

the Village Voice

Issue No 3, Volume 24

Lanchester, March 2024



Chinese New Year Dragon comes to Lanchester



Chinese New Year came to Front Street in front of the Golden Valley Chinese takeaway.



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Willow Burn Ball Success

On Friday 1 March the team at Willow Burn were joined by 185 supporters at its biggest fundraising event this year, raising over £22,000 at its annual ball at Beamish Hall Hotel.

The sell-out black tie event was hosted by presenter, artist and singer Alfie Joey and featured dinner, music from Borderland, a live auction and the Diamond Raffle sponsored by Berry's Newcastle, to raise money for the hospice. The Diamond Raffle alone raised £4380 for the hospice.

The night kicked off with a word from David Barker, Director at Willow Burn. Following a delicious three-course meal, there was a live auction with prizes donated by Get Ahead Hats, Lanchester, Dere Street Homes, and Alfie Joey.

Rachel Quince, Head of Fundraising and Marketing at Willow Burn Hospice said: "Such a fabulous night with very special supporters. Events like this are very important to the future of hospice care in Derwentside. Not only do they raise much needed funds, but they also shine a spotlight on the vital services our teams can provide to people living with a life limiting illness and their families - it is so important that people know the services which are available to them at end of life."

A very big thank you to all our sponsors, auction prize donors and everyone who contributed by attending – including: Berry's Jewellers, Caremore Services, KBB Interior Designs and JC Consulting.



Top: Paul Jackson (left) being congratulated by David Barker as this was Paul's last ball as chair of Willow Burn as he is retiring in November. Right: The Willow Burn team
Left: The raffle Benjamin Nicholson (left) and David Nicholson (centre) of Berry's Newcastle drawing the raffle with Alfie Joey on the right



Planning permission for the Burnhope Solar Farm Quashed

Mr Ian Galloway, a Burnhope resident, sought a judicial review regarding the Durham County Council approval of the Burnhope solar farm. This was heard in the High Court in Leeds in January and the judgment was published in February 2024.

The arguments hinged on whether the size of the solar arrays in the planning permission had led Durham County Council to approve a solar farm in excess of 50 MW. A solar farm in excess of this needs development consent from central government. Mr Galloway had calculated that the array, as drawn in the planning documents with standard panels, would be capable of generating approximately 75MW, well in excess of the statutory limit. A degree of "overplanting" is acceptable to compensate for the gradual degradation of the solar panels (about 1% per year).

The judge did not argue that the location of the farm was unacceptable: "The acceptability of this as a location is a planning judgment which is unimpeachable".

The debate was around the size and potential output of the solar farm. The judge said that "the planning permission is unlawful because the Defendant [Durham County Council] failed to take into account an obviously material consideration, namely addressing whether it was approving more panels over a larger area than were required to produce the stated (and a lawful) electricity generating capacity."

The judge quashed the planning permission, awarded costs to Mr Galloway, and remitted it back to the Planning Committee for further consideration with the expectation that the area of solar panels could be reduced and area of "green" space increased. It would appear that the next stage is in the hands of the developer to provide more detail to the Planning Committee - if it wishes to do so.

Note: it appears that the Annfield Solar Farm, proposed by Solarig, has not yet progressed to a planning application. (Village Voice March 2023).



Boys' Brigade

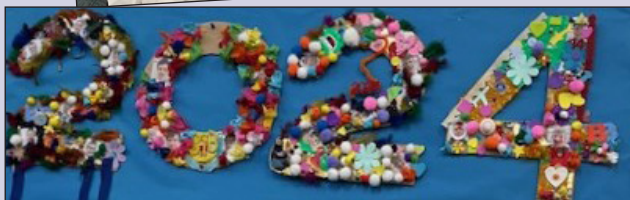
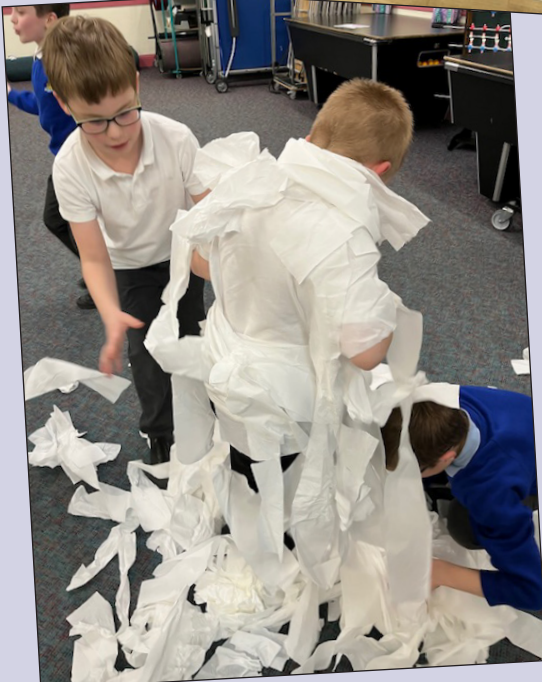
In the national competitions we lost the table tennis to 26th Leeds company but had better luck in the badminton where we have won through to the UK final which will take place at Queens University Belfast towards the end of March. We have four very excited boys and some leaders looking forward to the trip to Northern Ireland.

Our normal Wednesday evening has seen us learn about the Egyptians and create mummies. We have crafted our 2024 sign for the notice board, tried to solve some puzzles and had an excellent attempt to speak 1 to 9 in Chinese to celebrate the Chinese New Year. All sections made pancakes of various flavours - which did not last long before plates were cleaned and washed!

International games and Top Team competitions, along with Mothers Day crafts, Origami and Easter planting are all planned for after the half term holidays.

Our Boys Brigade are now recycling ink cartridges in aid of our funds and old Boys Brigade jumpers that people may have but no longer use. Collection boxes are in the Methodist Church and Croft View if anyone would like to drop some off or just contact a BB leader. We have enrolled some of the boys for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards which they will be working towards alongside the normal BB work, so it is all go as we head into the period leading up to Easter.

Eric Hepplewhite



Westlands Dental Studio Bake Sale

Normally a trip to the dentist comes with a warning to lay off the sweet stuff! But visitors to Westlands in Lanchester last month were met with a tempting selection of cakes. Hygienist Kiska Wilson had prepared the mouth-watering array to raise funds for her forthcoming three peaks challenge. The 35-year-old, who lives in Washington, and her husband Phil are embarking on the three peaks challenge – climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdonia within 24 hours on May 18 – to raise funds for East Durham Veterans Trust.

The coffee morning and cake sale at Westlands on Tuesday, February 27 raised £308 towards her £600 target.

Neil McKay

Below: Kiska enjoys a cake!





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Wildlife - Notes

Is "Sprucing up" a good thing?

There are benefits in planting trees: it can be good for mitigating climate change via carbon absorption, reduced flood risk, and creating habitat for wildlife. However, it is complicated! We have government targets and grants for planting trees for our sustainable futures. Two questions should be asked first: where do we put all those trees and which species of trees are suitable for the area?

Growing trees doesn't always take more carbon from the atmosphere. In peatland, like the Weardale area, tree plantations actually release more carbon from the soil than they remove. Areas of wildflower meadow and pasture with hedgerows are vital to help support our pollinators and provide corridors for wildlife between fields. Habitats of pasture, arable field edges, scrub areas and hedgerow are valuable to a variety of wildlife like hare, barn owls searching for voles, bats and badgers foraging, ground nesting and farmland birds, which have suffered a huge decline in recent years.

Hence if a patchwork of mixed pasture/ arable, hedgerow/scrub and small broadleaved woodlands is to be replaced with a monoculture of non-native conifer Sitka Spruce trees it would impact the aesthetics, remove food production, and massively reduce biodiversity. Spruce trees form a dense canopy with little light penetration, they are non-native trees few UK-species have adapted to utilise.

Scots Pine trees, a native species, have been traditionally used to create forest plantations e.g. across pit heaps. Planting with a mix of conifer and deciduous trees, which compliments and buffers existing woodland in an area, minimises the negative impacts of commercial spruce planting.

From our Wildlife Correspondent

*Photos: some of our native species all photographed in the area.
Credits: Ian Appleby
Anne Kelly
(Yellow Hammers)*



Community Centre News



What's New:

We now have 'InPost Lockers' situated in the car park, which can be used for sending and receiving parcels. New Group, RCCG Throneroom Christian Centre; Sunday Service 10am to 12 noon, Bible Study on Thursdays 6pm to 7pm

AGM Information:

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

Other News:

- Our Valentine raffle in February raised £138.00. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets, congratulations to the lucky winners! Thank you to Spar, The Kings Head, and The Community Café (Stuart and Michael Martin) for donating great prizes.
- In past school holidays we have organised The Fun & Food groups for children. This is a funded activity, aimed at giving children entitled to free school meals a free activity in the holidays. We are hoping to get more funding to be able to run the session for the summer holidays.

As always, we still need support from the community. If you would like to show support by donating/ volunteering, please get in touch.

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 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

Thursday Club

At our last meeting we welcomed Dave Dean who had come to give a talk and slide show on 'Myths and Legends of the North East'.

We were highly entertained by a wide variety of both unusual and gory stories. There was, of course, a long and twisted tale of the ubiquitous Lambton Worm. We heard about the town that vanished, what happened on Stainmore in 1797 and many more.

We also held a second-hand jewellery sale during our coffee break which raised the amazing sum of £40 which, of course, we donated to the Great North Air Ambulance.

All in all - a most profitable and enjoyable afternoon.

Olive Simpkins



Ladies who lunch

We've been nudged in the direction of the Owl and the Otter a few times and never managed to get there. Well, last time out we did, and we were very impressed!

The venue itself is most appealing, very spacious, lovely and warm and very busy. We were made most welcome and the service was quick and efficient. They have a £9.95 lunch offer Wednesday to Friday and a main menu.

We decided to sample mince and dumplings with mashed potato and buttered greens; hot chicken in a bun with gravy, chips and salad; seafood chowder; butter chicken curry with wild mushrooms, pilau rice, garlic naan bread and salad.

When it came to a dessert, some of us were good, some had lattes and others indulged in raspberry pavlova ice cream with fruit pieces; Italian meringue and strawberry purée; apple and rhubarb crumble with custard; affogato - vanilla ice cream topped with a shot of espresso and crushed amaretto biscuit.

The presentation of our food was in itself a delight. A most enjoyable meal. We shall definitely be having a return visit and it's not too far to go - just on the outskirts of Flint Hill, Dipton.

The Gourmet Girls



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

Our meeting held on Wednesday 28th February in Lanchester Community Centre was our Annual General Meeting. It was a small attendance, but matters went ahead with all necessary points discussed. It was decided to keep the annual membership fee the same as last year £30, and the cost for visitors £7.

The committee members agreed to stand once again and were elected en masse. Once the formal side of the meeting was over, we all enjoyed tea/coffee and biscuits. We held a small raffle then a quiz; the afternoon was a lovely social event with plenty of laughter and chatter.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 1.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator is Heather Curry, and her theme will be "Time for Tea". Everyone is welcome to come along and become a member, it's a lovely afternoon meeting. Meet up with old friends and make new friends.

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

Lestrine Kelly

Remembering...



In Celebration of the Life of Pat Wills

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Pat on 21st December, at the age of 94 years. Many of you will have known her as a resident of Lanchester for over 60 years and loving wife of John for 67 years until his death in 2019. It was heart-warming to have so many people join us to celebrate her life at her funeral, and to receive so many cards and messages of sympathy. The collection of £250 was donated to Alzheimer's Research and the NSPCC.

Pat moved with her family to Lanchester in 1957 and lived in Kitswell Road for the rest of her independent life. She taught for many years at Lanchester Infant School, and we still meet past pupils of hers who tell us what a lovely teacher she was. She was also very involved in fundraising for the NSPCC for over 40 years, and many of you will remember her from the many coffee mornings and house-to-house collections she organised. She attended Lanchester Methodist Church and was also a member of the Scottish Dance group.

After a long and happy life Pat's health started to decline in her later years and, after being diagnosed with dementia, she moved to Greenways Court Care Home, along with John, which became her home, and where she was cared for with the greatest of love and respect, until she left us on 4th December.

She lives on in our hearts forever.

Chris, Steph, Lucy and families



Left: Pat with her family

Below: The memorial bench for John Wills which is on Lanchester Valley Walk.





Poppy's walks

My walk for this edition of the Village Voice is chosen especially by me for you at this time of year when the spring flowers are making an appearance. Not that it concerns me too much, but the Humans seem to like them.

So, we start at Ushaw College, where a walking group meets every Thursday at 10am – all welcome, free of charge – and hike the surrounding countryside for approximately 90 minutes. As you will know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale terrier who shares with you the walks I take my Humans on.

Since I mentioned in my last article that I was for some reason excluded from these group walks – even though well-behaved dogs are welcome – the female Human took pity and allowed myself and the male Human to join her on one such Thursday walk.

Walking through the grounds of Ushaw College the humans in the group waxed lyrical about the flowers on display, crocuses, snowdrops, and the like, then we reached the main road and turned right in the direction of Esh Village. We walked along a footpath alongside the road for about 200 yards then crossed the road and followed another road downhill, this time walking on the grass verge. According to the map this road is called Broadgate Road. After a short time, we see a public footpath sign and leave the road to follow a path through fields.

This path is ideal for me to let off steam because there is no livestock in the fields. We pass an attractive fenced off lake and then come to a farmyard, where we turn right and go up quite a steep incline. There is a wood on the left called Hag Wood and a sign saying this is private property. But the path we are following is very much a public one. During the uphill walk the humans in the group stop frequently and exclaim how wonderful the views are over the Deerness Valley. I suspect they are stopping to recover from the exertion of the climb!

When we get to the top, we find ourselves on another footpath, and turn right and eventually through another farmyard. This is called Low Esh Farm and involves passing through a gate and then across a stile into more fields. This leads us straight on, back towards Ushaw College.

When we reach the end of a couple of fields – both with a path alongside for walkers – we reach the main road again via another stile. We cross the road carefully and follow a path a short way until we come to a lane called College Road. We turn left along that lane, and this brings us back to the rear of Ushaw College and there is a way between the buildings to the front of the college from where we started 90 minutes earlier.

The walk measures 3.3 miles and I for one would heartily recommend it.

Police Report – New PCSO for Lanchester



On Friday 23rd of February, officer 8740 and I were on routine patrol in the Lanchester area when we were flagged down by members of the public. An elderly gentleman had fallen and hit his head and required medical attention.

The very helpful members of the public aided officers by providing traffic control on a very busy B road whilst officers helped the gentleman into the back of the police car. They then took him to the University Hospital of North Durham to be assessed by a medical professional.

Consett Police would like to thank all of those involved in helping the gentleman get the care and attention he needed. In particular a woman who was at the scene even volunteered to pick the gentleman up from the hospital once he had been assessed.

Officers have attended Lanchester EP Primary to check parents are parked reasonably, asked those who have blocked pavements to move and explained the dangers of blocking pedestrian access.

If you see anything you feel the police need to know about then please call 101 or use our online reporting system. In an emergency, always call 999.

Thank you once again!
PCSO Milner 30136

Above: New (to Lanchester) PCSO Connor Milner outside Serendipity Café.



Above: L to R Ian Tute, Paul Jackson, Eric Hepplewhite, clerk Laura Dodd, PCSO Connor Milner and David Friesner.

New PCSO meets the Parish Council

The new (to Lanchester) PCSO Connor Milner had a meeting with some of the Parish Councillors and the Clerk on Thursday 29 February.

Monday Art Group

The Monday Art Club was very pleased to welcome back local artist Joe Hush to give us a demonstration of painting in acrylics.

He chose a domestic subject of planters and pots in a garden and took us in stages through the creation of a painting. The resulting pictures were of great variety of colour and style, and we learned a lot from watching Joe create his, and from the advice he offered to each of us. An enjoyable day.

Throughout the year the MAG invites a number of artists to demonstrate and teach their

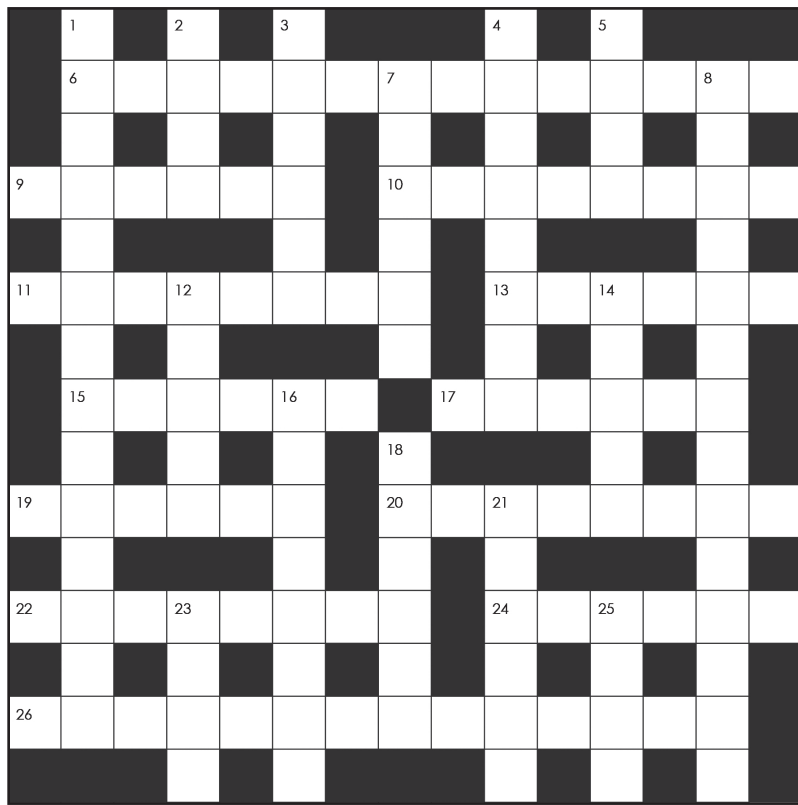
particular skills, while leaving time for members to progress with their own projects. We are a small friendly group, and new members are very welcome.

For further information contact Jim Rafferty at tojimrafferty@yahoo.com.

Jim Rafferty



CLUES CROSSWORD 195



Across

- 6. Hostile or violent behaviour (14)
- 9. Type of rest used in snooker (6)
- 10. And so on..... (2,6)
- 11. Artwork in three sections (8)
- 13. Take something offered (6)
- 15. Mistakes (6)
- 17. Mr. Bumble's job (6)
- 19. Bids (6)
- 20. Get in the way of (8)
- 22. Wartime French leader (2,6)
- 24. Cause to be liked or loved (6)
- 26. Person with specialist knowledge of the theories of teaching (14)

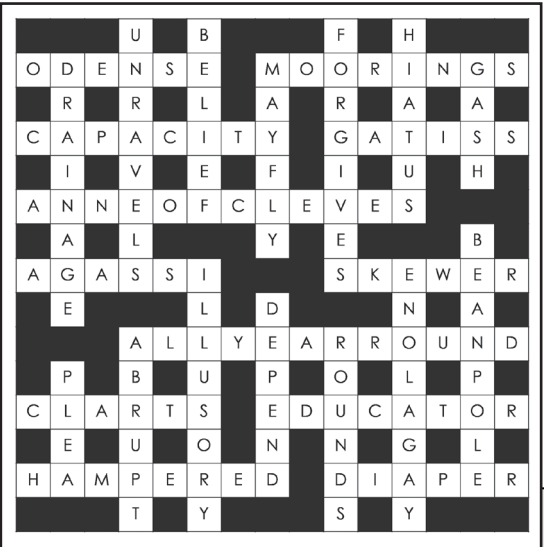
Down

- 1. F.A. Cup hero in '73 (3,11)
- 2. Old (4)
- 3. To show disloyalty to another (6)
- 4. Remove from danger (8)
- 5. Loop wool using needles (4)
- 7. To be filled with unexpressed anger (6)
- 8. Boxing promoters who deal in old iron? (5,9)
- 12. Prize offered by '8 Down'? (5)
- 14. Apple based drink (5)
- 16. Determined (8)
- 18. Music used by Torvill and Dean (6)
- 21. Swing up and down (6)
- 23. Curved structure (4)
- 25. Annoying trickle (4)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by **Friday 5th April 2024** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



Winner of Crossword 194

There were 17 entries of which
16 were correct.

The winner drawn out of the hat was
Jo Kelly.

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Flood Support

Potential financial support for flood victims

In County Durham there is a partnership of organisations offering help and advice around money, benefits, housing etc. – Advice in County Durham which include local contacts for national charities that you will be familiar with such as Citizens Advice County Durham but also smaller local organisations:

<https://adviceincountydurham.org.uk/>

Also covering Darlington as well are County Durham Community Foundation who may have some advice around individual grant giving:

<https://www.cdcf.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/grants-for-individuals/>

Other grant providers regionally/locally who support grants for individuals - you will need to check their grant criteria:

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

<https://sherburnhouse.org/grants-support/>

As grants are generally accessed through an application process it could be that advice workers through the first link are able to support and have up to date information on grant availability.

Another good source of local advice and a link into Durham County Council would be Area Action Partnerships:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/AAPs>

From the Parish Council

Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 9th January – approved.

Police Reports – No PACT report for January was received as there has been a changeover of PCSO. The new PCSO for Lanchester and Burnhope area is Connor Milner. The Clerk did confirm that the previous PACT report figures are for Lanchester area only. The Clerk to organise a meeting with the new PCSO Connor Milner.

Correspondence

Lanchester Partnership - Councillors considered a request to use the Village Green for the annual litter pick on 9th March - permission is granted.

Letter from resident - Concerns over dog fouling and littering - members considered a letter from a resident over concerns over dog fouling and littering around his property - the Clerk to forward the email and a letter from the Parish Council to Durham County Council to see what they can do about the situation. Durham County Councillor – An update was received on:

Flood – Work carried out on the drains near Ornsby Hill.

St Bedes – An introduction meeting was held with the new Headteacher. She is keen to engage with the local community.

Flooding Support - The Clerk updated the Councillors on information received about potential financial support for flood victims. This included some organisations that may be able to offer individual grants. Members discussed how to inform residents of this information – an article to be sent to the Village Voice. (Editor: this is in the current edition).

Solar Planet Walk - Councillor Paul Jackson gave an update on the project. The areas we need for our project have been marked out on plans given to us from CPAL, we now await the lease for our project.

The planning department at Durham County Council are still to come back with which planning permission we need for our project.

Procurement have sent out expressions of interest and are now putting together a tender pack and hopefully have some applicants coming forward who are interested in being involved in the project.

Greencroft Forest Park - Councillor David Friesner gave an update on the development - the Clerk and Councillor David Smith to write a letter to the Forestry Commission.

Internal Audit Arrangements - the Internal Audit arrangements were approved.

Risk Assessment Schedule – reviewed and approved.

Newsletter – the newsletter was approved for distribution.

Financial report – approved.

Accounts for Payment – approved.

History Society

Twenty of us met on Friday March 1st, yet another awful stormy night but we were entertained by Richard Pears and his latest fascinating progressive female from northeast history: Harriet Carr the daughter of Ralph Carr, Merchant adventurer of Newcastle from the late 1700s.

The family lived in Dunston Hill House, Wickham, one of their several residences. Harriet had health issues, a persistent cough so it is possible that her family thought she may find the climate in southern Europe good for her respiratory system. Ralph had European trading contacts and allowed his son John to do the Grand Tour when he left studying at Oxford.

On his return he and Harriet embarked on a second trip in the late 1790s where she was able to enjoy pursuing her love of drawing and painting both bringing her in contact with European nobility and their vast art collections. She made some interesting connections and painted many of those she met, namely Lady Emma Hamilton and Georgiana Duchess of Devonshire. She became a competent artist and enjoyed travelling.

Marian Morrison



Above:
Harriet Carr

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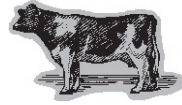
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articles for
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the Village
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April
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Lanchester WI

President Marie welcomed 36 members and 1 visitor to the February meeting, then updated us with future events including County quiz, Chairman's Lunch, International Women's Day and an invitation for 2 members to Hamsteels' and Quebec's 100th Birthday celebrations. Subscriptions are due in April and this year they are £43, the increase from last year was explained by Marie, with costs of room hire, speakers etc all going up, this is still £5 below the level set by NFWI.

Raffle winners were Glenys Gibbon and Judith Collins.

Speaker Freda Laverick, County Chairman, was introduced, and told us about the history of underwear from her point of view. Freda was the first girl in her class to get a bra, a white cotton one. Bra sizes did not go by cup size but dress size. School knickers had to match your blazer in either red, navy, or green, and you got detention if they were the wrong colour.

A 'Roll On', a type of corset used to enhance your shape, was not the easiest of garments to get on and off! Members shared some of their amusing underwear stories too.

Ann Carr gave the vote of thanks; we then enjoyed a catch up with friends over tea and biscuits.

Tracey Dobson

From your County Councillors

Up until May next year, County Durham is represented by 126 Councillors on the County Council, and each of these are split equally by population into separate divisions. This means the "Lanchester" division, which actually stretches about 20 miles from Parkhead Station near Stanhope on the edge of Weardale, to Holmside near Sacriston – has two current representatives, Mike McGaund and me.

Mike and I feel very privileged to represent you, as we have done since May 2021, taking over from our well-regarded predecessors Ossie Johnson and Jude Considine.

Upon our election almost 3 years ago, we were conscious that not all of these divisions are equal, and we feel very humble to represent such a particularly diverse and varied area.

Furthermore, one thing that has always been clear to us is the strength of what I call – perhaps amorously – the unique strength of the "civic life" in Lanchester, the number of brilliant groups in the village that work together to share common interests and time together.

This means more tangibly, what anyone who picks up this magazine will recognise, the countless bits of work being done by local community groups, clubs, and other organisations. One of our most important responsibilities as council ward representatives is to provide Neighbourhood Funding to initiatives that support our community. We do this in conjunction with Mid Durham's Area Action Partnership. Because of this we have been able to work with a great range of groups.

From our recent newsletter, villagers will be aware of our work with Alison Boyd and Glenda Horne to upgrade windows and insulation at the Community Centre. Over the last couple of years we have also supported, with financial contributions, Lanchester Table Tennis Club, Lanchester Flower Club, Lanchester Cricket Club and Lanchester Partnership to support the village bus.

Further afield, we have been able to back initiatives to support young people at Burnhope Community Centre, replace the Maiden Law Village sign, protect Muggleswick Church and we are looking at new projects now with Lanchester Community Orchard, Burnhope Community Centre and to give extra ICT opportunities at Burnhope Primary School.

This summary is not exhaustive and is necessarily concise. Mike and I are always pleased to learn more about work being undertaken by so many people living in Lanchester on behalf of the local community and still have much to learn about the area, so if there is anything you wish to discuss we welcome your feedback on this or anything else, please email on douglas.oliver@durham.gov.uk or michael.mcgau@durham.gov.uk

Doug Oliver

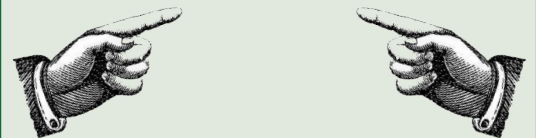
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Easter Weekend Services

All Saints' Catholic Church

Thursday 28th March

7.00pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 29th March

11.00am – Stations of the Cross

3.00pm – Liturgy

Easter Sunday 31st March

9.30am – Mass

Lanchester Methodist Church

Good Friday 29th March

10.30am – 'Good Enough' worship

7.30pm – 'Alive to tell the story' – Annfield Plain Methodist Church

Easter Sunday 31st March

10.30am – Easter Sunday Celebration Worship

St John's Church Burnhope

Good Friday 29th March

11.00am – Reflection

All Saints' Church Lanchester

7.00pm – Footwashing and Eucharist

Good Friday 29th March

2.00pm – Stations and Veneration of the Cross

Saturday 30th March

7.00pm – Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Sunday 31st March

10.30am – Celebration Eucharist – Joint service with St John's Burnhope


Churches Together Events

Easter Saturday 30th March 10.00am – 12 noon

Coffee Morning at Methodist Church

Easter Sunday 31st March – 12 noon

Celebration and Daffodil Cross on the Green



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Paradiso Film Club

14th April - MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS. A comedy drama with a stellar cast including Lesley Manville, Isabelle Huppert, Jason Isaacs and Anna Chancellor. In partnership with the House of Dior, "Mrs. Harris Goes To Paris" tells the story of a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress and decides that she must have one of her own. After she works, starves, and gambles to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris which will change not only her own outlook, but the very future of the House of Dior. Lanchester Community Centre. 7pm for refreshments, raffle and DVD sale. Film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £3, non-members: £4. Annual membership £5.

Lanchester Library

Library Book Club

On Monday April 22nd at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing 'A long way from Home' by Cathy Glass, will everyone enjoy this novel or will it divide opinions? Will everyone complete it? A true story, but it will be an unsettling read! We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our views.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday 18th April from 4.00-5.00pm, the group will be reviewing 'The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle' by Stuart Turton, who won the Best First Novel Prize in the 2018 Costa Book awards, 'a dazzling, mind bending murder mystery' Goodreads. This book sounds a little different from a typical murder mystery. Will 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 April 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 welcome, enjoy.

Scrabble Group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30 pm. Do you enjoy this word game and want to get on the Triple Word Square? Come along and enjoy the company.

Children's crafts are available every afternoon and Saturday. Different crafts, ideas and materials are set out in the library for children to be creative, pop along with your children and enjoy.

Musical Memories

Easter Special: 3rd April, 2pm at Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. Join us for music, refreshments and fun activities. Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group using the ability of music to improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email lanchesterdfc@gmail.com.

Lanchester Methodist Church Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday at the Methodist Church between 10 and 12, in aid of the following organisations:
March 23rd Relief in Palestine
March 30th Churches Together
April 6th TBA
April 13th Summer Special
April 20th Tennis Club
April 27th Guide Dogs
May 4th Lanchester Band
May 11th TBA
May 18th Christian Aid

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be held in the Main Hall of the Community Centre on April 18th at 1.30pm when we will be having a talk given by the vicar - Stephen Martin.

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th March in the upstairs Conference Room of the Community Centre. We have a couple of practical activities in hand at the moment. We will shortly be conducting an investigation of a building near Slatley which, reputedly, has Roman stonework in its foundations. The building is apparently next to a Roman road, which itself needs investigating. In addition, we are organising an exploratory dig at a feature off Peth Bank, Lanchester, which may be an Iron Age enclosure. We hope that it may turn out to be of Romano-

British date. We are also investigating the possibility of making a replica Roman ballista, a large arrow-firing siege machine. Further information may be obtained from Mrs. M. Williams, tel: 01207 520063 or from Rodney Hawkins, email hawkins_15@sky.com. Don't forget to check out our website at www.longoviciumcounk.wordpress.com (note there are no dots in counk!) or our Facebook page at Friends of Longovicium.

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 April, 12pm start, all welcome.

History Society

We will be meeting from 6.45 for 7.00 start on Friday 5th April. Peter Heatherington will be talking on "Pensher Monument, Myth, Legend and Fact". Please note our May meeting will be Friday the 10th, one week later than normal, when Dave Shotten will be talking on "The Banner of St Cuthbert". Do come and join us in Room 3 in the Community Centre.

WI

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

Lanchester playgroup

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

Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 9th April at 7.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre small hall. Mr Ho-Yin Wong (Naturalist, Natural History Society of Northumbria) will be speaking on "Orchids of the North East". If you'd like more information, please email lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com.

Choral Society

'A Box of Delights': 100 years of Stage Musicals Friday 10th May, 7.15 pm, Lanchester Methodist Church. Come along and hear songs from your favourite stage musicals including Phantom, Les Mis., Mama Mia, Oklahoma, Sound of Music and many more. With soloists Anna Foster, Paul Smith and Ian Gray. Tickets available after Easter from any member, 01207 521458 and 01207 520427.

City Theatre

'Snake in the Grass', a thriller by Alan Ayckbourn, will be on at The City Theatre, Durham, DH1 3RA from Sunday 21st April until Sat 27th April. Miriam has cared for her dominating father for years until his death, with the help of Alice, a nurse. When her elder sister Annabel returns from Tasmania how do blackmail and murder fit into the equation? Tickets from Durham Gala box office on 03000266600, or www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk and follow the link for tickets. £8.50 with concessions of £7.50 on Sunday matinee, Monday and Tuesday evenings. Performances Sunday and Saturday matinee only 2.30pm, Monday to Friday 7.30pm.

Lanchester Social Club

6th April - Julie Reece
13th April - Lisa Marie
20th April - Lukas James
27th April - Tracey Welch

Flower Club

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 1.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator is Heather Curry and her theme will be "Time for Tea". The April meeting is 24th April. A talk by Howard Leslie "Quiet Corner Plants" Everyone is welcome.

Easter Monday Egg Bowling

The usual egg dying in the traditional way, organised by the Lanchester Wildlife Group. Come and take part at Pace Egg Bank. Bring a raw egg/s (white shells might show the dye pattern better). Meet on April 1st at 10am behind The Bridge (AKA The Green School and The Woodlands). Free, but please make a donation. P.S. This isn't an April Fool ;)

Riverside Musical Theatre

Riverside Musical Theatre Company is excited to announce that tickets are now on sale for our next production. 'Curtains, the musical whodunit!!' from the writers of Chicago & Cabaret. A comedic send-up suitable for all ages, Curtains will have the audience laughing until the last curtain falls. Performances are from Wednesday 15th May to Sat 18th May 2024 at Park View Community Theatre, Chester le Street. Wednesday to Friday evening performance at 7.15 pm and Saturday matinee at 2.30 pm. All tickets are £14. Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/

Lanchester Hiking Group

Meets at 10am on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month. Next dates are 27th March, 3rd and 17th April. 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).

Community Centre

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

St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

We have had lots of fantastic opportunities this half-term at St Bede's and have been thoroughly enjoying all the trips, learning and extra-curricular activities we have had the opportunity to take part in.

Bonjour la France

Around 50 of our students across varying year groups were given the opportunity to visit France just before we broke up for half term. Students left early on Sunday morning and returned on Friday evening. Students enjoyed a multitude of activities including visiting the battlefields in Northern France, spending the day with our French partner school, rock climbing, visiting the Eiffel Tower, travelling down the Seine River and finishing off the trip with a fun day to Disneyland Paris!

Confirmation Retreat

St Bede's students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation embraced a wonderful Retreat Day at Minsteracres before half term with Father John, Charles, Tom and Shaun. The theme was 'Food for the Journey'. The day offered talks, discussion, prayer, reflection and walks around the beautiful grounds. The food was delicious, and we closed the day with Mass in the chapel.

St Bede's Live Lounge

In February we hosted St Bede's Live Lounge; this was a very special opportunity for our students to showcase their musical abilities in front of a live audience. We saw an array of acts and it was fantastic to see students enjoying themselves and showing off their talents.

Elected for Durham Youth Council

As mentioned in our last article one of our Year 11 students Lucas Wainwright put his hat in the ring to be elected as a Parliament Member for Durham Youth Council. We are delighted to announce Lucas was successful in his bid and is now our Youth Council Member of Parliament for Individuals between 11-18. Congratulations Lucas, what an incredible achievement. We look forward to the changes you suggest to better our county.

Mrs Catherine Hammill
Head Teacher

*Above: students enjoy the visit to France
Right: Lucas Wainwright*



Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

Do you realise how wonderful you are?

The human body is perhaps the most complex composition ever to have existed. You are unique; no one else has your voice pattern, fingerprints, or DNA.

Did you know that your eyes remain the same size all your life and are the fastest muscle in your body – which is why we say when something happens quickly, 'in the blink of an eye!'

Your tongue is covered in about 8,000 taste buds, each containing up to 100 cells helping you taste your food, each one capable of discerning the difference between carrots and chocolate cake.

Your intestinal tract is also hard at work producing millions of enzymes that are capable of digesting almost anything. All this aided by the litre of saliva that your mouth produces each day.

How about your cooling system, three hundred and fifty thousand glands per square inch that produce sweat to cool you?

Then there is your sensory system, a network of ten million nerves, the branches of which send and interoperate messages and formulate a response.

We tend to think all bacteria is bad, but our bodies need the "good guy" bacteria; trillions of bacteria live in our bodies helping to regulate inflammation and fight disease.

Then we have our transport system. Laid end to end, one adult's blood vessels could circle Earth's equator four times; 100,000 miles of blood vessels, veins, arteries, and capillaries, a network where deliveries and waste removal take place.

It is only when we spend the time looking at what is really involved in what makes us human that we realise how amazing our bodies are.

Fact or Fiction?

Holding in a sneeze is unhealthy

TRUE: As your body gets ready to sneeze, pressure builds in your lungs. When your body tries to push the air out, it needs somewhere to go—if you're pinching your nose and mouth, it could be rerouted to the ears. Sneezing can propel air and droplets at an estimated speed of 100 miles per hour. Holding in a sneeze can build up pressure as much as 24 times more than a normal sneeze.



**Lanchester Medical
Centre**

Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

February has been another amazing month for some children in our school. We had some children head off to Rajkot in India followed by more children visiting Dubai a week later. These visits are the first two Turing trips of the year – two more are to come to Madrid and Montreal later in the year. Our successful application to the Turing Scheme last year meant that we received around £36k to support visits to partner schools in these countries. Hear what it was like in the words of the children.

Rajkot, India

We flew to India on Wednesday 7th February. We went from Newcastle to Heathrow with British Airways, Heathrow to Mumbai with British Airways and Mumbai to Rajkot with Air India. The flight to Mumbai was nine hours and we didn't really like the food. It was a very long and tiring day and we had to wait in Mumbai for six hours. That was a long wait! The hotel was different! It was very noisy at night and there were insects around too. The food was nice and we tried local food.

We went to Panshil School. It was very different to Lanchester. It was on five floors, the desks were small and the children sat on the floor with their books on their laps. We watched the children dance and there was an awards ceremony in Indian! We also went to Sunshine School where some of the children spoke English. We were given flower necklaces, made from marigolds.

We visited two museums – a science museum and the Ghandi museum. He was bullied as a child, thrown off a train, went to prison but became a leader and hero. We also visited a palace. It was huge and we were also filmed to go on TV. We went to Rajkot Zoo, where we saw baboons, white tigers, lions and a wild ass! On the last day, we went to watch the India versus England test match. The atmosphere was crazy and loud. Unfortunately, England lost.

After a long week, we left Mumbai on the 2am flight and finally got back to Newcastle at about lunchtime. Our parents were happy to see us and even made a banner to welcome us home. It was an amazing trip!



Dubai, UAE

Our Dubai trip was amazing even though it was boiling hot. The plane ride was 7 hours but Emirates has phenomenal entertainment. One boy had never even flown before – he loved it! On the plane we even got bags and our photos taken. The Hilton hotel was amazing in Dubai and we went to the pool at the end of the day when we had time. Even though our flight was delayed by 5 hours, and we had no sleep that first night, we still went to the beach and the pool on our first day to help acclimatise.

The next day we went to the cultural centre where we learnt about the Emirati lifestyle, tried some traditional food and we also went to the mosque. It was really interesting to learn about Islam. We visited Mr Keeton's school and went to the Museum of the Future where we learnt about life in 2071 in Dubai!

Our favourite day (although every day was a favourite day) was when we went to the desert. We drove so fast up and along the dunes, getting stuck in the sand dune too! Then we went sandboarding, camel riding and went to the desert camp. Following that, we went up the Burj Kalifa. Wow! We were on the 125th floor and the views were amazing.

We went to Hartland International School on the Wednesday. They have 108 different nationalities from all over the world and they had a special day where parents could make their national food and set up stands so you could sample food from all over the world. It was so interesting.

On our final day we went to a water park and it was massive with so many different water rides. Our Dubai trip was simply amazing.

Jane Davis
Head Teacher



Left: Pupils at the cricket ground
Right: Pupils in the heat of Dubai.

Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Primary School

Lent is always an important time in school, when the community tries to particularly think about others before ourselves in an attempt to follow in Jesus's footsteps. Our Lenten fundraising this year will go to support CAFOD's Big Lenten Walk challenge. Collectively, we aim to walk 200km during Holy Week to help CAFOD continue their amazing works of charity around the world!

This month we have had our second Parent Consultation Evening of the year. We invite parents into school to look at the fantastic work their children do every day. It is lovely to share their achievements and to let families know how their child is progressing in school.

We have also been visited by Mrs Hammill, Head Teacher of St. Bede's, this month. Both All Saints' School and St Bede's are part of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust. This now means that children can join All Saints' from age 3 years and continue their journey through education with Bishop Wilkinson Education Trust right through to age 18 years!

Mrs Hammill came into school to talk to Year 5 children and their parents about the amazing opportunities they are offered if they choose to go to St. Bede's at the end of Year 6. We look forward to an even closer working relationship with St. Bede's as our Trust partner.

Our children have all been involved in Durham County Council's "Trees for Children". A member of the Oases team visited us in school and told us all about the importance of trees. Each junior class then visited Moorside Community wood where each child planted a deciduous tree. We all hope our small contribution helps us to combat climate change and produce a habitat for many woodland creatures. The infant children in school will be collecting and planting tree seeds from our own grounds in autumn to continue the cycle.

As March comes to an end in Holy Week, we wish everyone a very Happy Easter.

Alison Conlin, Acting Head Teacher



Tennis Club prepares for new season

Following what seems to have been a very long winter, Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club is busily preparing for an action packed 2024 season. Regular social favourites like the Barbecue and Strawberry Tea are planned for June and July respectively, along with the ever-popular Open Day on 11th May. Please watch out for further details in future issues of the Voice!

The clubhouse has been restored to its former glory following the storm damage inflicted earlier in the year with new roof covering and indoor carpet installation having been completed and work on

the grass courts is progressing nicely.

Due to the unsafe conditions of the tennis courts behind the Bridge school, senior coaching has unfortunately not taken place this past winter, however, junior coaching is continuing in the Community Centre on Monday evenings. A return to the grass courts is planned for late April.

If you require more information about the club, please contact Dennis at lanchestertennis@gmail.com or 07960494442.

Or follow us on Facebook.

Lanchester Bowling Club

Oops...

Anyone watching the recent Indoor World Bowling Championship on the BBC couldn't help but notice that bowls is a game of skill, tactics and, occasionally, luck. As with all such games the propensity for making mistakes is huge. Even the best bowlers have been guilty of bowling with the wrong bias so that instead of gently curving towards the head, the bowl decides it wants to join the game on the adjacent rink instead. Bowling the jack also leads to countless errors - bowling it too short or so long it ends in the ditch. On a wet day in South Moor I even remember to everyone's amusement the jack preferred sitting in a puddle three metres from the mat rather than travelling up the green.

These errors rarely have an effect on the game's outcome; sadly though sometimes that's not the case.

During my first full season I remember a game at View Lane where, with only the skips to bowl, we were sitting with five shots and the jack was difficult to get to.

This would have given us a good lead and so the skip was urged to bowl short and further cover the jack. Ignoring the advice, the skip spoke the immortal words: "I'll play on my forehand as I can't do any damage." He proceeded to do both! His bowl split up the pack and knocked one of theirs into shot. To compound the error their skip took the opportunity to score one more, we lost the jack and, soon after, a game we were in total control of. An error of a different sort led to David Friesner and Richard Hall losing a hard fought semi-final. Having come from 18-8 down playing off short jacks, the score before the final end was 18-17 with Lanchester's jack.

Richard placed the mat and bowled the jack keeping it short

but legal. The opposing skipper, however, queried the legality of the mat, saying it was not the required two metres or more from the ditch. It was duly measured and found to be two centimetres short. Our pair lost the jack to the opposition who bowled it long and went on to win the game.

Nobody is immune from making mistakes - including yours truly. It was the last end of the final game of last season and we had a healthy five shots lead. Our early bowls had gone beyond the jack and when I came to bowl as skip, they had surrounded the jack. Crucially though, we had one bowl in the head keeping

their score below five. Their skip bowled a lovely wood, increasing the pressure. I went with the same hand but knew as soon as I released that it was too heavy. To the dismay of my teammates, the bowl clattered into the pack knocking out our covering bowl. They scored heavily and couldn't believe they'd won a game we'd been in control of.

The important thing about making mistakes of course is learning from them. As Confucius said: "A man who has committed a mistake and does

not correct it is committing another mistake."

The bowling green will open sometime in April and on Saturday, 20th, starting at 2pm there will be an open afternoon where there will be various games to play and prizes to be won. The afternoon is in aid of Willow Burn hospice so come along, have some fun, learn about the game, and support a good cause at the same time. Find out more about us by typing Lanchester Bowling Club into your search engine and going to the Wix site.

Bob Cuthbertson

Above: The bowl on the left is showing the small sticker indicating that this is the biased side and the bowl will naturally curve in that direction.



Bale fire on Pace Egg Hill
These are some pictures taken when the Fire Brigade attended a fire on Pace Egg Hill on Monday 19th February. Hay bales have been set on fire, presumably deliberately.

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