vintage Tractor Club

Meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in Lanchester Social Club

## Lunch Club

Next meeting of the Lunch Club held at Lynwood House will be 13th February 2024, 12pm start, all welcome.

## History Society

Peter Shaw or one of his colleagues from the History of Consett Steelworks group will talk to the meeting. This may be of interest to non-members so please feel free to come along and join us for the talk, there is a non-member charge. We meet in Room 3 at the Community Centre. There is a door entry system so don't worry if you think you can't get in one of us keeps popping to the door to let folk in. Prompt start 7.00 so come along from 6.45 and have a chat with whoever is already in the room.

## WI

Next meetings, both in the Community Centre at 7pm: February 5th 'The Knicker Lady' March 4th 'The Roman NHS' Please come along and join us!

## Flower Club

Our next meeting in Lanchester Community Centre will be on Wednesday 28th February at 1:30pm. Everyone is welcome, so come along and join us for a relaxing enjoyable afternoon making new friends and rekindling old friendships.

## Lanchester playgroup

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

## Wildlife Group

The next meeting is on Tuesday 13th January at 7.30pm, using Zoom only (no meeting in the Community Centre). Please email [lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com](mailto:lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com) to ask for the Zoom link if you're not in touch already. The speaker will be Ellen Bradley, talking about 'Curlew Action'.

## 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 Fridays 7.15 Croft View Halls. For information call David Hughes 01207520427.

## City Theatre

"There Goes the Bride" a farce by Ray Cooney. February 4th to the 10th. 'A bang on the head produces mayhem on the morning of a society wedding and chaos ensues.' Performances Sun and Sat 2.30, Mon to Fri 7.30pm. Tickets £8.50 (concessions £7.50 on Sun/Mon/Tues) from Durham Gala on 03000266600 or [www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk](http://www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk). Booking recommended following the sell out previous production.

## Willow Burn Pavilion Night

Why don't you join us at the 10 year anniversary of the Pavilion banquet meal to celebrate the forthcoming year of the Dragon. It's a great way to brighten a very dull month. Lots of fun and fabulous prizes supported by Lloyds Bank. Monday 29th January 6.30pm, contact Paul Jackson (07957871106) or Willow Burn direct.

## Lanchester Social Club

23 Feb - Dirty Dancing Meets Grease. An unprecedented live experience exploding with heart pounding music, breathtaking emotion and sensational sexy dancing. Doors open 7.30pm, on stage 8.15pm. Tickets are £6 from the bar. Every Saturday we have a solo singer in the lounge from 9pm.



## St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Here at St Bede's, we are really looking forward to having a small part in the Village Voice magazine and are very grateful for the opportunity. We will be sharing everything we have been up to and all the opportunities we have experienced throughout the month.

We had a fantastic Christmas period before we broke up on the 22nd of December, including trips, celebration assemblies, secret cinemas, and Christmas concerts.

### Christmas Concert

Our students were very busy throughout December preparing for their Christmas Concert with many families, staff and friends attending. Students sang and played an array of festive songs bringing Christmas cheer to all of St Bede's. Well done to everyone who took part; it's fantastic to see how much talent we have at St Bede's.

### Secret Cinema

In the last week of term, we kicked off our secret cinema, where students were selected to enjoy an afternoon of screen time with snacks galore! It was lovely to see our students who had worked so hard enjoying a reward.

### Lane 7 Trip

During the last week of term, Year 11, 12 and 13 all enjoyed a joint trip to Lane 7. They spent the entire day there enjoying games of bowling, pizza, and pop. It was a wonderful day and lovely to see so many of our students enjoying themselves after lots of mock exams this term.

### Celebration Assemblies

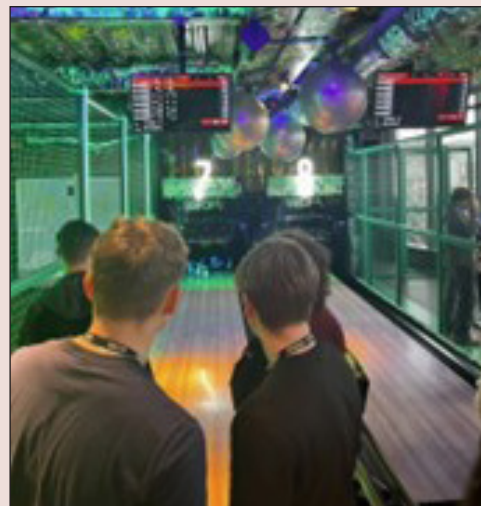
As 2023 drew to close, we wanted to celebrate all the fantastic students we have at St Bede's with a celebration assembly. Students were rewarded for superb attendance, positive attitudes and behaviours, as well as excellence in individual subjects. Students received a wide variety of prizes and treats including boxes of chocolates, bags of sweets and selection boxes.

What an incredible achievement for all involved.

Let's keep up the good work for the New Year!

**Catherine Hammill**

**Head Teacher**



## Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

2023 left with a bang in our school! During the last full week of school, we had 9 performances including Nursery Christmas Story Times, Reception Nativities, KS1 Nativities, Year 3 & 4 Christingle and Carol Service and the Year 5 & 6 Christmas performances. In addition, the choir sang twice at Lynwood House and at Willow Burn.

Nursery and Reception enjoyed their Christmas Party Day; we had performances of 'The Littlest Elf' for our youngest children and New College Performing Arts students performed 'Beauty and the Beast' for our oldest children. The kitchen staff cooked Christmas Dinner for nearly 400 and we also saw Santa Claus cruise around the village in Mrs Davis's roofless car! It was a great week which was then followed in the final two days with 6 Christmas Parties and Carols Around the Tree with hot chocolate, marshmallows, and cream. A great time was had by all! The staff even found time to form a 4-part choir and perform to parents and children!

We also said goodbye to Mrs Karen Grayson who has taken early retirement after working for almost 22 years in our school. She wanted to leave quietly, preferring to enjoy her last few weeks with the children. She will be a miss to us all, but we wish her the very best for a long, happy and very healthy retirement.

We are all looking forward to 2024 and know it is going to be another busy, exciting and successful one. We are expecting an Ofsted inspection which does bring about its own pressures to us all but we are ready to welcome them! We also have imminent residential visits to India and Dubai followed by our ski trip in March and residentials to Madrid and Montreal in the summer.

What is most important though is that we continue to have a school full of happy and enthusiastic children who are a pleasure to be with!

**Mrs Jane Davis, Head Teacher**



Far left: Mrs Davis touring the village with Santa

Left: Choir who performed at Lynwood House and Willow Burn



## Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

### Cold Weather risks

We are at that time of the year where cold weather can become a risk factor.

**Feeling unwell?** If you are in the vulnerable group, it is important to seek medical advice from:

- Pharmacist - can give treatment advice for a range of minor illnesses and tell you if you need to see a doctor.
- GP, Nurse Practitioner- you can have a telephone appointment or face-to-face appointment.
- Dial 111- if you have an urgent medical problem and not sure what to do or need advice.
- Dial 999- for a life-threatening emergency.
- Accident and Emergency (A&E)- for life-threatening emergency

**Keeping warm-** as the weather gets colder, chest infections and increased blood pressure and associated problems are more common. Heat your home to at least 18c. It is best to keep your windows closed at night.

Check your heating, cooking appliances and fire are safe and checked by a registered engineer. There are grants, benefits, and advice available to make your home more energy efficient, improve your heating or help with bills.

**Can't get out-** keep your food cupboard stock up with non-perishable food supplies. Remember to request your prescription medication in plenty of time.

**Going out-** pavements and roads can be slippery, wear footwear with a good grip. You may not need a walking stick/ pole for health reasons but they are a useful aid in bad weather. Remember gloves, a hat, and a scarf around the mouth to protect you from cold air.

**Keep in touch-** with your friends, neighbours, and family. As well as being friendly it is a good way to support each other and ensure the cold weather does not catch us out.

*Find out more about ways to save energy in your home from GOV.UK, or call the government helpline on 0800 444 202.*

*You can also find out more from GOV.UK about benefits and financial support if you're on a low income.*



### People Vulnerable in cold weather people aged 65 and older

- babies and children under the age of 5
- people on a low income (so cannot afford heating)
- people who have a long-term health condition
- people with a disability
- pregnant women
- people who have a mental health condition

### Life-threatening Emergency

- If you think someone is having a heart attack or a stroke
  - Chest pain, breathing difficulties
- Severe bleeding that can't be stopped
  - Loss of consciousness
  - Continually fitting
- Severe allergic reactions
  - Severe burns, scalds

## Free and easy new year's resolutions!

Do your bit for the planet this January and pledge to reduce, reuse and recycle. If you're not sure where to start, take a look at our list and maybe try one new thing each week or month. Every little action really will make a big difference if everyone does something.

### Reduce!

Take a reusable bag to the shops, if you forget, look on the shelves for an empty box to use instead of buying a new bag. Shop local! We have some amazing shops in the village, save on the transport costs and support our small businesses.

Try making a pasta sauce from scratch instead of buying a ready-made jar. It's as simple as frying up some onions and garlic, add a tin of tomatoes and simmer for twenty minutes, throw in some basil and serve.

Grow some basil from seed on your kitchen windowsill instead of buying from the shop, it's really easy and so satisfying knowing you've grown it yourself.

### Reuse!

Cut up greetings cards and make them into cards instead of buying new ones.

Buy second hand instead of new, the Red Cross shop in the village is always well stocked.

Alongside the usual donations for resale, the Red Cross shop takes plastic bags and bubble wrap for wrapping delicate items, ink cartridges, reading and prescription glasses for reuse.

Why not pass on books to Lanchester Community Centre to support this vital community resource. Or pop in and buy your next, pre-loved book from there.

### Recycle!

The Red Cross shop takes batteries for recycling and collects



textiles such as worn out clothing for salvage. Hard plastic toys which can't be sold, and scrap metal are weighed in for cash. Lanchester Hardware also recycle batteries or take them to the supermarket when doing the weekly shop.

Westlands Dental Studio collects dental floss containers, electric toothbrush heads and covers, flossing sticks and interdental brushes, electric flosser nozzles and plastic toothbrushes for recycling.

Diabetic pens and the aerosols in inhalers can be taken to Lanchester Pharmacy for recycling; they will also dispose of old medicines for you.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment collection points can be found at Lanchester EP Primary School in the main entrance and at Lanchester Library.

Clothing can also be put in the collection bin just inside Lanchester EP School grounds and will help raise funds for the school.

Medicine blister packs can be recycled at Superdrug stores with a pharmacy, our nearest are at Chester le Street and Northumberland Street in Newcastle.

If you'd like to find out more about what you can do to reduce your impact on the environment,

why not join The Lanchester Partnership Environment Group. We're on Facebook/Lanchester Partnership Environment Group or contact us through the Partnership's website [www.lanchesterpartnership.org.uk](http://www.lanchesterpartnership.org.uk). We're a small and friendly group, we usually meet every few months on a Sunday evening for a chat over a drink.

**Kath Ivens**

**Lanchester Partnership Environment Group**



## Community Centre News



We would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy 2024 and to thank you for supporting your community centre throughout 2023.

The beginning of a new year is always a time for making resolutions about improving our health and fitness, expanding our interests, learning something new and meeting new friends. Your Community Centre is the ideal place for you to do this, we are local, friendly and have great facilities!

There are lots of activities and events to choose from for all ages, abilities, and interests and all in the heart of our lovely village. In addition to our wide range of established classes and social groups, there are two new classes now available.

### **Sirculation (Fitness class) -**

Mondays 6.30-7.30am (yes, it is am)

Tuesdays 5-6pm

Fridays 6-7pm

### **Mini Tennis**

Mondays 4-5.30pm

**From 2nd January the Community Café have revised their opening times** and will now be open on Saturdays from 9am to 2pm.

Do you have any family occasions or parties planned for 2024? Does your business need a conference/training/meeting room? The Community Centre is a really great venue.

**The office is staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-1.15pm. On Tuesday and Thursdays, it's 9am-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.**

## Musical Memories Christmas Party

What a wonderful afternoon!! Guests were welcomed with mulled wine and settled in to catch up with old friends. There were activities including a wordsearch, Christmas colouring and a Christmas quiz. Then it was time for Christmas songs, a lovely, seasonal Christmas tea, and Christmas carols. Everyone left with a chocolate Santa and a smile on their faces.

Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group which meets once a month. It is run by a group of local volunteers. Music is recognised for its ability to improve brain activity, wellbeing and mood. At Musical Memories we welcome people living with conditions that affect memory and their family and friends.

Our next session is on 7th February at 2pm with a Valentine theme - new members very welcome.



Bill and Pat Bell enjoy a sing-song.



Pat Mannion was the winner of best Christmas outfit

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

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



Jill Gladstone and Pat Rafferty working on the quiz after Christmas refreshments.



Quiz winner Roz Baker in the foreground.

## Thursday Club

On December 14th, 2023, at 12 noon we all congregated at the Kings Head ready to enjoy our Christmas Meal together. We had fun trying to do a 2023 quiz and some of us entered the Christmas headgear competition. It was a most enjoyable occasion - good food, good fun and good company.

Looking forward to more good times ahead during 2024.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy, and enjoyable New Year!

**Olive Simpkins**





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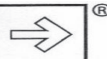
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# Music

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## Lanchester Parish Council

### Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 12 December 2023 at 7.00pm

**Minutes** – Ordinary Meeting 14 November – approved.

**Police Reports** – The PACT report for November was received.

#### Correspondence

- **Letter of thanks** – Sally Laverick

**Resolved** – that the letter be received.

- **Local Govt Boundary Commission** – final recommendations

Councillors were informed that the full report is available at [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/county-durham](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/county-durham)

**Resolved** – that the information be received.

- **Police and Crime Commissioner** - policing priorities and police funding in County Durham and Darlington

PCC Allen is keen for local residents to complete the precept consultation survey:

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/ynuvmf>

**Resolved** - Councillors advised to complete the precept consultation survey individually.

**Lanchester Solar Trail** - Councillors received an update on the project.

**Forestry Commission Woodland Project** - Councillors received an update on the project.

**Kitswell Road side gate access** - Councillors discussed the gate access at Kitswell Road. The Parish Council agreed at the meeting in October 2023 that the gate could remain but that it needed to remain unlocked and accessible to all - the decision for the gate to remain unlocked and accessible to all, still stands.

**Christmas Light Switch on Event** - Councillors were informed that the event had been very well attended. All mulled wine, mince pies and presents had been given out. Lanchester Brass Band and Lanchester Choral Society had provided a great selection of Christmas Carols. It was agreed that a donation be made to Lanchester Brass Band and Lanchester Choral Society.

**Community Emergency Plan** - The Councillors were given an update on the recent meeting with the Civil Contingencies Unit team and the Environment Agency. The Clerk is updating the plan. The investigation of the flood will hopefully be available in the new year.

**Financial report** – approved.

**Accounts for Payment** – approved.

## KoGs Presents – Secret Agents: Mission Christmas!

On Saturday 2nd December at 6pm KoGs opened the doors of Lanchester Methodist Church to take people on a journey to discover the true meaning of Christmas – Agent style!

The evening was a massive success and helped KoGs raise money to go towards keeping the cost of the sessions/trips/activities/residential weekends away to a minimum.

There was lots of fun and laughs had by all and the entertainment included a specially put together choir, a Nativity production like nothing else you've ever seen, a meet and greet with Santa himself, KoGs Christmas games and wrapping up the evening with the superb voice of Toni Hodgson.

We'd also like to give a massive thanks to Julie Burdon, Janet and David Dixon for the lovely homemade soup and to Sheila Walker, Amy Tobin and Alison Fenn for the beautiful sweet treats! All the money raised by our fundraising events goes directly back to our wonderful members for all their hard work! – Once again thank you so much to all who attended the event and gave your support to KoGs.

It really does mean the world to us to be still going (and thriving) after 18 years!

KoGs (Kids of God) is a Christian based youth group that meets in the Methodist Church on Monday evenings.

We offer a range of activities including: 2 course meals, games, messy games, day trips, evening trips, residential weekend trips, crafts, drama, cell sessions and much much more!

We meet at 5pm to 7.30pm, Mondays during school terms.

The cost of the sessions is £3 per person but your first week is free! (All activities and your weekly meal is included)

For more information contact Laura & Peter Cole on

07428500059 / 01207 654291 or email [kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk)

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

We have so much happening at KoGs in 2024! So, if you're looking to get in on our action, come and join us!

We are hitting the road again in May and heading back to Seahouses with 25 of our members for a jam-packed long weekend full of fun, laughs and memory making – we can't wait!

There's also another fundraising event in the works so keep your eyes peeled for more information on that one!

We finished our 2023 with a mega Christmas party followed by a PJ themed movie night the week after where we all stuffed our faces with goodies and hot chocolate and relaxed as we watched The Grinch!

Every year our members receive Christmas gifts from KoGs, 2022 it was personalised water bottles, 2023 we all received KoGs hats!

We are looking forward to all we have planned for 2024!

If you'd like to join in on all our action, contact Laura and/or Pete Cole (details above).

**Laura Cole**



Above L&R & far left: the Secret Agents – mission Christmas

Right: the Christmas party



## Cricket News

We will be holding a 50th anniversary party on Saturday 16th March at The Derwent Manor. Starts at 7pm finishing at midnight. Tickets are available at £40 and you get a drink on entry, 3 course meal, disco and guest speaker. If you want a table of 10, you can have it for the price of 9. Contact Stuart McPhail, Neil Graham or myself to get your tickets.

The book should be ready for the end of the month and may miss this paper being delivered but the launch will be Saturday 27th January, all being well. Copies will be available to collect from the club between 11am and 1pm.

Winter nets are arranged, and new players of all ages are welcome. We would especially like to see girls and under 9s at

our softball sessions, to be held in Croft Hall at 10am every Sunday from 21st January. No need to book a place, just pitch up. Will be £1 to cover costs.

For the cricketers, finding locations has been challenging but every Thursday at 9pm at the Riverside at Chester Le Street has been booked. Firsts and seconds start 11th January and alternate with 3rds and 18s every fortnight. The under 11s, 13s and 15s will net on a Tuesday night at 8.30pm from 23rd January at North Durham Academy. All nets will run until the end of March.

**Andrew McConnell**





## Lanchester Choral Society's Celebration of Christmas

Once again, the village benefitted from a wealth of beautiful Christmas music presented by Lanchester Choral Society, conducted by David Hughes, at their annual charity Christmas concert. Invited guests were Elizabeth Woods, Paul Smith, Ian Gray and Lanchester Male Voice Choir conducted by Peter Bridgewater. The concert in the Methodist church played to a full house and raised £650 for Willow Burn Hospice. The choral society's energetic rendition of "Ding Dong Merrily on High" prepared the large audience for a joyous evening, with the promise of joining in. The following gorgeous melody: "Infant King", showing off the choir's warm vowel tones, was sung with great sensitivity. The programme's variety catered for all tastes including Paul Smith's invigorating solo "Every Valley" and the choir's "And the Glory of the Lord", both from "The Messiah".

Variety continued with the Male Voice Choir accompanied by Noreen Bridgewater who were in great voice for all their songs.

The soloists, Elizabeth, Paul and Ian, performed their solos with vocal subtlety and Elizabeth's "White Christmas" was a match to you know who!

Ian Gray's narrative of a Yorkshire Nativity Tale and Elizabeth's interspersed comments during "Twelve Days of Christmas" were a hoot.

And what about the audience? The screens kept us in touch with the programme and the most helpful transmission of various carol words gave us the opportunity to exercise our lungs and produce a great sound!

The concert concluded with an arrangement of 'O Holy Night' sung by the Choral Society with soloists Elizabeth and Paul, which several commented on as being the highlight of the night.

As always two people barely got a rest: the conductor, David Hughes and the talented accompanist David Williams.

The evening ended with refreshments and there were lots of biscuits and smiling faces behind the hatch. A night well spent. I think I was last out!

**Pam Bygate**



Above: The Choral Society  
Below: The male voice choir



## Tennis News - Good and Bad!

Following a successful 2023 summer season and the grass courts closing for the winter, play moved to the local authority facility behind the Bridge School. Disappointingly, this was not possible due to the dangerous condition of the court surface. After consultation with the county council, it is hoped that the situation will improve in 2024. Junior coaching continued indoors at the Community Centre and both sessions were enjoyed by the participants. The photographs show the groups with their certificates and Christmas jumpers! The new sessions began on 15th January. There are spaces available for the under 8's at 4pm, whilst the older group is fully subscribed. If anyone is interested in the first session, please call Dennis on 07960494442 for details.

Sadly, the club was vandalised between 3rd and 5th January. Although access was not gained into the clubhouse or sheds, the coaching container, outside chairs, and a picnic table were damaged. The police have duly been informed.

Along with roof repairs due to the high winds etc., the club has not had the best of starts to 2024, however, we look forward to the coming year and will continue to provide a strong tennis programme for Lanchester and the surrounding district.

**Dennis Laycock**



## Lanchester Bowling Club - Glittering Prizes

The last day of November and a carpet of pristine snow lies on the village green. Recently turned on, the coloured lights twinkle on the large Christmas tree whilst the white lights arced across the other trees illuminate patches of snow cradled in the otherwise bare boughs. Inside a crowded room in the Kings Head this festive scene is reinforced by the small Christmas tree against the back wall, tinsel on the windows and Christmas music playing on the sound system competes with the cheery voices of members and guests gathered for the annual presentation award dinner.

Environmentally friendly Christmas crackers (no single use plastic, just corny jokes, and paper hats) are snapped, and the Christmas themed bottle ornaments given to the women present are admired. Each year Ann Lee knits or crochets these much-prized gifts. This year she has donated the money covering the costs to Willow Burn, our chosen charity.

Food from the festive menu has been ordered in advance. I'd gone for the two-course option, but wished I'd ordered one of the delicious looking starters when they came. The waiting staff did an admirable job in the busy room and soon my turkey with all the trimmings... oops slipping into Ladies Who Lunch territory!

As hot drinks were served, the main part of the evening got underway. Frank Redfern who has recently been made an honorary member of the club after years of playing for us was on hand to present the trophies. Unfortunately, Bruce Fox, the chief recipient, was unable to attend, but David Friesner (two trophies), Malcolm Laverick and Jimmy Dearden were present to receive theirs (see the October edition of the Voice for the full story). Also present were the recipients of the Hotshots certificates: Adrian Evans (two), Mike Stoddart, John Sanderson, Richard Hall, Jimmy Dearden and David Friesner (see the July edition of the Voice).

The final trophy handed out by Frank was the Alan Wharton Memorial Trophy for most improved player. This year it was jointly won by two players whom have both had good seasons - John Halsey and Richard Hall.

Lanchester Bowling Club can also boast overseas success as Albert Spencer who played for us in 2022 won the Victory Park Bowls club championship and green blazer in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. We are looking forward to Albert playing for us again.

Thanks to the Kings Head for hosting the enjoyable evening, Richard Hall for organising it and of course to Frank Redfern for presenting the awards.

Winning a trophy is difficult enough, defending it is even more so.

Good luck to everyone next season and happy new year.

**Bob Cuthbertson**



Top: Recipients of Hotshot Certificates from l to r: Jimmy Dearden, Adrian Evans, Mike Stoddart, David Friesner, Richard Hall and John Sanderson



Middle left: Trophy winners: Jimmy Dearden, David Friesner, Richard Hall, John Halsey, Malcolm Laverick with Frank Redfern (centre).

Middle right: Frank Redfern with his certificate of honorary membership of Lanchester Bowls Club

Left: Albert Spencer receiving his trophy in South Africa

## Vintage tractors out on Boxing Day

The Lanchester Vintage Tractor club was out again on their Boxing Day run. They started at Newbiggen and this time went through the dairy and out towards the A68 ending up at the Old Mill in Knitsley. It was a beautiful, but very cold, morning.

There were 29 tractors including 12 guests. The club raises money throughout the year and then shares the total raised between Willow Burn Hospice and the Great North Air Ambulance in March of each year. This run raised £390.

Before the tractors set off there was a presentation of the Thomas G Stoker Memorial Trophy for the best tractor. This was presented by his grandson John Michael Wilkinson (helped by his son John Thomas!) to Keith Ross for his 1967 Ford 4000.



Top left: John Michael Wilkinson and his son John Thomas present the award to Keith Ross  
Above: Graeme Dowson on his David Brown tractor followed by Tom Dowson. The David Brown is one of the oldest and slowest tractors on the run. It has no cab so must have been freezing!  
Left: Santa came on the tractor run as well!...This is David Uren driving.

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Please let us know, and we will endeavour to correct the mistake.