

# the Village Voice

Issue No 5, Volume 24

Lanchester, May 2024

## Springtime

## in Lanchester

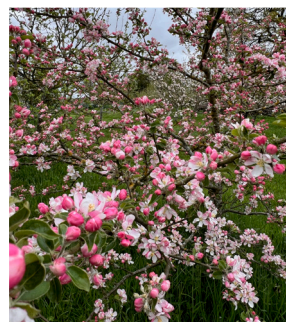


Photo credit: The Lanchester Community Orchard.

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## Lanchester Spar supports Willow Burn Hospice's Annual Awareness Week

This year the team at Lanchester Spar have chosen Willow Burn Hospice as their local charity of the year. Between 6 – 12 May the Spar took part in Willow Week, the charity's annual awareness campaign with fundraising and a colouring competition. Team members were wearing green throughout the week to match the brand colours of the hospice. Ali English, Fundraiser, said: "We are thrilled that the Spar is getting behind the hospice for Willow Week. The shop has a long history of supporting Willow Burn, raising hundreds each year with in-store collection tins and we are incredibly grateful for the ongoing commitment. I look forward to working with staff and customers throughout this year."

The support won't stop in May, later in the year the team will be joining Willow Burn for volunteering and more fundraising.

If you or your business would like to get behind your local hospice with fundraising or by hosting a collection tin, contact Ali on [aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk](mailto:aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk) / 01207 529 224.

**Rachel Quince**

*Right: Two Spar team members with their certificate from Willow Burn  
Left: Children's entries in the "Willow tree for Willow Burn" colouring exercise in the Spar window.*



## Lanchester WI

At the WI meeting on Monday 8th April President Marie welcomed 26 members and 1 visitor to the meeting and gave out information about upcoming events, including The Chairman's Lunch and Summer Outing. Lucky raffle winners were Marion Morrison, Helen Gardener and Ann Carr. Speaker Gordon Henderson was introduced with his very interesting talk titled 'Roman NHS'. Julius Caesar would not allow doctors in the country as they were Greek at the time. It was only when a Greek doctor saved the life of one of his commanders that he changed his mind. Romans were sent abroad to learn about medicine, taking 5 years to qualify as a doctor and 10 years for surgeon; unusually women were allowed to qualify. Dentistry was not introduced until the 7th century. Cannabis, heroin, or a mallet was used for anaesthetic and honey and egg white to prevent infection. Tina thanked Gordon for his talk then members enjoyed refreshments while chatting with friends.

**Tracey Dobson**

## Sniperley Park and Ride expansion work has begun

Many Lanchester residents use the Sniperley Park and Ride car park to get into Durham. Work has begun on the £2 million expansion of the transport hub with the extension made possible by a successful application to the government's Transforming Cities Fund.

The project will see capacity at the site increase to almost 600 spaces. Planning permission is in place for the expansion which, on completion, will see an additional 262 spaces created. This will include increased provision of standard, disabled, electric charging and motorhome bays.

Vegetation clearance and sewer works have already been carried out and construction has begun. The work is expected to last approximately six months, with a park and ride service continuing to be available throughout.

From April, Sniperley and Belmont Park and Ride sites will be in operation on Sundays. Buses will serve the sites between 7am and 7pm, seven days a week. This will include bank holidays except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.



## Elvet Players

The Players are a small group who enjoy making music together. Based in St Oswald church hall on Church Street in Durham, we meet fortnightly on Thursdays between 2 and 4pm, and play a varied selection of music from Beethoven to the Beatles, from Schuman to Sydney Bechet, and much more.

Group members currently play violin and viola, cello, clarinet and piano but all instruments are welcome.

So, if you'd like to play music with a friendly and supportive group, perhaps start playing again after a break, do come and join us. You'll be most welcome.

**For more information contact Jonathan on email: [churchst26@gmail.com](mailto:churchst26@gmail.com)**





## Witbank Garage has closed

One of Lanchester's best known businesses closed this month. Witbank Garage in Hallgarth Buildings shut its doors on Friday, May 24 after 32 years in the village.

Proprietor Dave Donnelly said the decision was taken "with a heavy heart". Dave brought mechanic Malcolm Wilks with him when he set up his own business in Lanchester after leaving a garage in Spennymoor in July 1992. He explained: "Malcolm has had to run the garage single-handedly for the past few months and it wasn't fair on him. But I didn't want to close until he found another niche." Malcolm starts work in June at North Road Garage in Catchgate.

Dave has battled ill health for the past few years and decided it is now time for him to retire.

He said: "I just wanted to thank all our customers over the years through the Village Voice. It is with a heavy heart that we are closing but it has been inevitable. It has been a privilege to work in Lanchester over the past 32 years but I think we can leave with our heads held high."

**Neil McKay**



## Dr Katherine Waugh

*Congratulations to Katherine Waugh, now Doctor Katherine Waugh, for successfully achieving your PhD.*

*From attending Durham High School for Girls to Manchester University for your bachelor's and master's degrees, then on to Northumbria University for your PhD.*

*Well done and congratulations from Mam, Nana, Jim and all the family.*

## Springtime in Lanchester

Lanchester is blooming during this month of May, with a glorious display of blossom to be seen at the Lanchester Community Orchard (front cover), and on Front Street with a vast array of carefully curated planters.



## Pretty little Lanchester

Pretty little Lanchester,  
The place where I reside,  
A happy friendly village,  
Out in the countryside.

With magic walks to Malton,  
Along the railway line,  
Strangers stop and chatter,  
Dog walkers wave and smile.

So many ways to wander,  
Take in the scenery,  
Wildlife and wildflowers,  
And gorgeous greenery.

Discover Dora's woodland,  
With secret dens and tracks,  
So peaceful and serene,  
A great place to relax.

Dip in the river Browney,  
Among minnows and trout,  
See kingfishers and heron,  
And the jaybirds fly about.

Treecreepers and woodpeckers,  
Hide amongst the trees,  
There's rabbits, frogs and otters,  
And mallard families.

Look out for the timid deer,  
Kestrels and red kites,  
Foxes and grey squirrels,  
And owls and bats at night.

And when the village floods,  
When we get the stormy weather,  
The people rally round,  
And everyone pulls together.

On special occasions,  
There's gatherings on the green,  
For Remembrance Day parades,  
And carols on Christmas Eve.

Fundraisers, coffee mornings,  
Bake sales and church fairs,  
Warm spaces, friendly faces,  
A community that cares.

Always folk to talk to,  
Like a village family.  
Pretty little Lanchester,  
My favourite place to be.

**Hollie Smallwood**

## Community Speed Watch

There is an ongoing issue with the speed of vehicles travelling through Lanchester. Areas such as Cadger Bank, Durham Road and Howden Bank have been targeted by our Community Speed Watch volunteers and those caught have been dealt with accordingly.

Community Speed Watch is run by volunteers who have been given suitable training to use speed calculating devices to collect valuable data and issue warning letters, fines and potentially court action. We understand that people are concerned about the speed of traffic in their communities and, as the police, we try to control this as best as we can with limited resources.

The police can advise the council on areas where we believe there is a problem with speeding, but we do not get the final say in traffic calming measures.

One way people can help us to tackle the issue is by volunteering to be a Community Speed Watch volunteer. You will receive training and may have access to the Community Speed Watch van (if you have a driving licence of course!). Volunteers are subject to level 2 vetting due to the nature of the information you would have access to. There are no set hours for volunteers, so you can do as many hours as you like and target areas you believe to be a problem.

If you are interested in becoming a Community Speed Watch volunteer, please email [consettbeatteams@durham.police.uk](mailto:consettbeatteams@durham.police.uk)

**Regards,**

**PCSO 30136 Milner**



## Red Cross shop burgled

The British Red Cross shop in the village was closed for ten days after an unwelcome visit from mindless morons.

The intruders broke in through the rear and caused an amount of damage as well as stealing the till, which did not contain much money.

Joanne Thurman, Northern regional retail manager for the British Red Cross, said: "We were saddened by the news of the break-in at our shop in Front Street. We worked hard to get the necessary repair work done and were pleased to reopen the shop on Tuesday, April 30."

**Neil McKay**



Left: Malcolm's landscape painting  
Below: Malcolm Coils



## The Monday Art Group

In April the Monday Art Group enjoyed a demonstration of painting a landscape in water colour. Malcolm Coils, a local artist, and MAG member, showed us how he creates beautiful pictures and generously shared some of his water colour techniques. Malcolm's tutorial was over two Mondays, and much appreciated by the other group members. We enjoyed the sessions and the 'newbies' amongst us learned a lot. Many thanks Malcolm!

Later in the year we will be painting from life, and we need a model. If you sit for a long time and wear your colourful clothes, it could be you!

If you are interested in being a model, or would like to join this friendly and supportive art group, please contact Jim Rafferty at: [tojimrafferty@yahoo.com](mailto:tojimrafferty@yahoo.com)

**Jim Rafferty**



## Lanchester Methodist Wives and Friends group celebrate their 60th Anniversary

On Wednesday 1st May almost 90 ladies, members, and friends past and present, gathered together at the Methodist Church to enjoy a Pie and Pea lunch followed by refreshments and a slice of anniversary cake. Excellent entertainment followed with the Cloth Cap Temperance Band who had us all singing along.

The group was launched in 1964 as Lanchester Methodist Young Wives and it has continued to evolve into a still thriving group of women from all around the village and beyond. The friendship and fellowship we have shared from the early days is as strong as ever and will continue into the future.

One of our long-standing members, Maureen Clarkson, was invited to cut the anniversary cake. We also had lots of photos on display which give a glimpse of the wonderful times we have shared over the years, especially the pantomimes! There was also a memories book on the table which was started at our 40th celebration meeting and names of those attending were added. We gave thanks to God for His continued presence with us over the years. We also give thanks for all the past friends who have gone before us and for the wonderful times we have shared. It was an excellent opportunity to share friendship, good food, laughter and love.

Money raised from ticket sales, after expenses, gave a surplus of £320. This will be donated to this year's chosen charities which are the local food banks and Mau Hospital in Kenya.

Lanchester Wives and Friends offer a warm welcome to all ladies to their meetings which are on the first Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm.

**Many thanks to all who supported this lovely occasion.**

**Jennifer Nairns, President**



Top: Ladies and the band in their cloth caps!  
Above: Maureen Clarkson cutting the cake



**Community  
Centre  
News**



## Community Centre News - Summer is coming!

Thinking of getting fitter to enjoy the holidays? Come along and join the gym, it costs just £19.50 a month. The gym is open 7 days a week: Monday to Friday 7am to 9pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am to 4pm. Contact us to book your induction.

### Latest News:

The front porch roof has now been replaced with an insulated roof thanks to funding from the AAP.

We also have new window blinds in Hall 2 which were funded by Direct Line. A member of their staff nominated the Community Centre to receive a donation. If the company you run or work for has a similar scheme to help local charities, please consider helping us by nominating us.

### Coming Up:

We will be holding an 'Elvis Tribute Evening' on Saturday 27th July. There will be food and a licensed bar. Details to be confirmed.

### Can you Help?

- 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.**



## Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

On Saturday 13th April a group of the Friends had a very interesting tour of Lanchester's All Saints' Parish Church, led by Peter Smith and Eric Gaskell. We were able to examine the large Roman altar to Garmangabis and an unnamed small domestic altar, along with the Roman columns in one of the aisles.

Some of us even braved the stairs of the tower to examine a number of Roman stones visible in its construction. Some time was then spent examining various aspects of the church, its external stonework, and the graveyard. Our thanks go to Peter and Eric for a very informative tour. The next meeting of the Friends will be on Thursday May 23rd, as usual at 7.30pm in the upstairs Conference Room of the Community Centre. Don't forget to check out our website at [www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com](http://www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com) (note no dots in couk!).

**Rodney Hawkins**

## Lanchester Medical Centre: One Year on...

A year has gone by since Dr Davidson retired and Dr Kalra became lead GP at our local surgery. So how have we been doing? The best way to answer that question is to ask our patients.

Every appointment triggers a Friends and Family Test (FFT), sent to our patients in order to get their opinion of their experience of the practice, our staff and their consultation.

**Increasing quality of service-** FFT is an important, anonymous feedback tool that supports the fundamental principle of the surgery, that people who attend should have the opportunity to provide feedback on their experience. Listening to our patients' views and experiences helps us to identify what is working well and what can be improved.

As the FFT is anonymous, the Practice Manager would appreciate the details of patients who report poor or very poor experiences. This is so poor experiences can be investigated, learned from, and improved.

**Increasing ways of making appointments-** appointments can be booked online, however these do tend to be used very quickly. We have introduced pre-bookable appointments and are currently working on getting the balance right between pre-bookable appointments and those required for that day.

E-Consult is an additional way to speak to or ask questions from a health professional for non-urgent issues and is available on our website. This online system prompts you to provide information that describes your current medical condition or request. E-Consults are reviewed daily and patients will be given appointments as medically necessary. You will be informed within 48 hours what the next steps are for your query. For on the day appointments, please contact the surgery via telephone or attend in person at 8 am to book.

**Improved telephone service-** we are shortly having a new telephone system installed which, amongst superior analytics, will offer a queuing and call back facility for patients.

**More surgery information-** are you aware that the surgery has an active website and Facebook page that are diligently kept up to up to date?

**Website:** [www.lanchestermedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.lanchestermedicalcentre.co.uk)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Lanchestermedicalcentre>

The achievements during the past year demonstrate Lanchester Medical Centre's commitment to continuously improving the services they provide for the patients they support and to provide a happy and stable working environment for their dedicated staff.

### You can help us to help you by;

- attending annual review appointments in your birthday month,
- ordering prescriptions on time, allowing the pharmacy 48 hours to dispense.
- do not ring for results until after 2 pm
- attending appointments with only one issue, if there are multiple issues, please inform our reception staff who will book you a double appointment, if possible
- if you cannot attend your booked appointment, please ring the surgery to cancel
- please remember our colleagues at Lanchester Pharmacy for your minor ailments; they can deal with several issues,
  - earache (1-17 years)
  - impetigo (1 year plus)
  - infected insect bites (1 year plus)
  - shingles (18 years plus)
  - sinusitis (12 years plus)
  - sore throat (5 years plus)
  - women with uncomplicated urinary tract infections (16 years to 64 years)
  - prescribed and over the counter medications

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.

Please remember to treat our reception staff as you would like to be treated. Reception staff cannot give patients what they do not have available. They can, however, ask the GP on call who will advise accordingly.

[england.friendsandfamilytest@nhs.net](mailto:england.friendsandfamilytest@nhs.net) > Friends and family test

<https://www.nhs.uk> > NHS Service Prescriptions

**Lanchester Medical Centre**



### Recent monthly FFT Review

*Following their appointment, patients were asked to rate their experience, these were the results:*

**83% very good**

**8.8% good**

**2.7% neither good nor bad**

**2.7% poor**

**2.7% very poor**

***During the same period 34 people with booked appointments did not attend.***

## Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

**Patient Participation Group Awareness Week 3rd – 9th June 2024**

We would like to use this week to remind the community about the benefits of such a group and how you can join us.

What does a Patient Participation Group do? PPGs can play a number of roles, including:

- Advising the practice on the patient perspective
- Organising health promotion events
- Communicating with the wider patient body
- Running volunteer services and support groups to meet local needs
- Carrying out research into the views of those who use the practice (and their carers)
- Influencing the practice and the wider NHS to improve commissioning

PPGs are about implementing real, positive change in their communities. Patients have long valued the relationship with their GP and general practice. However, the dynamics of this relationship have changed over recent years – patients today rightly want more say in their own healthcare, are better informed and expect to be treated as whole people, not just as a condition or ailment.

PPGs have an increasingly important role to play in helping to give patients a say in the way services are delivered to best meet their needs, and the needs of the local community.

PPGs can help GPs to develop an equal partnership with their patients. They can help them to communicate accurately and honestly about key health matters. They can also help to reduce costs and improve services by identifying changes that the practice may not have considered, allowing resources to be used more efficiently. Additionally, they can develop mutually supportive networks for patients and the practice, outside of individual appointments.

Young, retirees, people with long-term conditions and from non-British ethnic groups - if you would like to join us please sign up on the Medical Centre website, or ask for details at reception.



## Thursday Club

At our last meeting in April we welcomed the Rev. Stephen Martin who came along to talk to us about his life leading up to him being ordained and becoming a Minister of the Church of England.

He had us all totally enthralled - holding us in the 'palm of his hand'. What an interesting life he has led - making him ideally suited to his calling in the ministry - able to understand and empathise with a vast array of human conditions, frailties and to deal with all the many times in which we all at some point in our lives need someone to listen.

Among the many occupations he had, one was being an undertaker, which must involve a lot of care, comfort and support being given to folks in need.

Stephen talked about the many people who had helped him along the way, and they were always described as being 'mint'. One of our group said of him after the meeting, that she had never met 'a better Christian'. I think that sentiment sums up Stephen and to use his own phraseology - he himself is 'Mint'.

**Olive Simpkins**



Right: Rev. Stephen Martin



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james@prismadvice.co.uk

## Wildlife Notes

### Watch out for water

Take time to look for insects that specialise in water courses and ponds. Damsels and dragons are flying now; the Large Red Damselfly is first to emerge in spring, it is actually tiny, but the name implies ambition! Different species emerge at different times. Mayflies will be flying from May to September. These insect larvae spend all their time in our fresh water before developing into the adult insects. Have you noticed the Grey Wagtails catching insects near Malton and feeding them to their fledged chicks along the River Browney? There are otters using our water courses locally too.

Dog walkers beware a cooling doggy dip can mean death to dragons and damsels et al:

The 'spot-on' treatments you may use to deter ticks and fleas is an insecticide and highly toxic to our native invertebrates whose larvae live in freshwater. The chemicals act as neurotoxins, even a tiny concentration is so potent that it harms our river life. One flea treatment of a medium-sized dog can contain enough pesticide to kill 60 million bees. In rivers research shows that neonicotinoids polluting water sharply reduces insect numbers and consequently causes a drop in the number of birds and other animals further up the food chain.

If you allow a treated dog into water before the product has been absorbed, the treatment will wash off, reducing its effectiveness to protect your dog. 48 hours is suggested on the product information. Even bathing your dog can wash the toxic chemicals into rivers via the drainage/sewage system, as can washing your dog beds too soon after treatment.

It's best to avoid a blanket year-round use of flea/tick treatments. Other more naturally based products can be used to reduce the risk of unwanted visitors. Search online for choices.

#### Notes

*Smallhope Burn and the Browney are part of the River Wear river system:*

<https://wear-rivers-trust.org.uk/>

*Natural History Museum river invertebrates guide: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/identify-nature/guide-identifying-common-freshwater-invertebrate-groups.html>*

**From our Wildlife Correspondent**

*Top: Grey Wagtail*

*Right middle: Dipper*

*Below left: Banded Demoiselle*

*Far right below: Large Red damselfly at Malton*



## Work Experience in software development – read on!

Embarrassingly, the Village Voice website is very basic. Doubly embarrassingly for me, it's my responsibility. Triply embarrassingly, web development is a large part of my job.

How are we in this position? Simply, I don't have the time to bring it up to the standard it deserves.

There are two reasons I don't have the time. The first is having a baby. But the second is that I'm seriously busy at work at a tech company. And that will go for most of the people with the skills to do this properly. But not if they're just starting out. So, I thought well I'm at a busy tech company and I have a website I'm responsible for that's falling apart – let's try to make lemons out of lemonade.

The tech company I work at is called elementsuite – I'm one of five or six of us who were there at the beginning, six or seven years ago. Since then, we've been on a rapid growth trajectory and already look after the HR for many hundreds of thousands in the UK, including some small companies you may have heard of like McDonald's, Travelodge, and so on.

There's much further to go though to dominate the world and we continue to expand at roughly 30% per annum. So, we need talent. Constantly. And here's the lemonade:

If you're an ambitious sixth former, college student, autodidact or someone with a similar background who is eager to kick-start their career in software development and wants to make a tangible impact in our community, this could be the ideal opportunity for you. (If you're none of those things but you know one of the above then please do let them know).

I'm asking you to take on a full upgrade of the Village Voice site, including at a minimum installation of a Content Management System and importation of the entire archive into the same, but ideally a full CI/CD pipeline as well. I have some ideas on how that can be done and will be around to give you technical assistance, but I've no intention of being prescriptive here – it's for you to get it done however you consider best. In exchange for your work in bringing the website up to date – and conditional on you doing a decent job, I've twisted some arms and am pleased to offer a three weekend, two-week work experience opportunity with us at elementsuite down in Watford (if you don't know where that is – and I couldn't blame you – it's within the M25 and 20 mins on the train from Central London. The overground and London buses go there. It's London basically).

elementsuite will cover all travel and accommodation expenses, making it convenient for you to explore London during your days off and be culturally enriched!

You will need to be at least 16 at the time of starting the work experience. Interested? Get in touch with Village Voice on [lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk) and we'll take it from there.

**David Jordan**

## Ladies who lunch

After missing out on having our Christmas meal at the Derwent Manor Hotel last year, due to really bad weather conditions, we finally made it for lunch last time out.

It is a very large establishment, possibly more suited to large functions and weddings rather than just lunch – we were the only ones in the dining area. Having said that we were well looked after by the most obliging staff. Menus were quickly produced showing the main menu, salads, burgers, pizzas, and pasta – so a wide varied choice.

We opted to sample for starters a prawn cocktail. Mains were linguine carbonara; spaghetti Bolognese with garlic bread; a spicy chicken burger; and beef and mushroom pie with mash/chips and seasonal veg.

Desserts were hedgerow berry and lemon Eton mess; millefeuille; chocolate mousse; and sticky toffee pudding.

We all had an excellent meal – good food and delicious puddings. It was a pleasant lunch time out, not too far away which we all enjoyed. Having said that, a smaller venue more suited to small lunch time gatherings is somewhere more suited to our needs.

## The Gourmet Girls



## Lanchester Flower Club – Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday 24th April in Lanchester Community Centre. Our speaker was Howard Leslie from Quiet Corner Plants. He is a regular speaker at our club, he always answers all our queries about our plants. He usually does a quiz with the screen. He makes it fun and so enjoyable. So, we all enjoyed a lovely afternoon.

But we had another celebration this month, our Chairperson Helen Tomlinson celebrated her 90th birthday. Helen is a founder member of Lanchester Flower Club and has been a member for more than 50 years. Helen has been our chairperson for a great number of those years. In Helen's younger years she was a regular N.A.F.A.S. demonstrator herself and visited many clubs doing demonstrations. So we all enjoyed, with Helen, a lovely birthday cake and non-alcoholic wine and sang happy birthday. So, a good time was had by all.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 1.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator will be Susan Hall, her theme "Inspirational Treasures". Everyone is welcome to 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: Chairperson Helen Tomlinson*





## Poppy's walks

On Thursday, May 2 a dozen intrepid walkers and yours truly set off at 6pm from Lanchester Village Green for the first of a series of monthly summer walks. A prince of a man called Noel is leading the walks on the first

Thursday of each month in June, July, August and September.

Although I do not usually accompany the female Human on organised walks – she says I am a distraction, whatever that means – I was allowed to tag along with the male Human on this one in order to report back to you, dear readers.

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

The summer evening walks set off at 6pm from the village green and on this one we proceeded along Durham Road. After leaving the Lanchester boundary we followed a footpath sign which took us diagonally across a field then onto a farm track. This led us behind some farm buildings – all the way following footpath signs – past some sheep and goats with a fence between us. We then crossed a stile and walked into some woods with the TV mast at Burnhope in front of us.

After walking uphill for a while, we stopped for a breather at a point where footpaths converged. One or two of the humans

on the walk were feeling the strain but all doggedly persevered. After the break we took a right turn – and that was the end of the climbing. We walked along the level for some time – this with the mast on our left above us. At some standing stones we turned right and downhill through another wood to a stile. At the stile I was put on my lead because on the other side was a field full of sheep. We walked diagonally downhill until we came back onto Durham Road across another stile next to High Burnhopeside Farm.

After walking along the footpath for a few yards we crossed the road and walked down the side road to Malton picnic area. We walked along the river – where I enjoyed a cooling off paddle – and then back to Lanchester along the railway path.

The male Human perked up as we approached the village when the walkers announced plans for a thirst-quenching break in the King's Head. And as dogs are allowed in too, I wasn't going to complain.

The walk took just over 90 minutes and I would encourage anyone – humans and their canine companions – to join in the others.

## Greencroft Forest Meeting

Around 40 villagers attended a meeting to learn more about the proposed Greencroft Forest – and few seemed to be in favour.

The meeting in Lanchester Community Centre on the afternoon of Thursday, May 16 was organised by the village Partnership and chaired by its chairman, Henry Edwards.

Concerns voiced by residents included the effect of reduced wind speed on three turbines at Greencroft; the danger of increased pollen harming the health of Lanchester residents; and the destruction of the local landscape in favour of “a commercial development.”

Two members from the Forestry Commission and Samuel Roberts from land agents Pryor and Rickett Silviculture were in attendance, but the proposed forest park is opposed by the Partnership, Lanchester Parish Council and the Campaign to Protect Rural Lanchester (CPRE).

Parish councillor David Smith argued that the Greencroft Estate at present is attractive, with “an open aspect, highly valued and used by walking groups.” He said the forestry commission's proposal was to replace the landscape with a “commercial development, a monocultural plantation which will not increase biodiversity.” The meeting was told the proposed plantation would be Sitka spruce trees. Cllr Smith urged residents to make their opposition known to Durham County Council and their local MP, Richard Holden.

Veronica Cleary, owner of Lanchester Wines which is based at Greencroft and runs three wind turbines there, said she was “very concerned about the impact of the trees on reducing wind energy on the three turbines.”

Lanchester resident Brian Naylor warned about the impact of pollen on locals' health, saying: “In Japan they are moving forests away from the cities.” Local conservationist Noel Jackson added: “You cannot have people making money and trying to fob us off that it is to our benefit.” There are also proposals to build holiday lodges on the site and the Partnership plans to hold another meeting to canvass views on that issue.

The developers, True North Real Asset Partners (True North), insists its aim is to develop “a high quality and sustainable tourism development”. They say: “The Proposed Development will protect the existing character of the wider area, delivering a landscape-led scheme with biodiversity enhancements, whilst preserving and offering conservation and public access to the historically significant Greencroft Estate.”

**Neil McKay**

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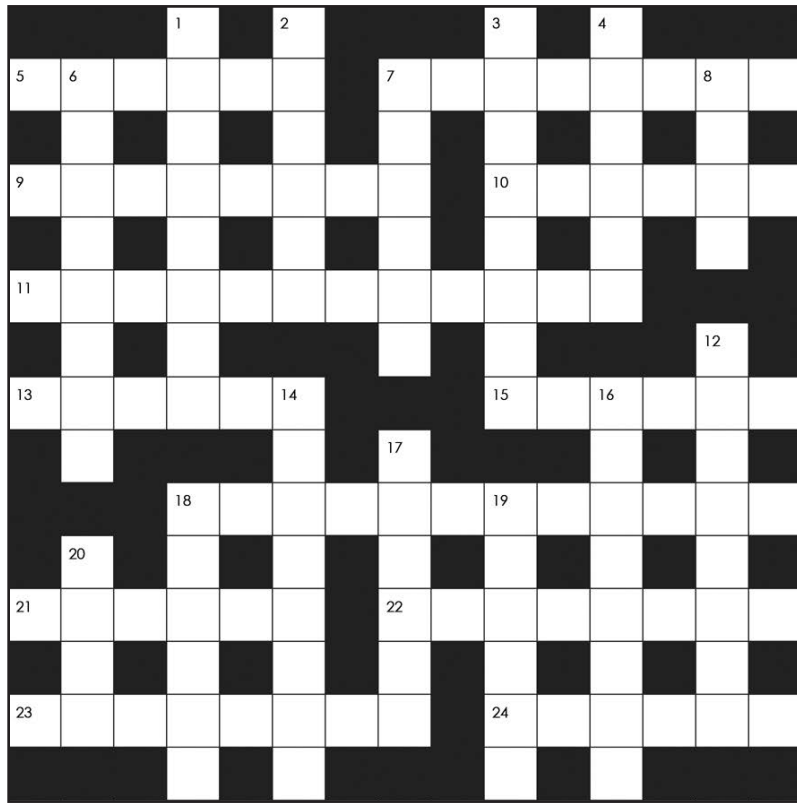
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\*\*\*\*\*

# CLUES CROSSWORD 197



## Across

5. Simple building added to another (4-2)
7. Word for a phrase such as 'awfully good' (8)
9. Type of brandy (8)
10. Sewing implement (6)
11. 80's pop band with Durham connections (6,6)
13. Are these periods of time magical? (6)
15. Stay alongside (4,2)
18. Forgetful (6-6)
21. Ask in payment (6)
22. Break in sporting fixture (4-4)
23. Person who writes music (8)
24. Short lived and minor problem (6)

## Down

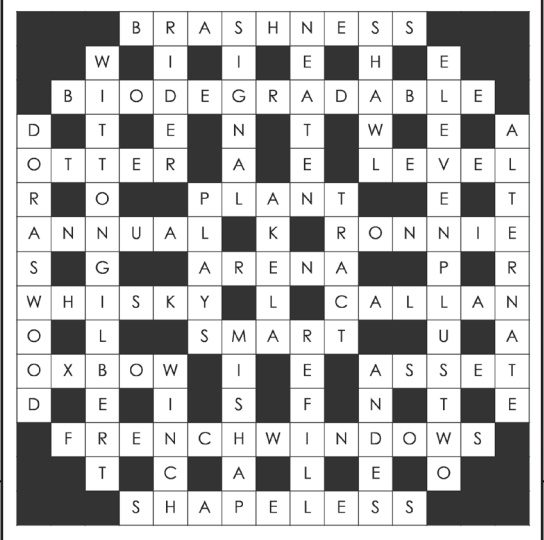
1. Not legal (8)
2. Biscuit that mixes with the rich and famous? (6)
3. Printed collection of devotional songs (4,4)
4. Concealed or secret (6)
6. Liquid medicines for the lughole (3,5)
7. To engage or hold (6)
8. Stare (4)
12. Malcolm Macdonald or Harold Macmillan (8)
14. State of anxiety (8)
16. Famous theoretical physicist (8)
17. Device used to moor a ship (6)
18. Sudden or unexpected (6)
19. Evil in nature or effect (6)
20. "Go away!" (4)

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by **Tuesday 7th June 2024** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



## Solution to Crossword 196

There were 18 entries of which 13 were correct. Four of the incorrect entries had 1. across as "Crassness" instead of "Brashness" which the compiler had selected for the solution to the clue. A further one was incomplete.

The winner, drawn out of the hat, was Janet Charlton.

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## Dear Village...

Dear Village Voice,  
Having recently seen, for the first time, an excellent edition of *The Village Voice*, it made me wonder how many from my era are still living in or around Lanchester.  
My era goes back to, born and lived in Lanchester from 1944 until I got married in 1968 and moved to Rowlands Gill.  
My name is Robert Hall. I lived in Croft View and Mount Park Drive, attended the infant/junior school in Newbiggen Lane and the secondary modern on the green from 1949 to 1959.  
This year, those who were in the same class year as me will be celebrating their 80th birthday.  
For the last forty-five years, I've lived near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, having celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary six years ago.  
Families or friends who know me from any generation, I would look forward very much to hearing from you.  
My email address is, halloffamegolf@googlemail.com

**Best wishes**  
**Robert Hall**



Dear Village Voice  
The Consett and District Branch of the Royal British Legion are attending the celebrations of D-Day 80. Stanley Town Council are holding a celebration on Thursday 6th June 2024 at the Beacon, Stanley Front Street at 10:45am. This is open to all veterans in the area. Please phone 01207 299109 or email [info@stanley-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@stanley-tc.gov.uk) if you wish to attend.  
The Branch are holding a veteran's "tea party" at East Stanley Club on the afternoon of Saturday 29th June for all veterans of the area, between 2pm and 5pm. The branch will also have a stall on Sunday 30th June at the Armed Forces Day celebration on Stanley Front Street, between 11am and 4pm. Please come along and visit the stand and find out more about the branch.  
If any veteran or anyone wishing to know about membership of the branch, please contact the secretary on [Consett.Secretary@rbl.community](mailto:Consett.Secretary@rbl.community).

**Malcolm Barnes**  
**Consett & District Branch Secretary**  
**Royal British Legion**

## Lanchester Parish Council

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

**Minutes** – Ordinary Meeting 12th March – approved.

#### **Police Reports**

Members were updated on the recent PACT report for March.

Officers continue to see use of illegal off-road bikes being ridden around the roads, woodland and paths in Lanchester and Burnhope. They are working hard to come up with a solution to the issue but are still keen for residents to provide any information they have in relation to the bikes. Residents are encouraged to report these bikes via 101 or using the 101 live chat on the Durham Constabulary website.

Police will be testing a new solution to the issues of parking in the Burnhope and Lanchester areas. Those caught repeatedly parking on double yellow lines (without a disability badge), parking on keep clears, parking on dropped kerbs and causing an obstruction to resident's drive/pedestrians will receive a Community Protection Warning – This can't be appealed and will stay with the person for 12 months. If they are caught again, they will receive a Community Protection Notice. If they re-offend within the next 12 months, they will be issued with a fine or subject to court proceedings.

Community speed watch was carried out at the following locations

9/1/24 A691 Lanchester Durham Road 1535hrs to 1600hrs 111 vehicles passed with 11 speeding.

13/02/24 B6296 Cadger Bank 1350hrs to 1415hrs 21 vehicles passed 4 speeding.

26/02/24 A6076 Maiden Law Bank 1340hrs to 1410 99 vehicles passed 13 speeding.

26/02/24 A691 Lanchester Durham Road 1415hrs to 1445hrs 179 vehicles passed 18 speeding.

26/02/24 B6296 Cadger Bank 1450hrs to 1515hrs 35 vehicles passed 9 speeding.

Drivers are being dealt with suitably in regard to their speed.

#### **Correspondence –**

**Clerk Magazine March** – received.

#### **Lanchester Solar Planet Walk**

The Parish Council have worked with Durham County Council Procurement to find a contractor for the project. An evaluation was carried out and a successful bidder identified. The decision to send a conditional award letter to the successful bidder was ratified.

#### **Greencroft Forest Park**

Councillor David Smith gave a presentation on the Greencroft Forest Park development. Members of Greencroft Parish Council attended the meeting to watch the presentation. Councillors authorised Councillor David to share his presentation with Greencroft Parish Council and at an open meeting the Lanchester Partnership is organising with all residents.

**Hanging Baskets** - Members considered and agreed the price received for the provision of hanging baskets of £264.00 plus the cost of watering.

**Financial report** – approved.

**Accounts for Payment** – approved.

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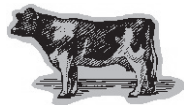
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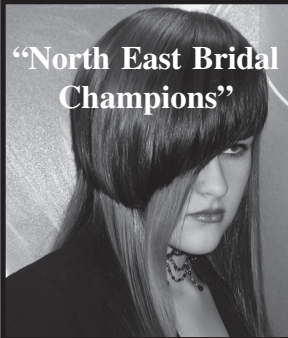
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## From your County Councillors

In a rural area like Lanchester village and the surrounding parish, buses are not only a useful amenity, but a vital lifeline.

Since joining the Council in 2021, Mike and I have built up a positive, but honest, working relationship with Go North East (GNE) buses that provide key services throughout the area. It has therefore been useful to pass on feedback relating to a series of issues about services, from things like late running, to cancelled services, as well as questions about the bus app and services at smaller hamlets in the ward like Hurbuck Cottages and Holmside.

When we joined the Council, things were clearly much more difficult, as the Covid pandemic was only starting to ease off. At the height of Covid, usage fell by around 90%, and people's work and shopping habits took a long time to change back. Estimates vary, but Government data indicates use of buses outside London is still about 20-25% lower on weekdays, than at the beginning of 2020.

Commercial bus services have therefore felt pressure. Whilst GNE and their competitors run a series of routes for profit, they also run services that are supported by local subsidy, because local and national government recognises that transport provides social and economic value above and beyond helping people get around for work, school, medical visits, and recreation. It has therefore been welcome that the Government has provided assistance, giving money through the Bus Recovery Grant and the Bus Service Improvement Plan in the last few years.

Whilst Mike and I work closely with the Council's transport team on ensuring subsidy is used for key routes, we also work to ensure that operators like GNE get the basics right.

In the year we were elected we had the opportunity to visit their Hownsgill depot in Consett, and we took along Mike Gladstone, a well-respected resident who led on transport matters for the Lanchester Partnership. When our MP Richard Holden served as buses minister, he led a valuable public meeting at Consett Steel Club where Derwentside residents fed in information about services.

I was able to refresh our relationship with Ben Maxfield, Business Director, at GNE's Gateshead depot on March 27th this year. We talked about a range of familiar topics and moving on from last autumn's bus strikes and what they are doing to improve maintenance. Whilst the outlook is looking more positive after a difficult few years, I promised that I would welcome feedback.

**If you have any, please do email me on:**  
[douglas.oliver@durham.gov.uk](mailto:douglas.oliver@durham.gov.uk)  
**Doug Oliver**

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## WHAT'S ON - May / June 2024

### City Theatre

City Theatre  
The City Theatre,  
Durham, presents "The  
Railway Children",  
23rd to 29th June. This  
play is adapted from  
the classic E Nesbit  
novel. The story of a  
prosperous Edwardian  
family, mother and three  
children, forced into  
near penury in the north  
of England, captures the  
anxieties of childhood  
with tenderness and  
insight. Tickets from  
the Gala Durham on  
03000 266600 or [www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk](http://www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk)  
and follow the link for  
tickets. Performances:  
Sunday and Saturday  
matinee 2.30 pm,  
Monday to Friday 7.30  
pm. Tickets £8.50,  
concessions £7.50 Sun/  
Mon/ Tues.

### Lanchester Social Club

1st June - Sam Naylor  
8th June - Ricky Dixon  
15th June - The  
Seymour Sisters  
22nd June - Marie Claire  
29th June - McKenzie

### Flower Club


Our next meeting will  
be on Wednesday  
22nd May 2024 at  
1.30pm in Lanchester  
Community Centre main  
hall. The demonstrator  
will be Susan Hall, her  
theme "Inspirational  
Treasures". Everyone  
is welcome to 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.

### 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.



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### Paradiso Film Club

9th June: Golden Years  
Starring Bernard Hill, Mark Williams, Simon Callow, Phil Davis, Alun Armstrong, Virginia McKenna, Sue Johnston. Fate, the pensions crisis and a steadfast refusal to accept the injustice of old age have contrived to force law abiding, retired couple, Arthur and Martha Goode into a life of crime. Refusing to take the loss of their pensions lying down and to fade away into their declining years, our characters decide to fight back. They decide to take back what was theirs in the first place. They decide to start robbing banks. Lanchester Community Centre. 7pm quiz, refreshments, raffle and DVD sale. Film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £3, Non-members: £4.

### Lanchester Library

*Library Book Club*  
On Monday 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

Music of The Rat Pack and Friends: Join us for music, refreshments and fun activities. 5th June 2024 at 2pm, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group using the ability of music to improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email [lanchesterdfc@gmail.com](mailto:lanchesterdfc@gmail.com).

### Lanchester Methodist Church Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday at the Methodist Church between 10 and 12, in aid of the following organisations:  
May 25th Mental health charity  
June 1st Allotment group  
June 8th Wives and Friends

June 22nd Boys' Brigade  
June 29th TBA

### Thursday Club

The next meeting will take place in the main hall of the Community Centre on June 20th at 1.30pm when we shall be welcoming The Gibson Singers to entertain us.

### Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

The next meeting of the Friends will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 23rd May in the upstairs conference room of the Community Centre. We are currently studying the village of Slatley as there is a record of Roman stonework having been found there and some Roman coins. An investigation by an authorised metal detecting group has unfortunately not found any Roman artefacts. Our next visit will be looking at the structure of a particular building to examine it for Roman stonework. Arrangements are in hand to conduct a small archaeological dig at a ditched rectangular feature off Peth Bank, which may be an Iron Age enclosure. Arrangements are also in hand for a group visit to the Parish Church to examine the Roman stonework in its structure, and the Roman altars in the church porch. Further information about the work of the Friends may be obtained from Mrs M. Williams, tel: 01207 520063, or from Rodney Hawkins, email [hawkins\\_15@sky.com](mailto:hawkins_15@sky.com). Don't forget that you can find out about our work at [www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com](http://www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com). (Note there are no dots before or in "couk")

### Wellbeing walk

Every Monday at 1pm on the village green next to the war memorial. Walk lasts up to 90 minutes, all welcome. To book please visit [www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham](http://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 meeting of the lunch held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 10th June 12pm start, all welcome.

### History Society

We will be meeting as usual on Friday 7th June 6.45 for a 7.00 start in Room 3 at the Community Centre. Our speaker is Graham Soult, who after a career in retail, brings us a talk on North East Department stores. There were so many large family retailers over the North East in the recent past, sadly mostly gone now. The July meeting on Friday 5th July will be David Butler, who has entertained us several times in the past. This talk is titled "The Guests of Queen Victoria 1851" so all will be revealed on the night. Do come and join us, all welcome.

### WI

The next meeting is on Monday 3rd June 7.00 in the Community Centre, the speaker will be Bernadette Hunt telling us about her career in Forensics. Visitors are always welcome to come along and join us for the evening. Lanchester Women's Institute meets once a month on a Monday at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre, we have guest speakers, outings and learn crafts. If you would like to join us please

check the next meeting date and come along or contact us for more information, 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](mailto: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](mailto:hdbthomas@live.com)).

### Brass concert

Consett Salvation Army and Consett Brass present "White River Brass", celebrating 145 years of Consett Salvation Army Band. Friday June 21st 2024 at 7pm, Consett Salvation Army. Tickets £5 from Marc Jackson: 07949299929, marc.jackson@salvationarmy.org.uk.

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

It's been lovely having all our young people back to start the last term of the year. Here are just a few things we have been up to in St Bede's over the last couple of months.

### Sixth Form Taster Day for Year 11

Last term, Year 11 students had a taster of vocational courses at a college; others stayed at school and experienced another Sixth Form taster day. Students were able to choose when they would like their study periods to be and during them were allowed to use the hub (Sixth Form canteen) and the study rooms. Some of the students told us about their experience and what they chose. "Personally, we chose to do maths, Spanish, history, and chemistry as well as a study period. Throughout the day many members of our Sixth Form joined our lessons to try and convince us to take that specific subject and their reasons why they enjoy it so much."

### Year 12 Physics Trip

Year 12 and Year 13 Physics students had an amazing day at The Centre for Life in Newcastle. They explored ideas about the practicalities of space travel, the possibilities of terraforming and watched two excellent shows in the Planetarium about the amazing skies at night we have here in the Northeast.

### School Council Food Tasting

Our school council had a meeting with the head of catering for the BWCET Trust. They had students sample some of the potential new items that may be added to St Bede's menu in the future. Council members tasted two sauces, chicken selects, pasta, rice and doughnut dots. Some of our personal favourites were the chicken selects and the doughnut dots. Students were also able to make suggestions about what they might like to see in the future.

**Mrs Catherine Hammill**  
**Head Teacher**

*Top: School Council food tasting.  
Right: Year 12 Physics Trip*



## Tennis Club open for business!

Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club is now ready for the 2024 grass court season following the opening on Wednesday 1st May. Despite a difficult start to the preparations, the grounds team, consisting of yours truly, Jane Laycock, Sally Laverick and Ursula Heale worked hard to get the three courts cut and marked in time for the opening. Well done and thanks to all.

The coffee morning, held on Saturday 20th April in the Methodist Church, raised the terrific amount of £209. The club would like to thank everyone who served, contributed, or attended the event. The picture shows some of the cakes on offer, delicious!

Players were disappointed that the early team matches were cancelled because of the miserable weather, so no results to report so far!

Coaching continues at the courts on Ford Road on Monday evenings, and full details can be obtained from the addresses below.

Please contact Dennis at [lanchestertennis@gmail.com](mailto:lanchestertennis@gmail.com) or 07960494442.

Or follow us on Facebook.

**Dennis Laycock**



## Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

I am delighted to inform you all that we have eventually had our Ofsted inspection on 6th and 7th March and the report is now published. Our school had a short inspection and I am thrilled to say that we continue to be judged as being a Good school. It was a very intense but positive process which is always good to hear after all the adverse publicity Ofsted has had recently. I would like to extend my huge thanks to the whole community who help make our school the very special place it is. In the words of the proverb: 'It takes a whole village to raise a child'.

Here is the link to read the report: <https://www.lanchesterep.durham.sch.uk/web/ofsted/281665>

However, I thought you might like to read a snapshot of the comments made by the inspector:

*The school's strong and distinctive Christian ethos shines through.*

*Pupils are happy.*

*Pupils trust adults to keep them safe.*

*Pupils talk openly about the need for equality.*

*Aspiration and ambition are tangible.*

*Pupils behave very well.*

*They aspire to rewarding careers.*

*Pupils are enthusiastic about the range of opportunities available to them.*

*A clear favourite is learning outdoors in the school's forest area.*

*The school's curriculum grabs pupils' attention, fosters curiosity and promotes enthusiasm for learning.*

*Pupils quickly learn to read.*

*They show enthusiasm for books and read with confidence and expression.*

*The importance of reading in the school shines through.*

*All pupils access the same curriculum, reflecting the school's commitment to equality and inclusion.*

*Pupils enjoy school and want to learn. Pupils' rates of attendance reflect this.*

*Positive behaviour in lessons helps pupils to succeed.*

*The curriculum supports pupils to develop strength of character and positive attitudes. This is a strength of the school.*

*Creative arts have a high profile.*

*The school is a vital cog in the local community.*

*Staff say morale is very positive because of strong teamwork.*

*Parents are extremely supportive of the school. They appreciate the extensive information they receive about their children's education and school activities.*

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



## Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Primary School

May has been a lovely month here at All Saints'. We have lovely grounds at the rear and side of our school and the children have been able to make full use of the outside space during lessons and playtimes. Our gardening club have planted seeds and are hoping for a bumper crop of fruit and vegetables this year. Thank you to David Smith (one of our Local Governing Committee members) for helping and providing advice to our gardeners! Some of our classes have been enjoying the great outdoors in different ways. After finishing their statutory tests, our whole Year 6 class visited Sunderland Marina for a day of watersports. They thoroughly enjoyed paddle-boarding and were very brave jumping into that chilly North Sea! Our Year 5 class has completed a Bikeability course around the school grounds and quieter roads in the village. This course helps them to gain a great awareness of road safety as a cyclist and teaches them some of the rules of the road. Whickham Thorns was the destination for a day of adventurous activities for all of our Year 2 class. Would you believe they were able to fit in climbing, laser tag, crate stacking and snow tubing all in one day!

It is so nice to see the curriculum enriched with opportunities for every single child in our school.

We also try our very best to develop the spirituality of our children on a daily basis. During the month of May, we particularly think of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and this month the children have been given a weekly opportunity at lunchtime to pray the Rosary in school. The children of all ages have such respect and reverence during these prayerful times.

We are all looking forward to the final half term of the academic year – we have so much to fit in before the summer holidays!

**Alison Conlin**  
**Acting Head Teacher**



Top: David Smith supervising the children planting seeds.  
Right: Children pause for a photo!

## Lanchester Bowling Club - And They're Off!

After seven long, gloomy months excitement mounted as the new bowling season approached. Shirts and trousers have been aired along with coats, jumpers, gloves and woolly hats, bags and shoes retrieved from dank cupboards, bowls polished and Voltarol bought (other muscular pain relief is available!). After rain (what else?) delayed the preparation of the green, the official opening was Saturday, 20th April when the club held a very successful open day. The opening wood was bowled by the Rev. Lesley Sutherland, vicar of All Saints Parish Church, the iconic grade 1 listed building on our badge. Councillor Douglas Oliver was also in attendance.

Behind Lesley, lining up for the off, was a large field of members along with several people who had come to experience bowling for the first time. The weather held and it was an enjoyable experience which eventually resulted in four new members joining the club.

The highlight of the afternoon was the diagonal challenge whereby bowlers bowled up to three woods from corner to corner, a distance of roughly 45 metres. Not an easy task on ground on the soft side. In first place, beating all comers including the odds on favourite Bruce Fox, was a thoroughbred filly - Sally Laverick who got the nearest to the post and won a bottle of whisky for her endeavours. Kieran Drummond on his maiden outing was runner-up, winning a bottle of wine. Those who had played on the indoor all-weather track certainly found this challenge taxing.

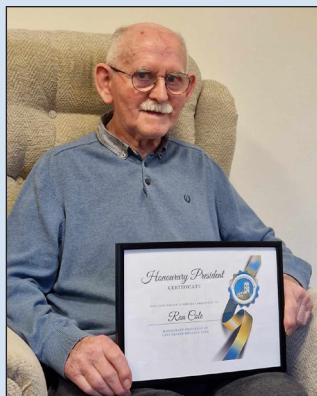
Both our teams in the S.W. Durham League got over their first hurdles. The A team played at home to Sherburn B on a good to firm track, winning 6-2. Also winning 6-2, our B team played Addison Park on a decidedly heavy pitch. By the time you read this the other leagues we play in will have started. Remember that if you would like to have a go at bowls, come along on a Thursday afternoon at 1.45.

**Bob Cuthbertson**



Top: Club Chair Mike Stoddart with Joe Newton in attendance hands the Rev Lesley Sutherland the first wood of the new season.

Above: Resting after her exertions, Sally Laverick is presented with the whisky she won on the cross green challenge



Right: Captain Ron with his certificate.

## Ron Cole made Honorary President of the Bowls Club

Ron Cole was recently awarded an Honorary President's Certificate of Lanchester Bowling Club in recognition of his work establishing the pavilion and also his commitment to Durham Bowls having served as President in the past. He was well known in the village and often enjoyed a pint in the club chatting to all and sundry.

He now lives in Bradford upon Avon close to his daughter Catherine and his grandchildren.

## Cricket News

With a little déjà vu of last season, what should have been the first week of the season was washed out and the fixtures put back into the calendar in September. That meant that cricket did finally start on 27th April, although it was touch and go all week, with the firsts entertaining newly promoted Seaham Harbour.

A huge amount of work by Jon Bell and Stephen McPhail got the game on. Neither team had a professional on show, but Harbour did have former Durham player, Jack Burnham and after being put in, the aforementioned Burnham made 75 whilst Josh Renton took 4-48. In reply, Lanchester kept losing wickets at nagging times with Charlie McPhail top scoring on 48 and there were 30s from Kieran Gohery, Luke McCabe and Josh Renton but in the end the side fell 13 runs short.

There were no such problems for the 2s at Seaham. They restricted their opponents to 164-8 with Dan Scott taking an

impressive 7-40. Equally impressively, skipper Jack Slane led the side home by eight wickets, scoring an unbeaten 86. The Sunday was a washout for the Under 9s and 11s and the third teams, but the 15s played on the Monday and started with a comfortable win. Ryton were the opposition and were restricted to 87-6. The wickets were spread around but newcomers Daniel Garside and Alfie Armstrong took wickets on debut. Joe Malone top scored with 30 and another newcomer Riley Sayer made 20 as the side won by 5 wickets. With some dry weather the 18s, 13s and newly formed midweek team should get going in the following days. The weekend sees the teams face the other Seaham, Seaham Park and the thirds travel to Crook. May 10th is the start of All Stars and fingers crossed for warm weather as there will be a food vendor on site.

**Andrew McConnell**

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