

the Village Voice

Issue No 6, Volume 24 Lanchester, June 2024



Beacon lit for D-Day Anniversary

At 9:15pm on June 6th the beacon was lit at Burnhope. This was jointly organised by the Lanchester and Burnhope Parish Councils. This was one of 17 lit across County Durham and hundreds lit in the UK.

D-Day on 6 June 1944 was the largest naval, air and land operation in history, involving many hundreds of thousands of men who had to leave their families at home, not knowing if they would ever return home. Something which it is hoped will never need to take place again.

The heroism of those who landed on the shores of the Normandy beaches represented a beacon of light for the world during a particularly dark period of war.

The beacons across the country recognised this.

The moving ceremony was opened by Keith Harrison, Chair of Lanchester Parish Council and closed by Derek Coates, Chair of Burnhope Parish Council. The piper, John Stafford, played some beautiful and relevant music during the ceremony.

The Boys' Brigade paraded their colours during the whole event.



Above left: The piper and event attendees.

Middle right: John Stafford, Helen Lefoyer, Louis Lefoyer, Logan Smallwood and Eric Hepplewhite.

Middle left: Derek Coates (left) Chair of Burnhope Parish Council and Keith Harrison (right) Chair of Lanchester Parish Council

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The Sun Shone on the Nurses' Spring Fair

On 13 May, the team at Willow Burn opened the hospice doors to welcome the community to the Nurses' Spring Fair.

As well as a range of fundraising tombolas, raffles and garden games, there were a selection of stalls including homemade crafts, Alex Clarke artwork and a Willow Burn pre-loved store. Throughout the day surprises came with appearances from Stitch and a special game of Soak the Chairman (Paul Jackson) and CEO (David Barker). The Willows Café was open with a menu designed especially for the fair and a scone and cake stall. Visitors could cool down with an ice cream from Iced Dreams.

The event raised £2,898, funding 24 hours in the Helen McArdle In-Patient Wing and one full day of daycare in the Sir Tom Cowie Health and Wellbeing Centre. A huge thank you to everyone who came along on the day, volunteered and donated to the tombolas and raffle – events like these wouldn't be possible without the full community and the whole team at the hospice are incredibly grateful.

See you on November 23 for the Nurses' Christmas Fair.

Rachel Quince



Top: Jackie Davison and Alex Oxley

Far Left: Stitch and Isla English

Left: Isla English at the coconut shy

Above: Carol Hagri and Shirley Crammond



Alexander Lettings raise £200 for Willow Burn

All of the team, and their families, at Alexander Sales & Lettings, Lanchester spent their Bank Holiday baking for a highly competitive and much anticipated competition! In the end it was a draw as "We have decided against declaring a winner as all the kids did such a stellar job!" The cakes were sold to the public and £200 raised for Willow Burn Hospice.





Willow Burn Hospice the first in Durham to receive specialist cancer care accreditation

Willow Burn is the first hospice in the county to achieve specialist accreditation for the top level of care it provides to people with cancer. It provides end-of-life and palliative care for people with incurable illnesses. It has been awarded the prestigious Macmillan Quality Environment Mark (MQEM) in recognition of the quality experience cancer patients and their families receive.

Willow Burn Hospice was founded by Valerie Richardson and Irene Mortimer nearly 35 years ago when they identified a gap in end-of-life and palliative care locally, and a day service was set up following financial support from Macmillan Cancer Support.

Paul Jackson, Chair of the hospice, said: "I am thrilled that Willow Burn has not only met but exceeded the level required to attain the Macmillan Quality Environment Mark. I have always been proud of the beautiful, caring environment we have created over the years, but to have that endorsed by Macmillan is really special, particularly as it was the original funder of the hospice over 30 years ago.

"Awards like this aren't possible without the dedication of our staff and volunteers and, of course, Sir Tom Cowie and Helen McArdle CBE, who funded our Health and Wellbeing Centre and Hospice. I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed and continues to contribute to the design of our hospice and the care we provide. We are dedicated to not only maintaining the current environment but improving it and are currently refurbishing some of our service areas."

To achieve the MQEM, care facilities need to prove they:

- are welcome and accessible to all;
- respect the privacy and dignity of all users;
- support the comfort and wellbeing of all users;
- give users choice and control;
- listen to the users' voices.

Assessors of Willow Burn determined: "The hospice comfortably achieved compliance with the MQEM standards, scoring five in many of the requirements during the assessment. The assessors were impressed with the team at Willow Burn Hospice and their innate understanding of the impact that a well-designed and utilised environment can have on patients and their families. Patients and families are clearly at the heart of the service and every effort is made to make them feel at home in a comfortable and non-clinical environment."

Accepting the MQEM on behalf of Willow Burn Hospice is one of Paul's last official duties as Chair of the board ahead of his retirement in November.

Above: Cath Williams, one of the nurses, and Paul Jackson with the MQEM award



Andy gets his OBE

Following our article in the February 2024 edition announcing that Andy Graham had been awarded an OBE in the Kings 2024 New Year's Honours list, we are happy to update that his Investiture took place at Windsor Castle on 22nd May 2024. The ceremony was undertaken by HRH the Prince of Wales, and Andy was accompanied by his wife (Joanne), three children and his mother (who had a double reason to celebrate as it was her birthday). Andy said "It was a very special day, as everyone was very welcoming and generous. The surroundings were very impressive and breathtaking, as we were guided through the fabulous works of art and the history of the castle. We also had the opportunity to meet other honour recipients and listen to the stories behind their awards. It was a very humbling experience and an honour to meet so many people from all walks of life. It was a day and experience that I will never forget."



Crinnions – what next?

By the time you are reading this Lanchester may have a new pub. That was the fevered speculation in the village in mid-June, after workers including window cleaners and flower arrangers were seen outside the premises of what was Crinnions in Front Street.

Crinnions, a popular bar/restaurant, closed its doors in May 2023 and since then the premises have been empty. It had been open as a bar/restaurant for around eleven years and was a family butcher's of the same name for many years before that. Now speculation is rife that the premises will reopen in some form by the end of this month.

All we can add is: Watch this space!

Police Update

Consett Police are aware of the ongoing issue of parking around the primary schools in Lanchester. PCSO Milner is hoping to apply some problem-solving ideas with the help of Lanchester Parish Council and Durham PCC. We know there is general upset with residents regarding the parking issues and PCSO Milner would like some qualitative data, as well as the quantitative data he has been collecting to show to various agencies so an application for funding can be made. PCSO Milner has been collecting information whilst on patrol in Lanchester to help bolster the application. Thoughts include the use of Durham Constabulary's Operation Snap, which allows the public to upload pictures of traffic offences to be reviewed and offenders can be dealt with accordingly. Signs would be placed in the hotspot areas with QR codes that members of the public can scan to upload the images quickly. There are other solutions that are being looked at, but funding is key to allow these solutions to come to fruition. If residents could send any ideas, opinions, general qualms to Connar.milner@durham.police.uk. This is purely for the purposes of collecting data, so please keep emails concise/free of bad language. Regarding parking tickets, they are issued by Durham County Council Parking Wardens, and they can be contacted via the Durham County Council website or by phone.

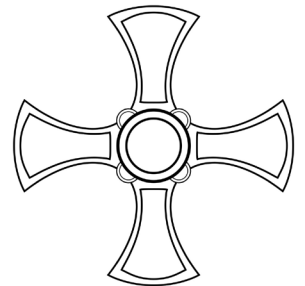
PCSO Connar Milner

Lanchester Local History Society

We met on Friday 10th May for an enlightening session from Dave Shotten on The Banner of St Cuthbert. Clearly some of our visitors were drawn by an embroiderer's insight in the intro from Dave. Opus Anglicanum, some fine needlework from Medieval England, is reflected in the needle work of the St Cuthbert banner. The talk proceeded with a rapid passage through history, the early life of St Cuthbert and his followers. Then the link between the Church and life over time when such wonderful artefacts were subsidised by donations from people wanting the security of having asked God to protect them in some battle or fight they were embarking upon.

We learnt of how the banner was significantly involved in many of the insurgencies of British history. An interesting snippet was that St Cuthbert's cross, symbolic of early Christianity, is symbolic of the Earth and the Sun.

Marian Morrison



Photos: Images of Cross from Open Treasure website or Wikipedia.

Boys' Brigade

Boys' Brigade have had a busy time since Easter from dying T-Shirts to spring crafts and having a Mexican night to visiting Consett Police Station. All were very enjoyable and the results of the t-shirt dying and spring wool crafts were excellent. On the Mexican night we learned more about the country, sampled some of its food and played Pinata where the boys managed to demolish the donkey but all in good humour. The visit to Consett Police Station included trying on different pieces of equipment such as helmets, body tunics and riot shields then looking at and into the cells, having fingerprints taken and lastly inspecting a police van. The local PCSO and his colleagues explained what happens when someone is arrested and how they deal with them. Our thanks go to all at Consett police station for giving of their time and making the visit a memorable one (no one was detained). June looks like another exciting month with a visit to the Bowling Club in the village, First Aid course from the Red Cross, a bike ride and displaying the colours at the lighting of the beacon at Burnhope to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Eric Hepplewhite

*Below: Some of the boys in the police van
Bottom right: In the cell!
Bottom left: Some of the tie dyers*



Red Cross Coffee Morning

Lanchester Red Cross held a very successful Coffee Morning on Wednesday 12th June in the Community Centre, volunteers are seen ready to serve the delicious cakes and tea. Thanks also go to Hanley's Butchers, The Country Basket and the Hardware shops who donated raffle prizes that went down well with winners. Thank you to everyone who makes these events such a success, guests and the volunteer team. £300 was raised after expenses.

Tracey Dobson



LANCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

'Box of Delights'

100 years of Stage Musicals 1920-2020

Lanchester Choral Society, led by David Hughes, their dedicated conductor, and hugely supported by accompanist David Williams, offered an "enchanted evening" of musical delights to a capacity audience. We had before our eyes a beautifully decorated golden box - the Box of Delights - from which the master of ceremonies, Anna Foster of Radio Newcastle, drew the names of composers in her own inimitable style.

The soloists Anna, along with Paul Smith and Ian Gray, were supported by the well-trained choir in excellent form, singing tunes from the last 100 years that few of us would admit to not knowing. The choir showed the ability to sing tender, sotto voce passages contrasting with pulse-racing forte tunes to a responsive audience only too eager to join in with their favourite tunes. The tunes chosen were highlights from musicals of our past such as Cabaret, Phantom, Les Misérables, My Fair Lady and Oliver, conjuring up such memories as to create the odd excusable reverie.

We were treated to interesting snippets of historical facts about composers such as Cole Porter, Ivor Novello and Rodgers and Hammerstein, reminding us of their vast body of work, before allowing us to listen to (and silently perform?) many of their most famous tunes. The pictures on the screens of the stage musicals and films gave a real 'theatre' feeling and reminded us of musicals and films most of us will have seen.

Over coffee and biscuits, we shared memories and appreciations. Anna's solo from Andrew Lloyd Webber gave us our own "Memories", and who could fail to be moved by Paul's performance of "Bring him home" from Les Miserable, or want to wave the flag during the choir's rendition of: "Do you hear the people sing?" As Ian's solo described so well, we have had "Some Enchanted Evening".

Pam Bygate



Top left: Anna Foster
Top right: Appreciative audience
Above: The choir
Left: David Hughes with the choir



**Community
Centre
News**



Summer is coming!

There is always a lot going on at your Community Centre!

Coming Up:

Elvis Tribute Night - 27th July 7pm, tickets £12.50, this includes a meal of chilli jacket potato, tortilla chips and then a yummy pudding. This is a fundraiser for the Centre which is only possible with the much-appreciated support that we are receiving from village businesses: The Spar; Lanchester Country Basket and Hanley and Sons.
An Evening with 'Horrible Histories' Terry Deary - 28th September. Further information soon.
Christmas Fayre - 2nd November

Latest News:

Our In Post lockers are becoming very popular, they are accessible 24hrs for parcel drop off and pickups.

Take Part:

Exercise classes –
Wednesdays, Keep Fit, 7.20pm
Thursdays, 'Groove n Glow', 7.30pm
Saturdays, Pilates, 10.00am
Plus we have a great gym open 7 days a week, join for just £19.50 a month.
Sport –
Fridays, Karate, 4.15pm
Fridays, Table Tennis, 6.00pm

Can you Help?

- Call in and buy a book for 80p
- Donate your loose change, pick up a box from reception.
- Become a 'Friend', with a donation of just £24 a year.
- Follow us on Facebook.
- Volunteer to help with our garden.
- Volunteer to help in the evening.

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

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



All Saints R.C. Church Lanchester

The Pope John Paul II Award

Students from St Bede's sixth form have been presented with an award that commemorates the life of Pope Saint John Paul II and acknowledges their faith and service to their schools, parish, and community. It was wonderful that four young people from Lanchester should be presented with this prestigious award.

Hannah, Matthew, Rosalea, and Harry engaged in a host of faith-based activities and a range of social awareness projects in the parish and community. The students were presented with their awards by Bishop Stephen and are pictured here being congratulated in their home church. Front row Matthew, Rosalea, Hannah, and Harry. Back row Father Anthony, Father Charles, and Deacon Peter.

Father Anthony was visiting from Poland, on his way home to Nigeria to begin a master's degree. We wish him well and maybe he will visit us again in the future.

Lestrine Kelly



SERVING LANCHESTER SINCE 1999

An open invitation to all the people of Lanchester

**Open House and Lanchester Partnership AGM
at the Community Centre**

Morning of Saturday 13th July 2024

As you can also see, the Partnership first started its work in 1999. We are in our 25th year! In 1999 the words "blog" and "webcam" first entered the dictionary. How much the world has changed since then! But we're still here doing things that help to improve and sustain our community in new times.

The Partnership logo includes people, depicted in many different colours, facing outwards with arms outstretched. This is meant to suggest many individuals with different skills and backgrounds working together for the good of the village and its people.

Firstly, we'd like to thank all the amazing people of Lanchester who, over the years, have contributed so generously to an incredible range of activities and projects that have made Lanchester a better place.

Secondly, we are mounting an exhibition of old (and new!) photographs and the like at 10.00 am on Saturday 13th July, in the Community Café at the Community Centre. We have a couple of hours during which anyone can come along and celebrate our work over a cuppa and scone. This is not just for members – it's for everyone! The get together will conclude with the AGM proper at 11.00am. All are welcome.

Finally, we're really interested in your views about what we do. By coming along on 13th July you can tell us about the things you really value and make suggestions about what you might like to see us doing as we enter the coming 25 years.

Partnership Trustee Needed

Mike Gladstone, the founding Chair of the Partnership has decided to leave the trustees after an incredible 25 years of service to the Partnership and the village. We are seeking a replacement trustee. If you are at all interested, please contact us by email at: contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk.

The commitment is five meetings per year.

Thank you



Serving Lanchester
Since 1999

Lanchester WI

May meeting

President Marie welcomed 30 members and 2 new members to the meeting on Monday 13th May and updated us with future events including the summer outing and coffee morning. Raffle winners were Ann Grosvenor, Jennifer Macdonald and Tracey Dobson, prizes were donated by Julie Leckenby and Jennifer Macdonald.

The speaker, Anthony Tate, gave us a very interesting talk about his time in the Household Cavalry. The regiment was formed in 1660 during the reign of Charles 2nd to guard the sovereign; they are a senior regiment but not the oldest and carry out operations in reconnaissance for the Government all over the world. Anthony's last duty was as part of the Queen's Birthday Parade on his horse Darcy. The horses are from Ireland and live in stables in Horse Guards Parade in Kensington and are very well looked after.

The soldier's uniform and equipment are closely inspected and take between 6 & 8 hours to prepare. The uniform includes a chrome helmet with a gilt and enamel badge and horsehair trim, the top of this is called an onion, they also wear a breastplate, jack boots, and carry a sword.

Ann Carr gave the vote of thanks, then refreshments and a catch up with friends was enjoyed.

June meeting

President Marie welcomed 36 members to the June meeting on Monday 3rd June. Information about upcoming events and the summer outing were given out. Raffle winners were Diane Oram, Val Johnson and Shirley Mair. The speaker was introduced, Bernadette Hunt with her talk Forensic Graphology. There are three ways to analyse your writing: movement - how your writing moves across the page, form - how you write, and arrangement - this is individual to you done subconsciously.

Bernadette analyses signatures etc. for criminal cases and needs at least 10 examples to compare. There is always a variation in how you sign your name in width and height of letters, even the pen you use can affect how you write. Members tried to forge Bernadette's signature but fortunately no one was good enough to fool her. Tina Naples gave the vote of thanks then members enjoyed refreshments and a chat with friends.

Tracey Dobson

Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

Pharmacy First

Introduced from 31st January 2024, the Pharmacy First service allows GPs to electronically refer patients directly to pharmacies for minor illness consultations. NHS 111, Urgent Care, and 999 services can all refer to Pharmacy First. You can also self-refer.

This new service is part of a wider expansion of pharmacy services to improve access to healthcare whilst simultaneously reducing pressure on other parts of the NHS.

About the service

Pharmacy First acknowledges the expertise of pharmacists to prescribe medicines and manage minor conditions; this enables members of the public to visit pharmacies, as a first port of call, for help with a range of common minor conditions.

Pharmacists offer advice to patients and supply NHS medicines, where clinically appropriate for:

- Sinusitis – aged 12 years and over
- Sore throat – aged 5 years and over
- Earache (acute otitis media) – aged 1 to 17 years
- Infected insect bite – aged 1 year and over
- Impetigo – aged 1 year and over
- Shingles – aged 18 years and over
- Uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women aged 16 to 64 years.

In the consultations with a pharmacist, people with symptoms suggestive of these seven conditions will be provided with advice and be supplied, where clinically necessary, with a prescription-only treatment under a Patient Group Direction (PGD) or a pharmacy only medicine¹. They will then update your GP health record.

Other recently rolled-out pharmacy services include blood pressure checks for people aged 40 and over, and the initiation and ongoing supply of oral contraception.

If the pharmacy team cannot help with the condition the patient is presenting with, they will be referred to the appropriate healthcare access point, such as a GP surgery or A&E.

In addition to this, patients can continue to be able to access emergency prescription medicines or consultations on other minor conditions where they have been electronically referred to the pharmacy by NHS 111, their GP surgery, or other settings.

It is hoped that, in the future, the service will be expanded to include more conditions.

The Pharmacy First service is an optional service, but over 95% of pharmacies have signed up to offer it.

1. Following a pharmacy consultation, if you require a prescription the normal National Health Service (NHS) prescription charges will apply. If you belong to a group of people entitled to free prescriptions, you will be offered a Private Prescription which incurs a charge, alternatively you can contact the surgery.



The Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

Saturday 18th May was a busy day for the Friends. Some of the group took part in an investigatory dig at a ditched enclosure not far from the village centre. We were hoping to find some evidence of what the feature had been. A few test pits were dug but nothing was found that could identify it. Further investigation needs to be made to try and determine if the enclosure is Iron Age, Celtic or Roman. Or what!

Thankfully it was a lovely day to be outside.

On the same day, others of the Friends took part in an "Explore Roman Ebchester Day", based in the Community Centre there. A large display about the work of the Friends at Longovicium gained much interest, and we had a marvellous opportunity to visit the remains of the Roman bathhouse on display in a private garden, as well as seeing Roman stonework in the fabric of the Parish Church.

Rodney Hawkins
Friends of Longovicium



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Wildlife Notes

Abra Cadabra - the dreaded disappearing act

Wonder where the hirundines are hiding? There's a good question to ask your science teacher. Our skies should be full of Swifts, Swallows and Martins (hirundines). They fly here from Africa to breed over summer and migrate back avoiding winter due to a lack of flying insects to eat. More questions for your school class: "Anyone have a House Martin nest on their house"? "Who has installed a Swift nesting brick box"?

The Wildlife Trusts and RHS campaign "Wild About High Fliers" has been hoping to boost numbers by making our homes and gardens more hirundine homely. Swift and House Martins are on the UK Red list following dramatic declines (60 to 65% of swifts disappearing over 25 years). They nest in eaves of buildings or crevices. They need up to 100,000 flying insects/day.

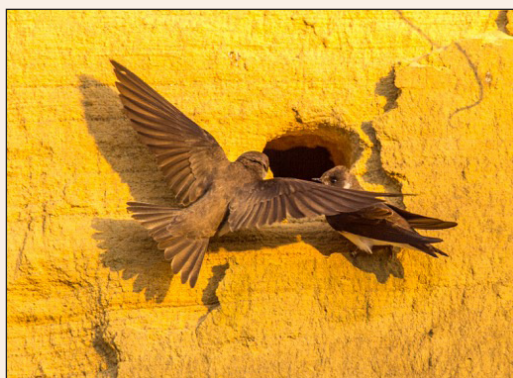
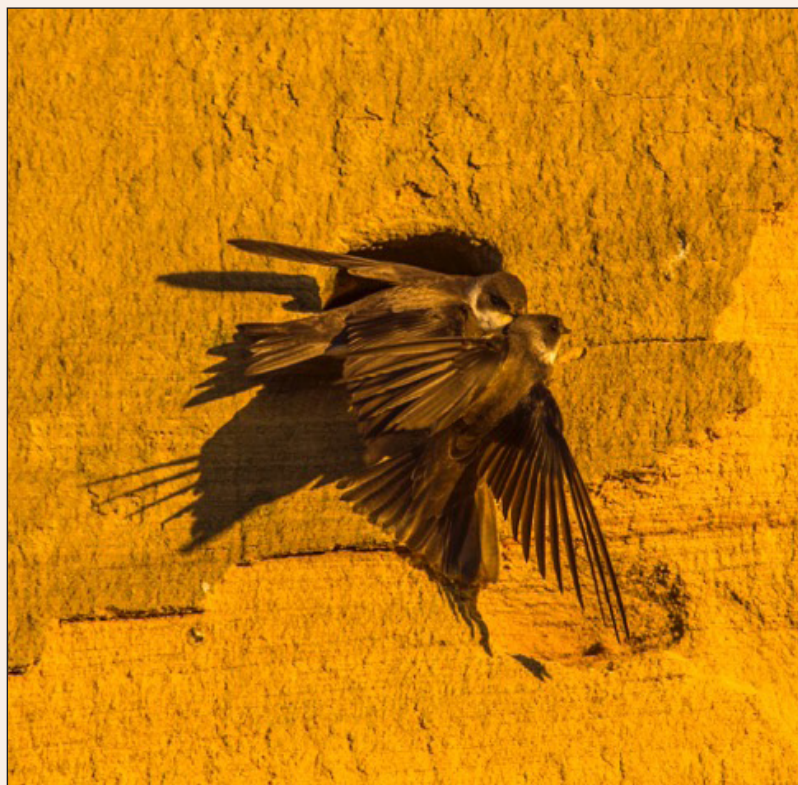
Swallows are friends: their diet includes flies and midges. "Size matters" for Swallow's, research suggests females prefer males with longer tails, their forked tail streamers apparently suggest good genes for her babies to Mrs Swallow!

Swifts migrate about 14,000 miles/year at up to speeds of 70 mph. They arrive here in May and leave after breeding from late July. The only time they ever stop flying is to feed chicks in their nest. They even sleep in-flight, switching off one half of their brain ("unihemispheric slow wave sleep", one half rests other stays active – I'd like that!).

Too tidy? Would you knock a House Martin nest from your eaves to avoid a messy month or two? Will you let a small area of grass grow and wild take hold of part of your garden? Perhaps plant plants that buzz with invertebrates, food for bats and birds. Did you forget to share your space? Humans have been sharing for millennia, what will happen if we stop sharing our space?

The Wild Notes correspondent for the Village Voice is moving elsewhere. Anyone interested in becoming a 'wild writing' individual?

From our wildlife correspondent.



Top: Swallow
Middle: Sand Martin
Bottom: Swallow
Above: Sand Martin



KoGs

Seahouses 2024- We survived!

We've all had an absolutely incredible weekend and have even booked to return in the early bank holiday in May 2025. Our weekend this year consisted of: a scavenger hunt around the town, mini golf, crafts (twig Initials, keyrings, coasters, air dry clay trinket dishes and figures, friendship bracelets, crochet workshop), usual KoGs games, 9 o'clock challenges (drama/dance and performing tasks), bedtime films and lots, lots more.

We were joined by Phil on Monday 13th May as we introduced our Homeless awareness month leading up to our fundraising Sponsored Sleepover that took place on Saturday 18th May – this included our members “sleeping rough” outside the back of the church with limited food and drink and documenting how they are feeling at multiple points during the evening. A HUGE thank you to all who sponsored us for this event! They also had to find ways from “rubbish” to make their own shelters for the evening along with other tasks and challenges. We also had Emma from Crisis join us on 20th May to help answer any questions and provide us with some more information on those famous and non-famous who have also been homeless and where people can turn to for help!

We have two special events to end the school year for our members, one being a trip to the escape rooms at Gateshead calling into McDonalds on the way home and our last night will be full of laughs with our “Surf's Up / Teen Beach” fancy dress themed evening complete with an extra special tea and, of course, a favourite of both our leaders and members – Kevin's Ice Cream Truck from Sweet Dreams.

Our last date for the summer term will be Monday 22nd July and we will return again on Monday 2nd September. If you'd like to give KoGs a go you can find us on a Monday evening (5pm – 7.30pm) at Lanchester Methodist Church during school termtime. 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. 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

Laura Cole



Ladies who lunch

Last time out we were off up the back lanes heading for The Anchor at Whittonstall, not very far away and a very pleasant journey. The whole village is in a lovely spot, positioned on top of the hill with gorgeous views all around and super views from the Anchor itself. Plenty of parking, roomy inside and very welcoming and accommodating staff.

The menu consisted of house specials; Anchor favourites from griddle and grill; homemade stone baked pizzas; sandwiches and snacks; and an amazing choice of 12 delicious homemade pies. We were totally spoilt for choice!!!

But we did choose a starter which was a fish board - smoked salmon, kipper pate, a sea bass fillet (which would have made a main meal), succulent prawns with mixed toast, salad, and Marie Rose sauce.

Mains were pan cooked salmon sat on roasted baby potatoes with a spring onion and chilli butter sauce; carbonara mushrooms - pan fried mushrooms and bacon in Parmesan cream on a toasted farmhouse bloomer; pork, stilton, and walnut homemade pie with chips; mince and onion pie with vegetables and chips.

Desserts were warm ginger sponge with cream; raspberry and white chocolate roulade with cream; apple and cherry crumble with custard.

A silence descended at our table as we started our meal - all of us totally engrossed in the demolition of some seriously good food.

The Anchor - our splendid new find - we ARE going again SOON!!

The Gourmet Girls





Poppy's walks

This month I am going to tell you all about a walk I did at Langley Park, starting from the road outside Diggerland.

As you know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale terrier who enjoys sharing walks I lead my humans on with

you dear readers. Occasionally we travel by car to Langley Park to try out walks there, and this one starts on the road outside Diggerland.

We start off by walking down a footpath which leads to the River Browney - Diggerland is on the left and an industrial estate on the right - and onto a footbridge which crosses the river.

Once we have crossed the footbridge we have a choice of three paths, and we take the one to the left which leads us alongside the river for a couple of hundred yards or so. This is a fascinating walk for dogs as there is an abundance of trees and plants in woods to explore.

After a while the path runs out and we have to turn right through a wood. The map says this is called Hedley's Wood. We carry on along a clearly marked footpath to the top of the wood - a field is on our left - then we come to a farm track. We turn right along the track and eventually end up at an industrial estate. If we were to turn left, there we would approach the main Durham to Lanchester Road but instead we turn right and pass the Pets Crematorium. I always pause there to remember absent friends who are no longer sniffing the undergrowth with me.

By continuing downhill, which we do, we come back to the very

footbridge we crossed some 25 minutes earlier. Some walkers would consider that sufficient and return over the bridge to their cars. But I am made of sterner stuff, and insist my humans are too. So instead, we turn left instead of crossing the river, and walk through more woods before entering a really pleasant wetland area which is full of interesting scents. There are also dog bins there in case nature calls, as well as wooden carved statues to mark the village's mining heritage. It is well worth a visit, if I may say.

We traverse the footpaths on the wetland area before crossing the main road and joining the Lanchester Valley railways path, but walk in the direction away from Lanchester,

We follow this path for a short while before turning right at a crossroad of footpaths and head back towards Langley Park. Then we quickly turn left into an area known as The Rec which is perfect for dogs to run around. Which of course I am more than willing to do. We walk up one path on the left side of The Rec to a football field - at which point the male Human went all misty-eyed and said someone called Sir Bobby Robson would have played there as a child - this meant nothing to me, but we returned down the field at the opposite side to which we had walked and then turned left through a housing estate and back to the railway path. From there it was a short walk back to the car.

The walk took us about 90 minutes, and I would certainly recommend it to you.

Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday 22nd May in Lanchester Community Centre. Our demonstrator was Susan Hall; her theme was "Inspirational Treasures". The floral arrangements were inspirational, so different, some very unusual ideas. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. The arrangements were raffled, and some ladies went home very happy. We continued celebrating our Chairperson Helen Tomlinson's 90th birthday; there was some of the lovely birthday cake left from our previous meeting along with some non-alcoholic wine; we all enjoyed this along with our usual tea and coffee. Another lovely afternoon.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th July 2024 at 1.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator will be Jan Faulkner, her theme "In the Summer". Everyone is welcome, come along and join us. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. It is a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon.

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

Lestrine Kelly



Right: Susan Hall with her floral arrangements

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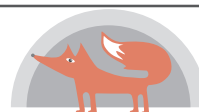
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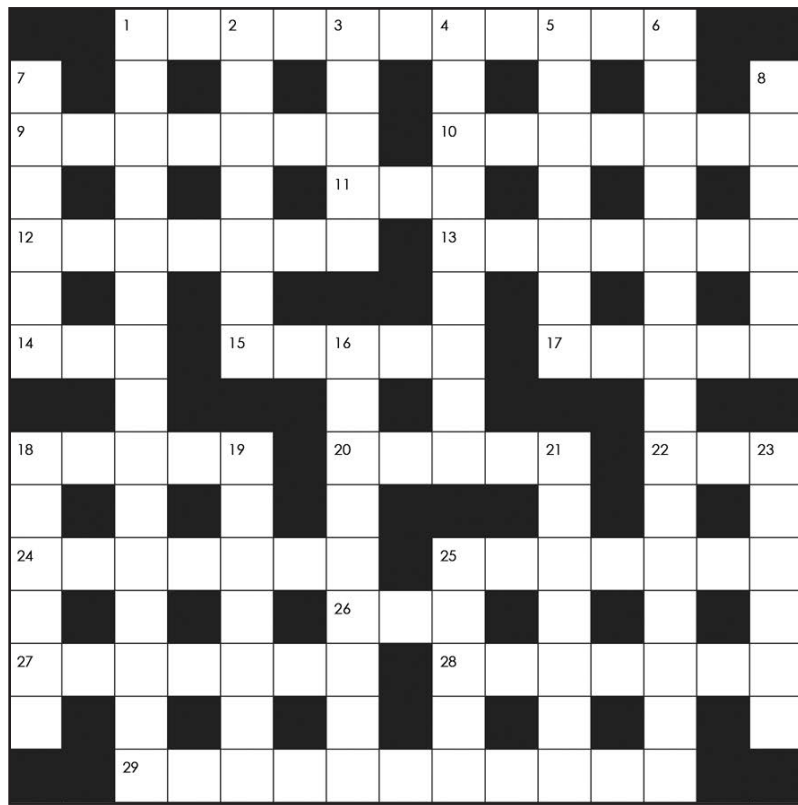
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CLUES CROSSWORD 198



Across

1. 20th century British political ideology (11)
9. Informal way of saying goodbye (7)
10. Army commander (7)
11. She dances on the sand in a Duran Duran hit (3)
12. Fat (7)
13. Became aware of (7)
14. Fish from the Sargasso Sea (3)
15. Surname of Sunderland born Likely Lad (5)
17. Personal record of thoughts (5)
18. Period of darkness (5)
20. Type of reptile (5)
22. Label (3)
24. Departing from usual or accepted standards (7)
25. Made less dense (7)
26. Stitch together (3)
27. Words written in memory of a person (7)
28. Child removed from danger
29. Apples baked under sponge (4, 7)

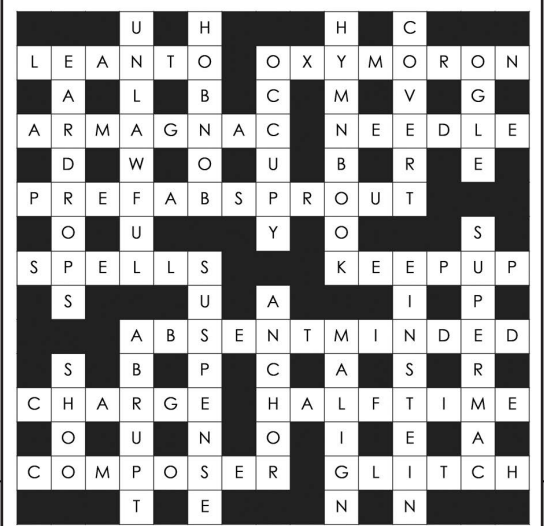
Down

1. Your favourite periodical (3,7,5)
2. Type of simple firework (7)
3. Household task (5)
4. Designed for efficiency and comfort in the workplace (9)
5. Caught fire (7)
6. Consett born whistle blower (4,11)
7. Accidentally drag something over a hard surface (6)
8. Happily (6)
16. Floating warning system used at sea (9)
18. Lowered and raised head in assent (6)
19. Type of bun containing dried fruit (7)
21. The art of paper folding (7)
23. Handy device (6)
25. Type of woollen fabric (5)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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



Solution to Crossword 197

There were 23 entries this month of which 21 were correct.

The winner drawn out of the hat was Mark Temple who wins the £10 prize.

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Dear Village Voice

I moved to Lanchester a year ago and I set about exploring the village and its surroundings. I also wanted to familiarise myself with the public transport system and what it had to offer; so, one day I caught the no 6 bus to Newcastle from the Village Green. One hour and fifty-five minutes later I arrived in Eldon Square! I was horrified. This is not a bus service at all! It is a series of village-to-village short routes strung together, the last of which happens to terminate in Newcastle.

It suddenly dawned on me that all of those facilities I use and enjoy on Tyneside were no longer easily accessible to me. Going to music events, the theatre, art galleries, pubs and restaurants, shops and other Tyneside based services.

I spoke to the driver before getting off to express my shock at the extended journey. He said that he was 15 minutes late due to heavy traffic, but I found that little consolation.

A bus journey that long requires an on-board toilet surely? It made me wonder how other residents accessed Tyneside? It must amount to a lot of excessive car use and its environmental impact. How do young people who do not own a car manage? Employment in Newcastle must be out of the question.

I emailed Councillor Doug Oliver afterwards with my concerns but was not given much hope of change or improvement. I see that he is asking for transport feedback in the May issue of the Village Voice so I would urge anyone who shares my feelings to get in touch with him. Given our proximity to Tyneside a service taking no longer than an hour is a reasonable expectation surely? If there are enough of us perhaps it would carry more influence.

John Dodds

Foxhills Crescent

Dear Village Voice

Over 14 days from 12th to the 25th May this year I ticked off the one item on my bucket list by cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Whilst it was an opportunity to make a dream come true it was also a chance to raise funds for The Alzheimer's Society which is an organisation that is very dear to our family. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the good folk from our village and beyond who sponsored me to complete the challenge. As I write the amount raised for the Alzheimer's Society stands at £1975.

For the statistics fans we covered 1021 miles, climbed a total of 59,400 feet and I sat pedalling on the saddle for a total of 77 hours and 5 minutes (there are good creams I can recommend!) Highlights were cycling over the Severn and Forth Bridges and a brutal climb up "The Lecht" in Scotland. The two weeks were an amazing experience. It reminded me of the beauty of our country and the kind generosity of our folk.

Thank you again for all the support and sponsorship. I include the link below if you would like to support the fundraising.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/mark-grimes-1713713564841>

Again, many thanks.

Mark Grimes



Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 9th April – approved.

Police Reports

Members were updated on the recent PACT report for April.

A pursuit of three quad bikes by Durham Constabulary's RPU team ended in Lanchester. The three bikes were identified as stolen and suspects are under investigation for theft. Farmers are encouraged to secure their farm equipment and if possible, install tracking devices, CCTV, alarms etc. More information on rural crime prevention advice can be provided by Durham Constabulary. A new operation to tackle rural crime has been created: Operation Rural. Officers have increased patrols in rural areas to combat thefts from farms, poaching, livestock worrying and other types of rural crime. Durham Constabulary are working with partner agencies to help educate farmers and rural residents and make it easier for crimes to be investigated where witnesses/CCTV may be few and far between.

Officers of Durham Constabulary attended a business in Lanchester after reports of a break in. There is now an ongoing investigation into the burglary of the business. CCTV enquiries have been made but anyone who may have any information is encouraged to call 101 and quote reference CRI00541415.

PCSO 30136 Milner has been speaking with local residents whilst on foot patrol and carrying out traffic observations in problem areas for speeding/anti-social driving.

PCSO 30136 and 8740 attended a road traffic collision on the A691 towards Consett. Both drivers of the vehicle were not hurt but one driver was dealt with for driving offences.

Officers have attended an address in Lanchester after concerns were raised about a property. Investigations are ongoing after officers found there to be evidence of the cultivation of cannabis.

Correspondence

Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) – annual membership fee – that the membership is renewed at a cost of £229.00.

County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) – annual membership fee – that the membership is renewed at a cost of £647.45.

Letter of thanks – Lanchester Parish Church – received.

Durham County Council – Christmas Lights 2024 – Councillors considered the price received for annual work to the Christmas Lights on the Village Green – agreed that the works are booked at a cost of £1630.65.

Lanchester Partnership – Meeting about the Greencroft Forest Development - To remind members of the meeting.

Partnership Environment Group – Trees for Lanchester – Councillors considered the request to assist the Partnership environment Group in contacting local landowners regarding tree planting – that help in contacting local landowners is given.

Grass Cutting – Members considered the price received for grass cutting for 2024.

Planning application – Application for detached garage with storage on first floor to front of property. Pantiles, Cadger Bank, Lanchester - Councillors were updated on a response the Parish Council have written for this application.

Internal Audit Report 2023/24 – approved.

Insurance Renewal 2024/2025 - Councillors considered the insurance document and premium – that the insurance premium of £975.57 from Clear Councils be accepted.

Financial report – approved.

Accounts for Payment – approved.

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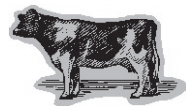
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APOLOGY

The Editorial Team
would like to
apologise for the
late circulation of
this month's edition
due to holiday
commitments.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit
any articles for
the next edition
of the Village
Voice by
**FRIDAY 5th July
2024**

The deadline for
advertisers is
**FRIDAY 5th July
2024**

From your County Councillors

Whilst the national media is understandably focused on the General Election at the moment, as a County Councillor over the last few years, it has been interesting to learn quite how much is done locally and not by central Government from Westminster.

However, as a Councillor I am learning more every day about how much our local authority, Durham County Council, does on behalf of local people – and how they can be improved. Though many residents will most often think of the Council's services through their rubbish or recycling bin, they also provide a number of other key services. Many areas of the country have a District and Unitary Council doing different things – as we did before 2009 in the days of Derwentside and nearby Wear Valley Districts – but now the County Council is the sole port of call for us, and consequently does a vast range of things.

I wrote recently about the costs of children in care, and the value of that. But other services residents rely on the Council for include – but are not limited to – Garden Waste, Street Cleansing, Licensing (such as for pubs, restaurants, and various street activities), Business Services (Business Durham does great work to help support small business with advice), Environmental Health, Taxi Licences, Roads and Highways, Cemeteries, Planning Applications, Parking Tickets, and so much more. For a more detailed list, you can view it here <https://doitonline.durham.gov.uk/MyServices>

You may feel the Council can improve. If you have something to report, or need help with a service, please do visit: <https://doitonline.durham.gov.uk/> Meanwhile, if you have tried to get help from the Council and have a complaint, you can visit the Council on <https://www.durham.gov.uk/> complaints or call on 03000 269 007

However, if you need help accessing a service in the first place, or working out which part of the Council, or if you wish to raise a complaint, you are also welcome to contact me as your Councillor and you are welcome to email me on douglas.oliver@durham.gov.uk. I have worked on countless issues in the last few years from resident complaints about drainage after the storms in the autumn, to planning disputes, to questions about road safety – and that is what I am here for.

Doug Oliver

Thursday Club

Our speaker in May was an enthusiastic representative from the local Donkey Sanctuary.

Ian gave us some laughs and sadly some stories of donkey abuse which means that his door is always open to those donkeys in need of love and attention. The sanctuary has 'shepherds huts' where visitors have firsthand knowledge of the running of the place. They also run sessions for those who love to cuddle animals.


The place runs as a charity and welcomes visitors at any time. They do have several volunteers; as you may well imagine as vets bills alone make the running costs expensive.

You may have seen Ian last Christmas time when he made a visit to Serendipity with his "little donkey".


Ps. Please don't forget: - donkeys do not like carrots!

We then celebrated Olive's birthday with cakes and tea and coffee.


Jan Vasey
Secretary




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**WHAT'S ON -
June / July 2024**

**The Lanchester Community
Orchard Work Sessions**

The Lanchester Community Orchard, located at Margery Flatts, have planned a number of sessions for current and new members as detailed below:
27 June, evening session, starting 6.00pm
13 July, morning session starting 9.30am
18 July, evening session, starting 6.00pm
27 July, afternoon session, starting 1.00pm
These sessions, which last for approximately 90 minutes, take place in a relaxed manner and offer local residents the chance to help develop our community orchard for the benefit of the village and to help towards achieving a sustainable future. New members of all abilities are welcome to attend



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Paradiso Film Club

The film club is closed for the summer but we look forward to seeing you for our 2024/25 programme on 8 September.

Lanchester Library

Library Book Club

On Monday July 23rd at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing 'If we were Villains' by M. L. Rio. I think this might be a Marmite book and will raise a lot of debate. We look forward to seeing you there and hearing the different opinions that make a Book Club.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday July 18th from 4.00-5.00pm, this group will be reviewing Absolution by Patrick Flanery. Goodreads finds it is "a stunning literary debut novel, delivering a devastating and intimate portrait of post apartheid South Africa". Will they agree and find a 'goodread'? 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 July 4th 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. Join the *Children's*

Summer Reading Scheme this holiday and open the world of books...

Borrowbox now has newspapers and magazines, click ePress, look for extra news and comment and find the magazines that fit your lifestyle.

Musical Memories

Join us for music, refreshments and fun activities with a holiday theme on 3rd July at 2pm, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester.

Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group using the ability of music to improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email lanchesterdfc@gmail.com.

Lanchester Methodist Church Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday at the Methodist Church between 10 and 12. If you would like to organise a coffee morning for your organisation, please contact Judith Brown on 521898

Thursday Club

There will be no meeting of the Thursday Club in the Community Centre on July 18th. Instead we will be 'up, up + away' - off out on an away day to Whitley Bay and Boundary Mill.

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th June in the upstairs Conference Room of the Community Centre. More details of our work may be had

from Mrs M. Williams, tel: 01207 520063, or from Rodney Hawkins at hawkins_15@sky.com. To read about Longovicium, see www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com. Note there are no dots in 'couk'.

Wellbeing walk

Every Monday at 1pm on the village green next to the war memorial. Walk lasts up to 90 minutes, all welcome. To book please visit www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham or call 03000 262539.

Vintage Tractor Club

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

Lunch Club

The next lunch held at Lynwood House will be 9th July, 12pm start, all welcome.

History Society

Our July meeting will be Friday 5th at 6.45 for a prompt 7.00 start. Our speaker is David Butler with his talk on 'The Guests of Queen Victoria 1851'. Our August meeting will be on Friday 2nd again at 6.45 for prompt 7.00 start. George Nairn will be entertaining us with a themed selection of picture postcards from the area. Everyone is welcome to join us at the Community Centre and please remember we will have someone on the door to let you in right up to 7.00. Please come a little early so we can get you seated in time for the 7.00 start.

WI

Our next meeting is on Monday July 1st 7.00 pm in the Community Centre. Our speaker is Joan Laverick, Sea Glass - 100 years in the making. Visitors

are always welcome to come along and join us for the evening.

Our August meeting is on Monday 5th Aug 7.00 pm in the Community Centre. The speaker this month is Steve Palmer, the Honey Man. If you would like to come along you will be made welcome.

Lanchester playgroup

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

Wildlife Group

We will recommence our indoor meetings in September and will also be arranging a bat walk for September too. For more information, contact lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com.

Lanchester Hiking Group

Meets at 10am on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month. Walks are about 5 miles long within a 30 minute radius of Lanchester - lifts provided. For further details please call Helen Thomas on 07712425623 (or email hdbthomas@live.com).

City Theatre

The City Theatre Durham, DH1 3RA presents 'NO EXIT', a classic drama by Jean Paul Sartre. August 14th - 17th. Welcome to Hell! On behalf of the management we welcome you and your new companions as we sit back and watch you get acquainted. Tickets available from the Gala Durham box office on 03000266600 or www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk and follow the link for tickets. Performances 7.30 and ticket prices £8.50.

Lanchester Social Club

6th July - Micky Walters
13th July - Ronnie Richmond
20th July - Darren Batey
27th July - Miss Jones

Flower Club

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th July 2024 at 1.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator will be Jan Faulkner, her theme "In the Summer". Everyone is welcome, come along and join us. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. It is a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon.

Red Cross coffee morning

The Red Cross are holding a coffee morning on Wednesday 12th June 10.00 am to 12.00 pm in the small hall in the Community Centre. Raffle and cake stall, please come along to meet friends and support a good cause.

Art group coffee morning

Lanchester Art Group will be holding a coffee morning at the Methodist Church on Saturday June 15th, 10 till 12. As well as tea, coffee and cakes, there will be pictures available to view and buy.

The Community Centre is holding an Elvis evening on Sat 27th July at 7pm which will include a light meal while listening and dancing to the music. Tickets at £12.50 each are available from the Community Centre or the Country Basket greengrocer's shop.

The Argus Singers

A concert by The Argus Singers is to be held on Sunday 14 July 2024 at 2pm in Tudhoe Methodist Church. Tickets which are available at the door are £5 which includes refreshments.

St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

The past month at St Bede's has been very busy but full of incredible opportunities.

Here are just some of the things we have been up to.

Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto

In May, seven students were honoured with a pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto, Scotland, as a reward for their significant contributions to Chaplaincy and community service.

The journey began with a brief stop at Gretna Green before continuing to Carfin.

The group arrived at around 12:30 pm and was warmly welcomed by the Holy Ghost Fathers, who provided lunch for the students and Pontop Partnership Parishioners.

During their visit, students explored the grounds of the Grotto, appreciating the relics of saints, shrines, and the nativity cave. A memorable part of the trip was attending Mass in the Glass Chapel, celebrated by Father John.



GCSE and A Levels

This term has been particularly demanding for many of our students who are diligently revising, studying, and sitting for their GCSE and A Level exams. Their hard work and dedication are commendable, and we want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all these students for their unwavering efforts to achieve the best possible grades.

Fundraising Efforts

The spirit of generosity and community service is thriving at St Bede's, as evidenced by the impressive fundraising activities undertaken by our students this month. Motivated by personal experiences and a desire to support family and friends, students have collectively raised thousands of pounds for various causes. These include funds for cancer research, Great Ormond Street Hospital, and the armed forces. A big well done to all the students who have participated in these noble efforts, showcasing the true spirit of St Bede's through their compassion and activism.

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their achievements and contributions this past month, and we look forward to seeing what they accomplish next!



Catherine Hammill

Head Teacher

Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

We have been very fortunate to have Chelsea, a wonderful assistance dog, come to school every week with Margaret, her owner. We have seen first-hand the wonderful impact Chelsea has on our pupils. This inspired us to have our own school dog who could be in school more often, working alongside Chelsea and Margaret.

So Lee, from School of Dogs, has been training my golden Labrador, Woody, (and me!) for the last two months and is doing a magnificent job. Woody, who is a loud, lively dog at home, is absolutely wonderful in school. Calm, quiet and obedient, he is doing exceptionally well and it is hoped that he will become a qualified school dog by the summer holidays. He has been in assemblies (with over 400 children) and just prior to half-term, accompanied the walking bus. Watch this space for further adventures of Woody and Lanchester EP!

The Walking Bus that we had for the first time during National Walk to School Week was such a huge success that we are continuing to operate it twice per week. Obviously, this has quite an impact on staffing in school so we are keen to secure more volunteers to support our school with this venture. If you would be interested in helping us, just one morning or afternoon per week, please get in touch by emailing: school.office@lanchesterep.net

Parents and carers park at the Kings Head (great thanks must go to the Kings Head for their support) and hand over to the adults who then walk the children to school. We had over 30 children every day during Fun and Fitness Week which is bound to make a difference to traffic in and around school. The children thoroughly enjoyed their walk to and from school, as did the adults. What better way is there to start the day than a lovely walk along the bypass, enjoying the fresh air and sunshine with Woody leading the way!

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



Top: The walking bus
Below: Woody in the assembly

Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Primary School

June is always a busy month at All Saints'. We began the month with 15 of our Year 4 children making their First Holy Communion. We are very proud of them all and the way they had such respect and reverence during their special day. Our thriving Friends of All Saints' group has been very busy organising a Fathers' Day sale and also a very successful Summer Fayre and Raffle in June. It is hard to believe that the group just started this year and has organised so many social and fundraising events already! On behalf of all our children, "Thank You, to you all!"

All our children enjoy "Health Week" in June. We always try to encourage healthy lifestyles at All Saints' but in Health Week we go the extra mile! We have all enjoyed learning how to cook healthily and have tried some new and different sports including curling, wheelchair basketball, baseball and rugby.

We've all taken part in "Relax Kids" to help keep our minds healthy too. The children have also learnt about being safe in the sun and when around water. We have reminders all around school of how to keep healthy in so many ways. The highlight of the week was our whole school trip to the beach. We all thoroughly enjoyed working together to build sandcastles and having games on the beach.

Our Year 6 children have been enjoying their final half term at All Saints' before moving on to secondary school. They have taken part in a football tournament and a tennis afternoon. They are all looking forward to their residential visit to North Yorkshire next month.

What a busy month!

Alison Conlin
Acting Head Teacher

Lanchester Bowling Club

Groundhog Day(s)

Had I been writing this column a year ago I could have saved myself a lot of time and effort by simply cutting, pasting and resubmitting last June's copy. The beginning of last season was characterised by injuries, holidays and bad weather; sadly, this year has been no different. Key players in key positions have had to miss matches and the often torrential rain has caused postponements. As last month's cricket columnist wrote: a case of déjà vu.

That said our players have responded and, unlike some of the clubs we have played, we have managed to field full teams in all our games. Albeit with mixed results.

Although we have had several defeats we have also had some notable results including our Monday team's win against Leadgate and our rinks squads picking up valuable points against Dipton and White-le-Head amongst others.

In the South West Durham League our A team sits undefeated in second place whilst our B team sit in fourth having had a bad defeat to Durham City. Both teams lost good points as Addison Park, which they had both beaten, unfortunately dropped out of the league. Neither of our teams progressed in the cup - our B team losing to last year's winners, Sherburn A.

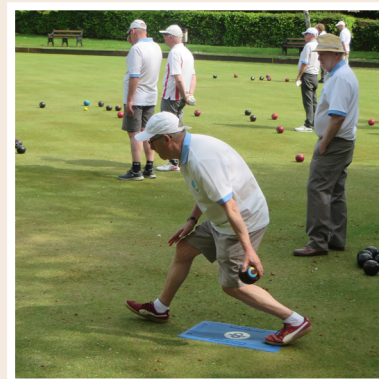
This year we decided to enter more players in the Durham County competitions. Despite some very tight matches, none of our teams have so far progressed past the first round although Bruce Fix did get through his first round singles game before going out 21 - 13 to a player from Dunston.

The actor and wrestler Dwayne Johnson said, "Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency." Here's hoping for that consistency for the rest of the season.

Over the last month we have continued to recruit new bowlers and hope to blood some of them in league games very soon. If you want to have a go, then come along to our sessions from 1.45 on a Thursday. You will be made more than welcome.

Bob Cuthbertson

Above: Keith Brown, watched on by Ken Jose, bowls in our match against Sherburn Park, Consett.



Tennis Club News

The club held its annual open day on Saturday May 11th. The weather was very good, and a large attendance of all ages enjoyed a host of activities connected to tennis. Photographs show the courts ready to go and participants having fun. Sadly, the day was marred by the fact that the club had been burgled the night before and it meant that police were in evidence at the open day. Some damage to the property took place and a sum of money, not normally on the premises, was stolen. More stringent security measures are now in place.

In June and July, the club will be holding the traditional Barbeque and Strawberry Tea.

There were mixed fortunes for Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club's teams recently. The Ladies are two matches played, both losses, to David Lloyd, Sunderland and Wylam. The mixed team are played two, won one, lost one. The win was at Rothbury, winning by just 1 game.

Coaching continues on Monday evenings with good numbers at each session and if you would like any further information about the club, please contact Dennis at lanchestertennis@gmail.com or 07960494442.

Or follow us on Facebook.

Dennis Laycock

Right: Courts all ready to go
Below: Family fun at the open day



Cricket News

Lanchester have been more fortunate than most, in that we have played all four Saturdays in the reporting period, with the firsts losing two then winning two. They started by being well beaten at home to Whitburn, scoring only 151. Then they lost at Shotley Bridge by 6 wickets, after setting what looked like a match winning target of 250. Greg Patterson made 103 which featured 8 sixes and 6 fours. He had good support from Luke McCabe who made 61, however dropped catches would be the downfall as Shotley took the gifts on offer.

Second win of the season came in a tight home fixture with Sacriston. Having restricted them to 175-6, we had just nine balls left when we passed their score. Greg Patterson once more top scored with 60. The team then followed this win up with a win at Philadelphia who the previous week had crushed Shotley. Kieran Gohery led the way with 85 out of a total of 191. The team were able to field 17 year old fast bowler Henry Sherwood for the first time following his recovery from a back injury and with his seventh ball in first team cricket, he took a wicket. He finished with 3-18 including their pro who had made a hundred and threatened to win the game. Pasindu took 4-18 as Philly were bowled out for 156.

The seconds and thirds have a pretty youthful look about them and have struggled at times winning only one game between them. You have to feel for John McGilvray who had a brilliant and yet disappointing weekend, scoring 94 and 99 not out. The 94 against Shotley seconds on the Saturday was his second senior fifty and he was unlucky to be given out. The following day playing for the thirds at Castle Eden, John ran out of overs as he reached 99.



Above: Greg Patterson
Right: Under 11 girls



Junior Cricket

Junior cricket has been worst hit by the weather and the under 18s have played only once, winning at Ryton by 5 wickets. The under 15s have managed three matches, unfortunately losing them all. They lost by 36 runs at Annfield Plain, then by a single run at Lintz. Nathan Watson made his first 50 and Mae Deaville made 36 at Lintz. Against Blaydon, they were up against a strong team and Alfie Armstrong took 3 wickets, whilst Mae Deaville was unbeaten on 42 and Joe Malone made 30. The under 13s have managed only two games, losing to Ryton's A team then beating their B team. Against both teams, Nathan Watson made his retirement score of 30 and 33. Against the B team, Alfie Armstrong and Riley Sayer both made retirement scores of 30 and 33 respectively. The under 11s are on a winning streak after winning all three in this period, beating Leadgate, Lintz and South Northumberland. The under 11 girls have started their outdoor season following a second place finish in an indoor tournament. They have played Consett twice and both teams have recorded wins. We now have increased numbers in the under 9s and could field two teams as a result. In the league, they have won all three games so far. All Stars are going well with 70 children signed up and the weather being favourable so far.

Greg Patterson

One of our cricketers who came up through the junior sections has emigrated to New Zealand. 27 year old Greg Patterson started with the under 11s in 2008, working his way through the 13s, 15s and 18s playing alongside his friends Nathan Somersall and Cameron Metcalfe. At the age of 14 he was showing his potential with a match winning 62 against Annfield Plain in the second team. By 2012 he was starting to feature in the first team and made his maiden first team fifty aged 17. In 2015 he scored his first senior hundred in an epic win over Ashington when he made 121. He was lured to Shotley Bridge the following year for four seasons, returning to his home club in 2020, the shortened Covid season. He has since gone on to score over 5000 runs in total and been in good form at the start of this season with 103 against Shotley. Through his work as a construction engineer, Greg has headed off to New Zealand. We know that he will keep in touch and we wish him well from all at Lanchester Cricket Club.

Andrew McConnell