

# the Village Voice

Issue No 10, Volume 24

Lanchester, October 2024



Cricketers, under 19 team (page 20)

## Sporting season draws to a close for Lanchester clubs



Tennis finals (page 20)



Lanchester Bowling Club...it's all over now (page 19)

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## Musical Memories presents "A Vegetable Concerto"

On 2nd October we had a full house at Lynwood House to celebrate Harvest Festival time. After refreshments and a chance for a chat, Sara, Elaine, Debbie and Helen introduced the "Vegetable Concerto". Sung to the tune of the Fast Food Song, the concerto features a cauliflower, a carrot, a potato and a cabbage. All members were given a vegetable and had to raise it when its name was mentioned. The members were very active participants - here are Pat with her cauliflower, and Pat and Jill with their carrots. It was great fun generating a lot of laughs. The concerto is fun for all ages; we all need a laugh so why not try it with your family?

*A cauliflower, a cauliflower, a carrot a potato and a cauliflower  
A cauliflower, a cauliflower, a carrot a potato and a cauliflower  
A cabbage, a cabbage, a carrot a potato and a cauliflower  
A cabbage, a cabbage, a carrot a potato and a cauliflower*

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. Join us for music, refreshments and fun activities.

The first Wednesday of each month at 2pm at Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester.

**For further information email:**  
**[lanchesterdfc@gmail.com](mailto:lanchesterdfc@gmail.com)**

*Top: Sara, Elaine, Debbie and Helen performing the vegetable concerto*

*Right: Pat with her cauliflower  
Left: Pat and Jill with their carrots*



## Monday Art Group

The Monday Art group restarted after the summer break with members keen to get painting.

We also made time to investigate Cyanotype printing, demonstrated by Malcolm Coyles. This uses the sun to change the colour of all parts of the paper not covered by, for example, leaves or grasses. Additional colouring or patterning can produce lovely results, and we enjoyed experimenting and making our own prints.

Next week in a wholly different direction, Kate Lawrie will bring in some African art for us to paint or draw.

We are a small friendly group and if you are interested in joining us you will be most welcome. Contact [tojimrafferty@yahoo.com](mailto:tojimrafferty@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Jim Rafferty**



*Above:  
Cyanotype  
printing  
Left: Malcolm  
Coyles  
demonstrates*



## Thursday Club

At our last meeting in September, it was a delight to welcome local author, Carol Graham. She told us all about her interesting life - born in Nigeria, her career in carriage driving, working in special needs education and more recently, her and her husband John's Bed and Breakfast house at Westgate in Weardale. Her two books, 'A shoulder on the hill' and 'A shoulder to lean on' are humorous and perceptive descriptions of life, both human and animal in the valley.

Far from retiring, Carol is about to embark on a History MA at Durham University.

Not just an interesting life - a fascinating one.

We all had an absolutely wonderful afternoon listening to Carol. It was then time for coffee/tea and biscuits and a good old natter - and what a lot we had to think and talk about that day.

**Olive Simpkins**



*Carol  
Graham  
with one of  
her books.*



# Art competition for school pupils

**The Village Voice is launching a competition for budding artists in the village.**

**There will be two prizes, one for children up to and including year 6, and another for secondary school pupils.**

**The winner in each category will win £20.**

**The winner and runners up will appear in the December issue of the Village Voice.**

**The subject is "Winter in the Village" and can be in any 2D medium - i.e. on paper.**

**The maximum size is A3.**

**Entries must be delivered to the Community Centre by Wednesday 20th November.**



## Lanchester Local History Society

We met on Friday 6th September to listen and watch a great trip down memory lane with Julian Harrop. Julian has worked at Beamish Museum for a good few years and has witnessed a plethora of items arriving for cataloguing; one was the photo archive of Durham Advertiser. He chose the period 1939-1961 for the basis of his talk which included several images from our parish and village. He interspersed his talk with anecdotes linking the image content with history of the community. Never one to miss an opportunity he spent a few minutes at the end updating us on everything new that's happening at Beamish and oh boy things are moving along. So, for those who maybe don't know there is much to look at online on the Museum website. The People's collection is fascinating and a wealth of information to be accessed from your own home. There is a screenshot below of what's on there.

If you want to catch up with things in Durham Advertiser, it's online at the British newspaper archive.

Finally, I need to apologise as anyone who has the job of speaker finder for any society will know, my worst nightmare unfolded that night. Our very own WI had Julian to speak on exactly the same topic for their meeting the same month, what's the chance?

**Marian Morrison**

Left: Durham Advertiser archives  
Right: The People's Collection.



## Musicians Wanted – Elvet Players

The Players is 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 4 pm. We 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 welcome.

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

**For more information contact Jonathan at churchst26@gmail.com  
Jim Rafferty**

## The Lanchester Partnership

### How are we doing?

### Please let us know .....

Regular readers of the Village Voice may have some idea of what the Partnership is and does across the village. Trustees have set up a "Renew and Refresh Group". We want to discover how you currently view the Partnership and if there are ways we can serve the village better. We've put together an information sheet and a questionnaire.

Anyone can respond.

Copies and boxes for your responses will be located at various key points in the village.

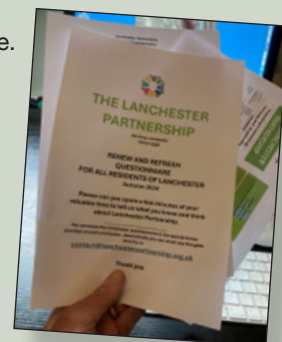
**You can return paper copies directly or, if you prefer, email us with your thoughts at:**

**contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk**

We'd really appreciate a few minutes of your time to complete and return your response.

Once we've collected them all, we'll make a summary report and then initiate some focussed discussions with various groups and organisations around the village.

**Marian Morrison  
Lesley Sutherland  
Keith Brown  
Helen McCree  
Henry Edwards**



## Marjory celebrates her hundredth birthday!

My mum, Marjory Boyes, and I would like to say a huge thank you to all who helped her celebrate her hundredth birthday on Wednesday 11th September.

Mum had a very exciting two weeks, starting with a wedding at Charlton Hall on Saturday 31st August where her great granddaughter, Rebecca, married Nathan Castle. Mum attended the ceremony and stayed for the photos before her next-door neighbour, Carole, very kindly brought her home. We were even able to get a photo of the five generations (see the picture below).

The following Saturday saw the family gather at mum's bungalow for afternoon tea, where there was much laughter and reminiscing. Mum chose to have an Open House for friends and neighbours on her actual birthday and she was kept very busy welcoming everyone who came through the door. She hardly sat down all afternoon! We reckon about fifty people came to celebrate with us and many more sent cards, including, of course, one from King Charles.

But I think one of the cards she treasures the most was from Kerry Irving, the author of Max the Miracle Dog. Kerry lives in Keswick, where mum and dad lived for many years and every day mum watches Kerry's walks with his dogs, bringing back memories of mum and dad's dog walking strolls. His daily videos were invaluable to her throughout lockdown.

If you're passing along Ridgeway, you might see her doing some gardening or having a sprightly walk around the estate.

**Thank you, Di Tute**



Above: Marjory with her card from King Charles  
Left: the five generations l-r Marjory, Lily, Rebecca, Steph, Di



## From the House

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first three months as Member of Parliament for North Durham, balancing my time between the constituency and Westminster while I find my feet as an MP. The past few weeks have been dominated by conference season and I was delighted to attend the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool. It was an excellent opportunity to hear about the government's initiatives

and lend support to various campaigns, including reforms to the Mental Health Act and increasing protections for retail workers. As we move into autumn, I am eager to get back to the important work of advancing the legislation introduced during the King's Speech this summer.

Both my constituency and Westminster offices are now fully operational, and my dedicated team and I are addressing over 1,600 casework issues and enquiries. I recently held my first advice surgeries in Sacriston, Quaking Houses and Chester-Le-Street and am planning a date in Lanchester. It was great to connect with constituents and assist them with various concerns, ranging from antisocial behaviour to housing. If you need assistance or would like to meet with me, please feel free to email me at [luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk).

In the Lanchester Ward, after listening to residents' concerns, I submitted a letter of objection to the planning application for a solar farm in Burnhope. I believe the size and scale of the project are not compatible with the village, and that its impact on the community and local wildlife would outweigh any potential benefits. I look forward to receiving a response to my objection and will update Village Voice readers in due course.

I have been enjoying campaigning across the constituency and have sessions planned in Lanchester, Stanley, and Sacriston in October. I have also spent time visiting key local employers such as Lanchester Wines and Beamish Museum, as well as representatives from the Fire and Rescue Service and Durham County Council. I look forward to working collaboratively with them to improve the lives of people across North Durham.

Constituents who want to discuss any issue or problem, please contact me at [luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk) or call my office on 0191 371 8834.

Best wishes,

**Luke Akehurst**

**Member of Parliament for North Durham**



**House of  
Commons**

## Durham Cathedral - Fenhall Drift Banner

The Fenhall Drift Banner will be on display at Durham Cathedral from 22nd October – 7th November.

Durham Cathedral are commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Miners' Strike of 1984-85 and celebrating the continuing solidarity of the Durham mining communities, with a colourful selection of banners from the region's many union lodges.



## Methodist Church Beetle Drive

On Saturday 21st September, young and old met at Lanchester Methodist Church for a Charity Beetle Drive. The sound of dice clattering, occasional groans and much laughter filled the air as about 60 people met to play Beetle and raise money for the church's 2 charities, Willow Burn and Toilet Twinning. This event raised £281. Watch out on the noticeboard for other events to support these charities.

It was lovely to see in the last Village Voice that the Orchard group were raising money for Toilet Twinning as well. Could this be a movement that spreads through Lanchester?

**Mark Temple**



Above: both young and old enjoying Beetle!

## Ladies who lunch

It was off to somewhere different for our lunch in October - taking ourselves back in time, or so it seemed, as we arrived in the mediaeval village of Blanchland - such a picture postcard perfect spot!

We were destined for the White Monk Tea Rooms - a delightful eatery in a converted old school. It has a mezzanine floor, and our table was up there, affording us glorious views out over the whole of Blanchland.

Having said that, we were there for lunch, so after carefully surveying the glorious array of cakes as we passed, we were soon scrutinising the menu. As well as cakes, there were lots of light bites, sandwiches and more substantial fare on offer.

We opted for tomato, garden veg and lentil soup; bacon and blue cheese quiche with a salad garnish, coleslaw, warm baby roasted potatoes and white monk chutney; home baked ham and egg with a seasonal salad, egg mayonnaise, coleslaw, tangy chutney and baby roasted potatoes accompanied by a homemade cheddar cheese scone; roasted cauliflower and cheese pie topped with fresh spring onions and roasted red onion, potatoes, chunks of red Leicester with shavings of Parmesan and white cheddar; bacon stottie sandwich; tuna and sweetcorn mayonnaise jacket potatoes with salad and homemade coleslaw.

And then, we all indulged in CAKE! triple chocolate; lemon drizzle; dark chocolate and almond with hidden dark cherries; oatly flapjack - the portion size would have fed the 5000; coffee and walnut; and lime and coconut.

Everything was delicious and we thoroughly enjoyed it all. The tea rooms are delightful, the staff welcoming, and Ian - the curly haired owner - makes the whole experience wonderful!

Once outside into the village there's retail therapy - Jasper Crewe, a superb gift shop full of lovely handmade articles you know you just want to take home.

We had a very nice afternoon - and we shall be looking to repeat the experience - soon!



## The Gourmet Girls

## Lanchester Curiosities, By Matthew James

Local writer Matthew has produced a series of short stories about an imaginary shop opening in Lanchester, the first instalment is below. We look forward to hearing more about the store each month.

### Curiouser and Curiouser

Lanchester Curiosities is open for business!

Have you heard of Lanchester? That's right, same as Manchester but with an "L" instead of an "M". No, not Lancaster. It's a lovely village complete with a pet shop, ice cream seller, greengrocery and lots of other shops, plus plenty of pubs and eateries to keep the locals well fed and watered.

And let me tell you, the locals absolutely love to be watered!

The doorbell chimed loudly, for the first time that morning.

Well, for the first time ever, in my new premises. I moved here in the dead of the night, as is usually the way. Just me, Annabelle (my horse), and my shop, packed up tightly in a cart. How can an entire shop be packed into a cart and pulled by a horse?

Everything is a possibility.

"What is it you sell in here?" a very nosey old woman peers at me, unblinking through large glasses, as she stands in front of my counter.

"Good morning to you too, madam!" I resist the urge to tell her to use her eyes and look around. "I sell everything and anything your heart desires. From flim-flams to whatsits and everything in between..."

"Flip flops? Whatsits? I don't think I need any more crisps or shoes... How can you sell everything in this tiny shop?"

She blinks, at last.

People only believe what is in front of them - so I motion to a shelf next to her. "Take a look over there."

"Curiouser and curiouser," the old woman says, and moves to take a look. She screams out in surprise at what she finds...

I'm afraid I must close the shop for now.

Won't you pop in again, same time and same place, next month?

All of Matthew James' work can be purchased on Amazon or via [www.matthewjameswriter.co.uk](http://www.matthewjameswriter.co.uk)





## Poppy's walks

Good day readers and my walk this month begins from the car park at Ushaw College, just a short drive from Lanchester. There are several potential routes to follow from the college which is well worth a visit in itself - both the buildings and the

gardens - for those who have not yet been.

As you will know now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale terrier who describes the walks I lead my humans on for Village Voice readers.

After leaving the car park we walk down the drive back to the main gate then turn left along the path adjacent to the road which leads to Bearpark. Before long we see a public footpath sign and follow that to our left, through a gate and diagonally across a large field with the college now on our left. At the end of the field, we pass through an open gate and turn right along a farm track. This leads us through some woods - known on the map as Park Wood - and I enjoy exploring the undergrowth there.

We emerge from the woods onto a footpath which leads us alongside a field and to the right, eventually bringing us back through a narrow passageway onto the Bearpark road again, but this time practically in Bearpark. We turn left towards Bearpark then left again when we come to some Aged Miners cottages.

This leads us along a road called Hill Top Road which we follow until we see a footpath to our left. We then join the footpath which takes us behind some modern houses on our right, with fields on our left. We carry on along the footpath past a park with a cricket

ground on our left.

When the path ends, we turn left and follow signs to Lodge Farm, a narrow road which is marked Private but which remains a public right of way as a footpath. We approach Lodge Farm, which is in fact a series of modern barn conversions which look very grand. We pass a sign on our left warning us not to feed the horses, which I had no intention of doing. Although a sign to our right says Pedestrians we ignore that on this occasion and proceed straight on to a gate which leads us onto a field and takes us away from Lodge Farm again.

We follow the footpath to our left with panoramic views of the Browney Valley on our right. After a good 20 minutes we find a gap on the hedge marked by two posts to our left, next to an abandoned farm trailer.

By going left through the gap, we see signs marking the Saints Trail. We cross three fields and come to a farm track. We cross the track and then a stile directly opposite which takes us into a field full of tall willow trees. We continue along the trodden path in front of us until we come to a clearing. Then we turn left and see a house in front of us. We walk past the side of the house and find ourselves back into the Ushaw College grounds.

From there it is time for me to have a quick run around the field to the side of the college - it was used by the student priests as a sports field - then back to the car.

The walk took about one hour forty-five minutes and did include a couple of stiles and some uneven terrain. But I would thoroughly recommend it.

## Lodge development seeks planning approval

Durham County Council has received a planning application for the lodges development on Greencroft estate.

According to the application the proposal will "provide up to 140 lodges alongside a Hub with a food offering and spa; maintain the historic assets; enhance public access through the Estate and to the surrounding new afforestation proposal; retain landscape features and woodland; improve the surface run-off and flooding in the area; and enhance the biodiversity through comprehensive and quality design."

The access to the lodge development will be from Durham Road and the exit via Tower Road. A "recreational" access link to Howden Bank will be incorporated to allow pedestrian and other non-vehicular traffic to access the village and Maiden Law.

It is claimed that the development will provide "much needed quality lodge visitor accommodation which the tourism management organisation, Visit County Durham, identifies as missing in the current market offering, to encourage greater levels of overnight visitors to the County."

There will be a central 'Hub' - adjacent to the site of the former Greencroft Hall - with lodge zones located within new and existing areas of woodland. A range of facilities and services including a spa, fitness suite, ancillary food and retail offering are incorporated. The leisure facilities will be accessible for visitors and locals.

There were local consultations as a result of which the developers have made a number of amendments to the initial plan.

The Icehouse and Dovecot are no longer being

proposed for a wine or whisky venue. They will be made good and safe but not have a specific use.

The lodges within the existing woodland have been rearranged in response to ecology information to avoid areas of higher value wildlife and tree groups.

A bridleway loop has now been incorporated into the proposal. A reduction of lodges from 150 to 140.

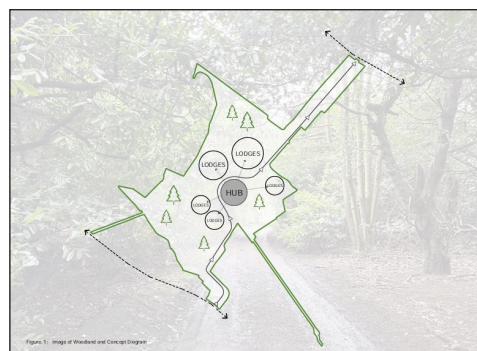
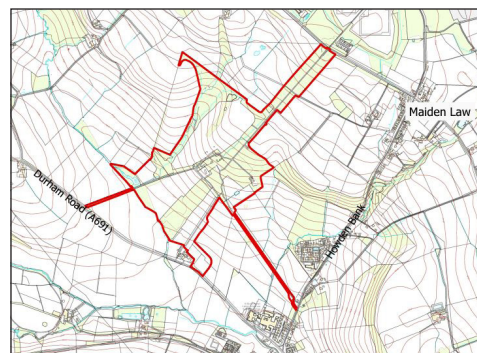
Further work has been produced to ensure the proposal reduces the volume of surface water draining from the Site.

Spa facilities moved from listed Greencroft Park House to proposed hub building.

Access to the Site has been refined and includes permanent bus stops on Durham Road to provide a larger recreational loop for guests and locals.

A phasing plan for both landscaping and built form has been produced to minimise visual impact.

The planning documents associated with the application are very comprehensive and this article is of necessity a very brief summary. The deadline for comments may have passed by the time you read this article. ***The reference of the application is DM/24/02481/OUT if you wish to look at and comment on the Durham County Council planning portal.***



Top: A schematic layout showing the boundaries of the lodge development in context.

Above: Schematic layout of the development together with the access routes. The road running from Durham Road to Tower Road is shown by a thin black line.



## Wildlife Notes

As Autumn draws in and the leaves begin to change, if you know what to look out for, you can see the wildlife around us changing too.

Take a walk along the railway line, and if you sit awhile on one of the benches near a Hawthorn or Rowan tree with their red berries, you can see Redwing and Fieldfares.

They are members of the thrush family and have travelled all the way from Scandinavia to spend the autumn and winter in the milder climate of the UK.

It's not just Fieldfares and Redwings that are arriving to our shores though. Another autumn migrant that you could spot around Lanchester is Brambling. These are tricky to spot and look a lot like the closely related Chaffinch that they can often be found feeding with, but have no white wing markings, a completely grey head and a white rump. They can be found in gardens, hedgerows and woodlands. Like all wildlife though, they can struggle for lack of food, due to changing farming techniques and fewer trees and wild corners in domestic gardens.

We can all help and play our part though. Spend some time looking out for and enjoying these birds. Share your experience with others. We won't look after nature if we don't know it's there. Plant native trees, such as Hawthorns, if you have can. Small trees that can be maintained as a shrub or hedge and are suitable for small gardens. If you are a local farmer wondering what you could do to help, you could contact Trees for Lanchester (lanchestertrees@gmail.com) and ask about creating field boundaries with trees or a larger tree planting project. And remember to leave food out for the birds!

**From the new Wildlife Correspondents – a family affair.**



Above right: Brambling female

Above left: Fieldfare

Middle: Brambling female

Below right: Fieldfare

Below left: Redwing

All photographs are all the work of local photographer Ian Appleby.

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## Here is the latest news from your Community Centre

We held a fabulous wine and nibbles evening with author Terry Deary on 28th of September. This was to launch Terry's new History book. Terry was interviewed by Patrick from "Activate Theatre", then everyone enjoyed the rest of the evening chatting and buying the new book.

A big 'thank you' to Terry for helping us with this great fundraiser, to Lanchester Wines for donating the wine and to all the ladies who helped with the food. The event raised £1070.50, thank you to all who supported it.

### What's coming:

Christmas fayre 2nd November 9am - 1.30pm. Please show your support and join us for a bit of shopping, tombolas, and lunch.

The end of October we are changing the carpet in Meeting Room 3 to a hard surface, which will work much better for the cafe too.

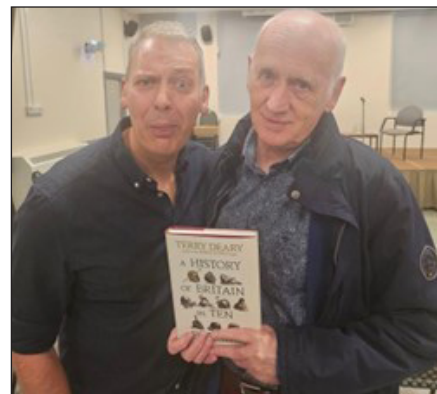
### What's New:

A new group called 'Lanchester Men's Club' will be starting on 15th October, 7-9pm.

This will be a monthly social for men with either a speaker or an activity, then time to chat, have a cuppa and try out some darts, cards or other such activities. It's free to come along and join in and will be held in the dining room on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

**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.**



Above: Patrick from Activate Theatre on the left with Terry Deary on the right

## Fundraiser for the village bus

A coffee morning was held in the Chapter House of All Saints parish church on the morning of 5th September, in aid of the village bus/taxi. Although the weather wasn't agreeable, there was fun and laughter shared among the people who were in attendance.

Many thanks to all who supported this event and gave so generously.

Special thanks to the girls in the kitchen (you know who you are), to Westlands Podiatry, Hanley the butchers, Claire hairdressing, and to the greengrocers the Country Basket. A total of £300 was raised for this very important facility in the life and welfare of our village.

**Margaret Brown**



## Fundraiser for Batten Charity

A fundraiser for the Batten Charity was held on September 28th.

This is an extremely rare disease with which Lewis Garthwaite has been diagnosed. The fundraiser was held in Lanchester Social Club and raised £2,675 for the charity.

Darren Garthwaite (Lewis's dad) and Christina Hall (Lewis's step mam) would like to thank everyone who bought a raffle ticket, donated prizes, donated money, and everyone who made the day. Thanks to Lanchester Social Club for holding the event.

"Batten charity is close to us as we will battle through this diagnosis of our Lewis. We can't even thank everyone enough and a big thank you to Sonia Reay (Lewis's mam) and Kevin Reay (Lewis's step dad) for sorting things out too xx."



Above: Some of the crowd at the fundraiser. Lewis is towards the left in the third row, with a black top with orange detail. He's next to his mum, Sonia Reay in orange. Lewis's dad, Darren, is directly behind Lewis in an identical top.

**The Christmas lights on the Village Green will be switched on on Saturday the 23rd November 2024 at 6pm with the whole event starting at 5.30pm.**



**Lanchester Parish Council**

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The big Christmas light switch on will be by **Jill & Mike Gladstone** with children from Lanchester EP Primary School and Lanchester All Saints RC Primary School

**Saturday 23rd November on the Village Green**

Refreshments & Christmas Carols from 5.30pm  
Lights to be switched on at 6.00pm  
Christmas Carols from Lanchester Brass Band and Lanchester Choral Society  
mulled wine ~ sweets ~ mince pies

**Please join us**

The event will be also be live streamed by The Lanchester Partnership through their Facebook page. Search Lanchester Christmas light switch on.



## Memorial Mass for Father Cornelius O'Connor

On 13th September many parishioners and our partnership clergy attended a memorial evening mass to remember the late Father Cornelius O'Connor who died peacefully on the 10th July in the Freeman hospital.

His funeral Requiem Mass was held in St Charles' Church, Gosforth on the 1st August. The church was full to overflowing, with 26 clergy (Priests and Deacons) on the altar. What a fitting tribute to a priest who was ordained in 1969, who came to the North East where he faithfully served the people of our Diocese in the following parishes for 55 years.

### Curate

Our Lady of St Aiden Willington Quay

St Patrick Consett

St Robert Fenham

### Parish Priest

St Bede Bedlington

St Aidan Sunderland

St Charles Gosforth

All Saints Lanchester: St Teresa Annfield Plain.

He retired to St Joseph care home (Little Sisters of the poor) where he continued to celebrate morning mass until he was taken into hospital.

After the memorial mass many parishioners enjoyed refreshments in the Parish Centre where we had many lovely memories to share of a very humble, caring, dedicated man with a wonderful cheeky Irish sense of humour. He will be remembered and sadly missed.

### RIP Father.

**Lestrine Kelly**



Top right: As a young priest

Below right: Father Cornelius (centre) with his successor Father Charles (right) and Deacon Peter Smith (left)

## Lanchester Parish Council

### Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.00pm

**Minutes** – Annual Meeting, Ordinary Meeting 9th July – approved

#### Police Reports

Members were updated on the recent PACT report for July/August.

Officers responded to a report from a concerned member of the public about the manner of driving from a vehicle in front of them on the A691. Officers stopped the vehicle and performed a roadside alcohol and drugs test. The driver passed both tests and was given suitable words of advice about their manner of driving.

Officers responded to a report from a concerned member of the public about 2 youths on off-road bikes on the A691. Officers conducted an area search but did not find any youths matching the description or any bikes in the area.

Officers responded to a report of an RTC on the A691 heading towards Lanchester. No persons were injured in this instance and officers were able to stop traffic and assist the drivers in recovering their vehicles.

Officers responded to a call from a member of the public concerned about the manner of another road user's driving. Officers were able to stop the driver shortly after they made their way up Peth Bank. The driver passed a roadside breath test and drugs wipe. Suitable words of advice were given in regarding their manner of driving.

#### Correspondence

**Lanchester Art Group** – A request was received to use the Village Green for their banner for the upcoming art exhibition – permission was granted.

**Durham Parish Council** – An invitation was received for the Durham City Remembrance Fundraising Dinner – that the information be received.

**Lanchester Allotments Association** – The minutes of the AGM were received.

**Satley Parish Council** – An invitation was received to the police meeting regarding Rural policing – that the information be received.

**Greencroft Parish Council** – Greencroft Parish Council requested advice on Neighbourhood Plans – Councillor Friesner to meet with Greencroft Parish Council.

**Memorial Seat** – A request has been received for a memorial

bench – the Clerk to speak to the Cricket Club on the possibility of replacing some of their benches.

#### Durham County Councillors

County Cllr D Oliver provided an update on the following areas of work:

Planning this included Burnhope Solar Farm, Greencroft Woodland Development, Oakwood and Howden Bank Community Funding has been used to help Lanchester Community Centre have new windows installed, reinstall sign on Ford Road and provide new fencing at Hollinside. Consett Empire is reopening 14th September.

#### Vandalism

Councillors were updated on a number of incidents that have happened in the Village recently:

Some of the wooden sculptures on the bypass have disappeared.

The bike rack at Park House was taken and dumped over a wall.

Damage to the Longovicium sign.

The Clerk to inform the PCSO.

#### Grass Cutting

Councillors discussed the recent request for the football field to be cut weekly - the Clerk to advise on cost and availability of the contractor.

**Banner Association** – Councillors were updated on the mining community hosting a static display of banners at Durham Cathedral and the Banner Association have asked if they can loan our banner for the display - permission granted.

**Request for equipment** – Members were updated on the Parish Council's handyman request for a hedge trimmer to carry out his duties around the Village – permission granted.

**Flooding improvements** – Councillors were given an update on the maintenance in the Village by DCC – The Clerk to reply to DCC with further suggestions/requests.

**Christmas Light Switch on Event** – Members discussed the event and agreed to keep the event similar to last year as it worked well. The Christmas Light Switch on Event will be held on Saturday 23rd November at 5:30pm, lights to be switched on at 6:00pm – the Clerk to progress with preparations for the event.

**Greencroft Woodland Development** – Members discussed the development.

**Planning** – Councillor Friesner provided an update on planning.

**Lanchester Solar Trail** – Members were updated on the project.

**Financial report** – approved.

**Accounts for Payment** – approved.



## Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

### Respiratory Syncytial Virus - Vaccine

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is an infectious disease of the airways and lungs. The virus thrives in Britain's temperate climate of cool, wet winters and warm wet summers. Cases of RSV generally start around October and last 4 to 5 months, peaking in December.

There is no specific treatment for RSV and most infections will get better themselves, however each year thousands of older adults need hospitalisation, some developing pneumonia.

RSV is common in young children and babies who can develop inflammation of the small airways in the lung (bronchiolitis), making it hard for them to breathe and feed.

**Symptoms** - similar to a cold

- cough and sore throat
- sneezing and runny or blocked nose
- wheezy or short of breath
- babies difficulty in feeding

RSV can spread through coughs and sneezes, and it is very difficult to avoid spreading the infection within the family.

### Vaccination programme

**Adults 75 years old on or after the 1st September 2024** - will be offered a single dose of RSV vaccine. This age group is at risk of serious complications from RSV. You can still get the vaccine up to the day before you turn 80.

For the first year of the programme, the vaccine will also be offered to those who are already aged 75 to 79 years on the 1st September as part of a catch up programme.

**Pregnant ladies** - will be offered the vaccine around the time of their 28 week antenatal appointment, this helps build a good level of antibodies to pass on to the baby before birth, giving the baby the best protection. Every pregnancy requires a vaccination. Whooping cough and flu vaccine can be given at the same time.

**How is it given and what are the side effects?** It is a single injection in your upper arm. Side effects are usually mild and include headache, muscle ache, soreness, redness and swelling at the injection site.

*Ref: patient information leaflets 'How to protect your baby from RSV', 'Your Guide to the RSV vaccine for older adults', UK Health Security Agency. NHS website. Talk to your midwife or GP clinician.*



## From our councillor

The floods that hit Lanchester early on Sunday 29th October 2023 shocked everyone in the village - and it has been a key priority of mine, as local County Councillor, to make sure that shock and alarm has been recognised by key figures at Durham County Council (DCC).

Of course, for many people in the village, it was far worse than that - as over twenty shops and homes were directly hit, particularly on Front Street, Church View and The Square. Whilst almost everyone was disrupted as the pharmacy, SPAR shop and numerous other well-loved and vital shops were flooded, the damage for specific residents was both enduring and traumatic, with items high in material and sentimental value lost to dirty water damage.

Whilst the shock was real and profound, there was also a terrible sense of familiarity, given Lanchester's flood of 2012 and further back in 1967 - both well within both the living memory of people, or the collective memory of those (like myself) who were not there for either who had seen the photographic record. We have always been conscious of our vulnerability at the bottom of the river valley as water washes down Alderdene Burn and the River Browney ultimately runs its way across the Wear watershed. Though the village has a history of village flood damage, there was great concern that the village flood drains were not cleaned often enough. Since the floods occurred (and indeed before), I have pushed for ever great vigilance on this, and I have also sought to improve communication between the Council and the emergency services so floods can be responded to swiftly. However, as DCC's officers have rightly said of October's floods, autumn will remain a challenging time, as leaf fall is significant, meaning drains are more vulnerable to being blocked.

Even before the floods, it has been particularly useful to work closely with the Parish Council - especially Eric Hepplewhite,

who leads on its flood work - to ensure the village can be as ready as it can be to prepare and respond if a flood comes again. A few weeks after the flood, Eric and fellow Parish Councillor Paul Jackson and I toured key spots in the village and pointed them out to the Drainage Manager at DCC so we can focus on long-term improvements being made to the village's infrastructure.

A key choke point during last year's flood was the culvert linked to Alderdene Burn which blocked up - and it is positive the culvert entrance has been expanded. Meanwhile, DCC officers are working with Wear Rivers Trust and key landowners to assess the water flow across the fields above the village and I welcome this.

Such projects are inevitably long-term and will have gradual results, but it is vital we take action now to consider how the environment is changing gradually and steadily. Whilst I am not a scientist and claim no knowledge of the future, it is also clear that a warmer planet and atmosphere means the air can hold more moisture meaning sudden rainfall in the future is possible, so we must not take anything for granted, even if we don't face flood threats for a long while to come. I have acknowledged to the Council that preventative measures aren't cheap - but they're usually less expensive than flood damage.

To that end, I will continue to share ideas and views from residents on this - in the centre of the village but also at other key sites including along the streets near the A691. Finally, Parish Councillors and all residents will have the opportunity to listen to the County Council's flood lead who will give an update to the Parish Council at their November meeting at Lynwood House and I will be there, too.

If you have any further comments on this, please do get in contact on: [Douglas.oliver@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Douglas.oliver@durham.gov.uk) **Doug Oliver**

**Lanchester Parish Council - flood update open meeting**  
**Tuesday 19th November 2024 - 7pm**  
**Lynwood House**



## LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB

### Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

Back from our holiday recess we enjoyed a well-attended meeting on Wednesday 25th September in Lanchester Community Centre. Our demonstrator was Sue O'Brien, her theme was "Inspired". It was once again a lovely relaxing afternoon. Sue chatted as she arranged and presented us with some lovely flower arrangements. Telling us a little about herself, how she has been a florist, along with being a NAFAS flower demonstrator. As always, the arrangements were raffled, and we had many happy winners. We all then had tea/coffee and biscuits and much more chatter.

Our October meeting on Wednesday 23rd October in Lanchester Community Centre main hall at 1.30 pm will be a friendly social afternoon with one of our own club members doing a small demonstration. Also, a quiz or bingo, maybe both. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us at all our meetings. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. It is a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon. Don't forget tea/coffee and biscuits served.

We invite all to our yearly Open Afternoon meeting which will be held on Saturday 23rd November 2024 in the main hall of Lanchester Community Centre at 2pm. It will be a Christmas themed demonstration. The demonstrator is Linda Fraser, her theme will be

"Fantastically Festive". All arrangements will be raffled. Tea/coffee light refreshments will be served.

Tickets £7 from Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 or Lestrine Kelly on 01027 521494. Everyone is welcome.

**Lestrine Kelly**



Right: Sue O'Brien with some of her arrangements

## All Saints R.C. Church Social Evening

On Saturday 21st September in Lanchester Social Club, parishioners and friends enjoyed a Children's Family Bingo Night. My goodness, what a fab night. Noisy with lots of children enjoying the dancing balloons and of course, the bingo, raffle and quiz.

A big thank you to all who came along and joined in the fun. A big well done to Martin Gray, our very entertaining compere for the evening. We couldn't have done it without you.

I hope you will all come along to our next social evening. All Saints' Feast Day Celebrations. An evening of friendship, food, music and dancing. Friday 1st November 7pm Lanchester Social Club. With music from the "The Whistle Testers" tickets £10 adult £5 children. Tickets from Lestrine Kelly 521494 or Joanne Kelly 07983493444.

*All are welcome.*

**Lestrine Kelly**



Above: Martin Gray the compere  
Left: Michael Donnelly with his family.

## Police Report -Operation Rurali

Consett Neighbourhood Police team would like to invite you to our Rurali launch meeting! Come and meet your local team and discuss rural-crime issues and rural-crime prevention. We will have representatives from the National Farmers Union, The Farming Community network and others as well as our new Rural-Watch Coordinator. Come along for an evening discussing the issues that matter to you, have a chat with our Rural-Watch Coordinator about tried and tested cost-effective equipment they have used on their own farm and other farms to protect property and catch criminals. Speak to local neighbourhood officers about the issues that are close to your heart and feel free to talk with your local NFU representative about what they can do for you. You might find out a little more about the Farming Community network and what support they have in place for farmers. We look forward to seeing you there!

Location:

Satley Parish Hall  
DL13 4HU

Thursday 10th of October 2024

Doors open at 18:30

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Support Officer**



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## Boys' Brigade

This term promises to be a busy one in Boys' Brigade. We started with a fitness tag game on our first night back, then 18th September saw our long-awaited bike ride. We had to cancel this in 2023 due to bad weather and the ride suffered the same fate this year in the summer due to a downpour. Not to be defeated, we decided to make it an autumn bike ride. Boys from both junior and company sections rode up to Hurbuck cottages where Mr Hepplewhite met us with some refreshments and a car boot full of games equipment. We played some great games of hockey and volleyball before saddling up and turning our headlights on for the ride home. It was a spectacular ride back as we were riding towards the huge harvest moon and were buzzed by bats as we made our way along the lines in the dark. We have also had a recruitment night and are pleased to have welcomed 8 new boys to Anchor Boys, Juniors and Company sections. For the rest of this term, we have lip reading, willow weaving, a French night, antiques roadshow, Christmas crafts and baking.

If you have a boy who would like to try something different, we have the following sessions for all school ages. Wednesday 6.15pm to 7.30pm Juniors (yr4 to yr6); Wednesday 7.30pm to 9pm Company (yr7 to yr13); and Anchors on a Thursday 6.10pm to 7.10pm (yr1 to yr3). You can see some of our activities and make enquiries by going to our Facebook page.

### Leaders- Lanchester Boys' Brigade



Boys Brigade enjoying their autumn bike ride

## The Lanchester Partnership Christmas Trail - Free fun for all of the family!

Santa's Elves are already busy getting creative with the clues for this year's Christmas trail around the village!

Starting on the day of the Christmas Light switch-on on 23rd November 2024, look out for Christmas clues around the village shop windows. Complete the trail in any order until Dec 31st!

Pick up an answer sheet from Lanchester News or The Kings Head to complete the trail.

The answer to each clue will give you a letter which when compiled make up a message. Once you crack the message - take your answer sheets to The Kings Head to collect your free prize!

Thanks to the businesses who support the trail:

The Community Centre  
The Methodist Church  
Lanchester Pizzeria  
Bourne & Co - sales and lettings  
The Black Bull  
Westlands Dental Studio  
Lanchester Pharmacy  
Belissimo - Beauty  
Talking Heads  
Crinnions  
Lanchester Hardware  
Hanley's  
Lanchester News  
Golden Valley  
Klassy K9's  
Yannis  
The Country Basket - Veg shop  
Lanchester Carpets

Lilydale Pet Supplies  
Country Home and Gifts  
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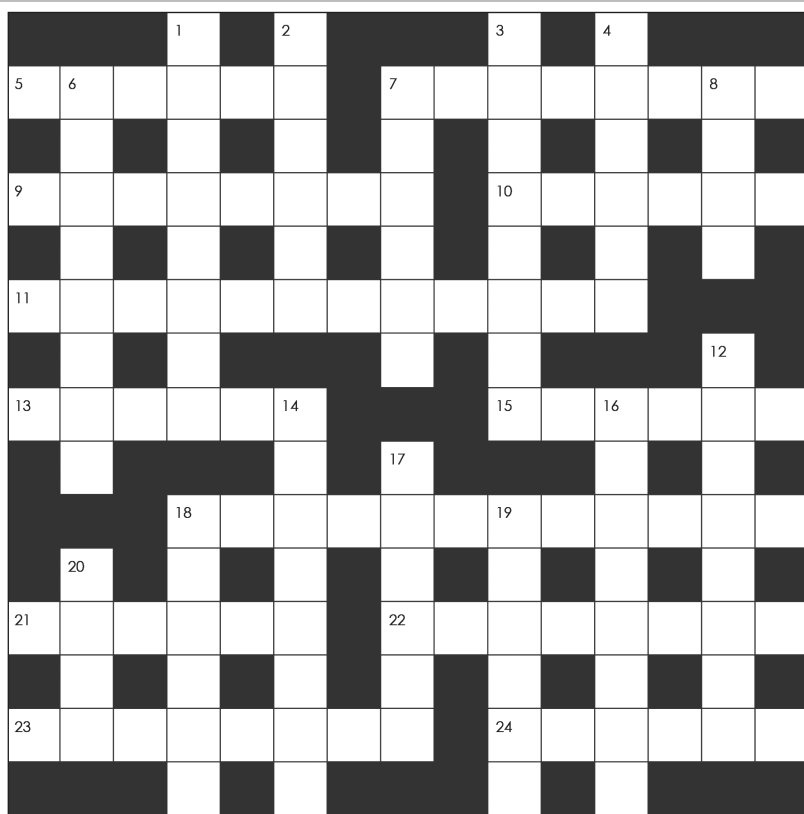
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## CLUES CROSSWORD 201



### Across

5. Burning fiercely (6)
7. Succeeded (8)
9. Roman general who conquered much of Britain (8)
10. Edison is in a valid goal scoring position (anagram) (6)
11. Bobby's Girl who was born in Consett (5,7)
13. Negotiated and accepted (6)
15. Curved paths around a planet (6)
18. Latin sounding Geordie (12)
21. Stationery item (6)
22. Republican Party symbol (8)
23. Fungus is one (8)
24. Measure of current (6)

### Down

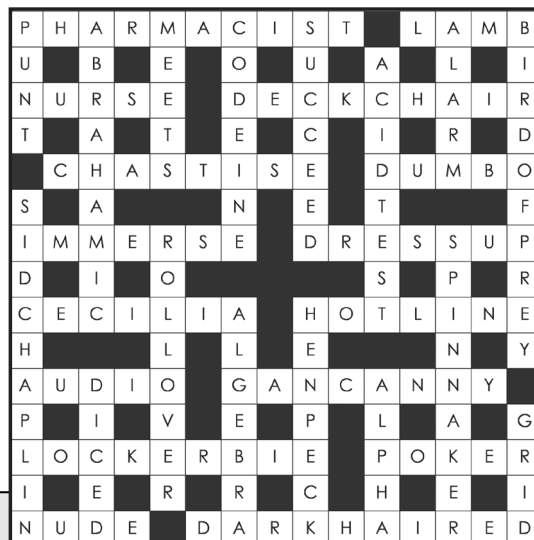
1. Witty conversation (8)
2. Change for the better (6)
3. Sound a steam train makes (4,4)
4. Time of year (6)
6. Resent (8)
7. Babylonian computer (6)
8. Finishes (4)
12. Kitchen sieve (8)
14. Miner's safety device (4,4)
16. Local site of media transmitter site (8)
17. Upright partition (6)
18. Five Cents (6)
19. Playground item (3-3)
20. Bubbly chocolate bar (4)

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by  
**Wednesday 4th November 2024** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester  
 Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



### Solution to Crossword 200

There were 12 entries of which 8  
 were correct.

The winner drawn out of the hat is  
 Nigel Page

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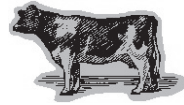
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## Willow Burn Nurses' Christmas Fair

The Nursing and Care Team at Willow Burn Hospice invite you to join them at the Nurses' Christmas Fair on Saturday 23 November 2024, 11am – 2pm. This annual event is a great opportunity to enjoy some Christmas shopping and to catch up with the team at Willow Burn. With a fantastic mix of gift stalls, cakes and produce, raffles, games and tombolas, it's sure to be a fabulously festive day. As well as stalls, the Willows Café will be open, our Potting Shed will be transformed into a Christmas gift shop and there's the opportunity to meet the main man himself, Father Christmas. All proceeds from the fair will go to fund the vital services provided

by the Willow Burn Nursing and Care Team. *\*Please Note - car parking is available at Willow Burn, however we expect this to be a popular event. If travelling to the fair by car, we kindly ask you to please consider our neighbours and park responsibly.*

## Light Up A Life 2024

Sunday 1 December, 2pm – 4pm, Lanchester All Saints Parish Church. Join us this December to remember our loved ones together. Christmas is a time to be thankful, but it can also be a time when we miss those who are no longer with us the most. Light up a Life offers an uplifting and meaningful way to remember family and friends and is an opportunity to come together to celebrate and remember our loved ones.

Light Up a Life is a warm, loving and festive event to be shared with friends and family. Welcoming you to the service is such an honour and we are privileged to share this special time with you. Together we will gather to sing carols, listen to readings and light candles in memory of loved ones. Following the service there is the opportunity to spend time together with some light refreshments. Book of Remembrance. If you would like to remember your loved one(s) with a dedication in our Light Up a Life Book of Remembrance, please contact Ali at Willow Burn: 01207 529 224 / aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk. Please note -

all dedications must be made before 11 November to be included in the Book of Remembrance.

## Vintage Tractor Club

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

## Choral Society

Presents Haydn's famous Oratorio 'CREATION', on Friday 8th November, 7.15 pm, Lanchester Methodist Church. Soloists: Elizabeth Woods, Andrew Fowler and Ian Gray. Conductor: David Hughes. Organist: Paul Conroy. Tickets from any Society member or 520427, or 521458.

## Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights on the Village Green will be switched on on Saturday the 23rd November 2024 at 6pm with the whole event starting at 5.30pm.

**Would you like to share your celebrations with the Village Voice - birthdays, weddings etc? email words and pictures to:**

**lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk**



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You can also find us on [facebook.com/CareConnectDCC](https://facebook.com/CareConnectDCC)





## Paradiso Film Club

10th November 2024: on this Remembrance Sunday we are showing "The Great Escaper" starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. The film is based on the true story of an 89-year-old British World War II Royal Navy veteran, Bernard Jordan, who "broke out" of his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations in Normandy, France in June 2014. Along the way, he is aided by strangers, makes some new friends and says a heartfelt goodbye to a fallen friend, while news of his "escape" makes him an international sensation. Lanchester Community Centre, 7pm refreshments and raffle. Film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £4, Non-members: £5. Annual membership: £5.

## Lanchester Library

*Library Book Club*  
On Monday November 25th at 2.30-3.30pm, this group will be reviewing 'The Secrets of Rochester Place' by Iris Costello. Teresa is evacuated from London in the wake of the Guernica bombing.... 'A moving, page turning story' (Amanda Prowse). We look forward to seeing you there and hearing everyone's opinion, that makes a Book Club very interesting.  
*Thursday Book Club*  
On Thursday November 21st from 4.00-5.00pm, this group will be discussing 'Letters to my Husband' by Stephanie Butland. 'An immensely powerful and ultimately uplifting, debut novel' (Kate Fforde). If you would like to join this group, pop into the library and speak to the librarians.

*Pins and Needles* will meet up on November 7th from 10-11.30am. Bring along your wool, thread, needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Do you like knitting, crocheting? Everyone is welcome, enjoy.  
*Scrabble Group* meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1.30-3.30pm. Do you enjoy this word game and want to get on the Triple Word

Square? Come along and enjoy the company. *Rummikub Group* meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 1.30-3.30pm. A great strategic but simple game with tiles that are always changing. It is a very enjoyable game  
*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.

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

## Musical Memories

Join us for music, refreshments and fun activities. 6th November 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. If you would like to organise a coffee morning for your organisation, please contact Judith Brown on 521898.

## Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be in the Main Hall of the Community Centre on November 21st at 1:30pm when we will be entertained by the EP School choir.

## Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

Our November meeting will be held unusually at 1pm to 2.30pm on Thursday 28th November. This is a trial to overcome the dark

winter nights so we will see if we continue it. There will be no December meeting as our usual 4th Thursday of the month clashes with Christmas. Information about the Friends can be obtained from Mrs M. Williams, tel: 01207 520063 or from Rodney Hawkins at [hawkins\\_15@sky.com](mailto:hawkins_15@sky.com). The Friends website can be found at [www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress](http://www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress) (note no dots in couk).

## Wellbeing walk

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

## Lunch Club

The next meeting of the lunch club will be held at Lynwood House on the 11th November, 12pm start, all welcome.

## History Society

Our November meeting will be on Friday 1st November when David Griffiths will be talking about 'Two Tragedies to end all Tragedies'. It's about a fire at Sunderland Empire. Our December meeting will be our winter social on Friday 6th December. We will have some light refreshments and historically based entertainment. As usual we encourage everyone to arrive early for the 7.00 start in order to get everyone seated having negotiated the locked door security system. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us as visitors to see what we are all about.

## Lanchester playgroup

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

## City Theatre

'A Bunch Of Amateurs', a comedy, by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman will be on at The City Theatre, Durham, DH1 3RA from Sun 24th Nov until Sat 30th Nov. A small amateur dramatics group facing closure invites a Hollywood

star to take the lead in their production of King Lear. Neither side gets what they expect, and there is more drama off stage than on! Performances Sunday and Saturday matinee only at 2.30pm. Monday - Friday 7.30 pm. Tickets £8.50 with concession £7.50 on Sun, Mon and Tues. Tickets from Durham Gala on 03000266600 or [www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk](http://www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk) and follow the link for tickets.

## The Lanchester Community Orchard Work Sessions

We meet regularly to maintain and care for the orchard. Come and join us to find out more and help look after the trees. There are jobs for all ages and we always stop for coffee! New members are always welcome. For all our work session dates please visit the What's On page of our website [lanchesterorchard.org](http://lanchesterorchard.org)

## 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)).

## Flower Club

Our October meeting on Wednesday 23rd October in Lanchester Community Centre main hall at 1.30 pm will be a friendly social afternoon with one of our own club members doing a small demonstration. Also, a quiz or bingo, maybe both. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us at all our meetings. Meet up with old friends and make new friends. It is a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon. Don't forget tea/coffee and biscuits served. We invite all to our yearly Open Afternoon meeting which will be held on Saturday 23rd November 2024 in the main hall of Lanchester Community Centre at 2pm. It will be a Christmas themed demonstration. The

demonstrator is Linda Fraser, her theme will be "Fantastically Festive". All arrangements will be raffled. Tea/coffee light refreshments will be served. Tickets £7 from Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 or Lestrine Kelly on 01027 521494. Everyone is welcome.

## Monday Art Group

We resumed our activities this month after a summer break. We are a small friendly group who enjoy painting and drawing, and come together to learn, and give each other support in making art. We meet each Monday in the Community Centre from 10.00am to 12pm with an occasional demonstration by visiting artists or our own members. New members are most welcome. Contact [tojimrafferty@yahoo.com](mailto:tojimrafferty@yahoo.com) if you would like further information.

## Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

Our November meeting will be held unusually at 1pm to 2.30pm on Thursday 28th November. This is a trial to overcome the dark winter nights so we will see if we continue it. There will be no December meeting as our usual 4th Thursday of the month clashes with Christmas. Information about the Friends can be obtained from Mrs M. Williams, tel: 01207 520063 or from Rodney Hawkins at [hawkins\\_15@sky.com](mailto:hawkins_15@sky.com). The Friends website can be found at [www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress](http://www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress) (note no dots in couk).

## Wildlife group

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th November at 7.30pm in the Lanchester Community Centre dining room. The speaker will be Ian Bond, his topic 'Mice and Men'. Please be on time due to the security system now

# St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

## Trip to St Mary's Lighthouse

Our A-level biologists visited the coastal area around St. Mary's lighthouse at the end of September, braving the soaking weather to learn important sampling and fieldwork techniques. We found 5 species of fish, 3 types of crab and many shell creatures - kudos to our fearless students who held them for identification and photos! The sampling data gathered will be used to learn statistical analysis and compare biodiversity in each habitat.

## Trip to see Wicked

A select group of Y7-13 students, either involved in extracurricular or GCSE/ A-level music students went to watch Wicked the musical.

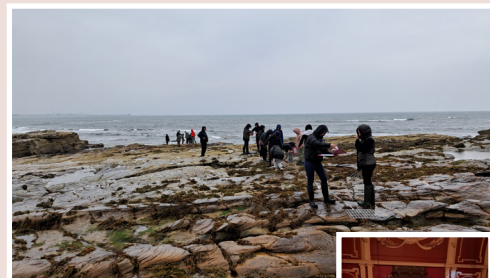
The students had an amazing time. It was some students' first time seeing a musical and they couldn't believe how fantastic the singing, dancing, costumes and set were.

The song 'Defying Gravity' was a real highlight as the GCSE students have listened to the track as one of their GCSE music set works and were very excited to see it live.

## Years 5 and 6 Open Evening

On September 26th St Bede's held an Open Evening for Years 5 and 6 from all of our local primary schools. It was fantastic to see so many of our future pupils visiting St Bede's and taking part in all the activities we had to offer. From science experiments to treasure hunts and quizzes, a fun packed evening was had by all. We look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

**Catherine Hammill**  
Head Teacher



## Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

Whilst we are delighted to be back at school, I am all too aware that many of you will have been quite frustrated by the children returning to school, and with it, the volume of traffic in the village again at key times of the school day. I wanted to reassure you that we are continuing to do everything we can from our side. One of our parent governors has surveyed our families again to see if there would be interest in another 'Walking Bus' from the Kings Head and I have contacted the Road Safety Department at County Hall to ask someone to come out and assess the area at key times. I am well aware that inconsiderate parking continues to cause a danger to our children and a frustration to local residents. I will continue to persevere with my requests on behalf of us all.

September has been a very busy month with children settling into their new classes, lots of new children starting school and the start of our educational visits and residential. Reception have had regular visits to the village shops to purchase food to bake with (including making an apple crumble and carrot cake in Forest School), Year 1 visited the Great North Museum, Year 2 have been to see HMS Trincomalee at Hartlepool, while Year 5 have had an overnight residential at our partner school in Birmingham, visiting Cadbury World and the National Space Centre.



In addition to this, we have had Parent Workshops to help inform parents how we teach Phonics, Reading, Spelling and Maths, welcomed the school photographer for individual photographs and held two Welcome Services for our Reception cohort. These services were very special and I am sure some of you will have seen Year 6 show great maturity and responsibility, accompanying their Reception Buddy down to All Saints' Church where they introduced them to everyone there and talked about some of the things they like to do and enjoy about school. They also gave their Reception Buddy a special gift of wildflower seeds so they can spread them and watch them grow and flourish at home. One child wrote a message to their Reception buddy which said, 'I hope you flourish at this school, just like I have'. This links so well with our vision which permeates life in our school, 'Through God's love, we are the rich soil where roots grow and seeds flourish.' Luke 8: 4-15.

It was great to see so many of you at our Open Morning too at the end of September. However, I am more than happy to show prospective parents around during the school day any time too. This is where new families can see the excellent behaviour, relationships and work that takes place on a daily basis. Please feel free to email me: [j.davis@lanchesterep.net](mailto:j.davis@lanchesterep.net) if you would like to look round or indeed if you want to get in touch with me about anything at all.

**Mrs Jane Davis**  
Head Teacher



Top: Forest school  
Left: Shopping visit to the village shops to buy food to bake with.  
Middle: Museum visit to the Great North Museum.  
Far right: National Space visit to the National Space Centre.



## Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Primary School

On Wednesday, we welcomed the new Bishop of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle to All Saints' to show him what we are about here! He has been in position for approximately fifteen months and he's currently visiting all schools within the Diocese. He joined us in the hall for a question and answer session where the children learned about his family, his job and his favourite football team. Year Five then led a beautiful Mass for Bishop Stephen which included a lot of wonderful singing and a joyful liturgical dance from Year Two. I think it is safe to say that Bishop Stephen thoroughly enjoyed his time at All Saints'.

We are always keen to open our doors and welcome visitors into school. On the same week as the Bishop, we welcomed an expert to come to spend time in our Nursery and Reception unit and another visitor in school who wanted to talk about our Geography, History and Design and Technology curriculum. On Saturday, we also welcomed new families into school, and we look forward to seeing them again. If you'd like to visit us to get a sense of our school (our high expectations, the excellent behaviour of pupils, our school facilities and the offer we give to all families - without exception), please get in touch!

**Frances Stephenson**  
Head Teacher



Above: Bishop Stephen (centre) with Father Charles (left) and Deacon Peter Smith (right).

## Judith retires from delivering the Village Voice

Our deliverer, Judith Wilkinson, who delivered to Foxhills Crescent, has decided to retire after serving in the capacity from more or less the start of the Voice. Judith will be replaced by Gemma McCree, so welcome to the team Gemma and many thanks for volunteering.

As is normal for a retiring member of long standing, she will be given a thank you present but due to financial constrictions the round the world voyage will not be available, but a more modest trip on the Orient Express all expenses paid followed by a stay in a London hotel of her choice is offered this year\*. Judith - enjoy it. You deserve it.

**Mike Stoddart**

*\*This is a joke - she actually got a bunch of flowers! (Editor)*

*Judith Wilkinson presented with flowers upon her retirement as a Village Voice deliverer.*



## PIANO LESSONS

Experienced teacher.

Beginners,  
all ages welcome

**Jan Massey**  
07826841224



## Lanchester Bowling Club

### It's All Over Now...

Tuesday, September 16th was a sad day for outdoor bowlers as, after an enjoyable game of jumbles in bright sunshine, the green closed for the season. We did, however, still manage to pack in a great deal in the final two weeks.

Firstly we sent two teams to the inaugural South West Durham President's Trophy, one of which managed to get to the semi final before being beaten by the eventual winners Shildon Rail. A squad of players also took part in the Consett Park floodlit competition. Unfortunately the first evening was played in heavy rain making it difficult to see. Whilst the following evenings were better our squad failed to get beyond the group stages.

The final game held on our green was our annual friendly against Wolsingham. We loaned them some players, but it was good to see all six rinks being used by the thirty six players taking part. Both teams won three rinks each, but Wolsingham won the aggregate 62 to 56 thus retaining the Friendly Shield; their win, however, was in no small part due to our loanees! As always the best part of the afternoon was the tea provided by Ann Lee, Sally Laverick, Trish Jose and Carol Page. A big thank you goes to all members (and June Hammond) who helped to set up, dish out and clear up afterwards.

Perhaps the highlight of the season finalé was the last weekend of August when our club championships finals were held. The triples final took place to the pealing of church bells on the

Saturday morning when Christine Monaghan played Mike Stoddart; unfortunately for the second year running Christine lost the final with Mike taking the trophy.

The best matches of the weekend took place on Saturday afternoon. In the Challenge Trophy Andy Travis beat Ken Jose whilst in the two wood competition Jeff Hockaday played Adrian Evans. After a hard fought twenty-one ends the scores were tied with Jeff managing to win the one end shoot out. Mike Stoddart also played in the Club Championship. It was a compelling game with Mike taking a good early lead against David Friesner. David fought back to make it seventeen each, but Mike managed to secure the twenty-one shots required for victory.

Two finals were held on the Sunday afternoon. Adrian Evans made up for his earlier loss by overcoming a five handicap to beat Barry Hockaday in the Handicap trophy whilst Jeff Hockaday and David Friesner beat Mike Stoddart and Ken Jose in the pairs final.

Now the season is over, some of us will go on to play indoors at Stanley whilst the rest of us cherish our memories of the season and look forward to May of next year when we start all over again.

**Bob Cuthbertson**

Front cover photographs:

Group photo: Teams for the recent friendly with Wolsingham  
Left: Mike Stoddart and David Friesner who battled it out for the Club Championship  
Right: Jeff Hockaday and Adrian Evans, two of the trophy winners over the finals weekend.

## Cricket News

The final three matches for both first and second team saw one win and two defeats for each. Following on from the previous report, the teams played a double weekend as the first set of rained off fixtures were rearranged for 1st September. In a rain reduced match, Lanchester made 219-6 in 40 overs at Gateshead Fell, with Pasindu scoring a second hundred for Lanchester, strangely against the same opposition, making an unbeaten 104 and Josh Renton made 40. With the threat of further rain, the Fell charged to victory under a Duckworth Lewis score. The following week, Lanchester bowled Eppleton out for 84, Callum Barnes taking an amazing 5 wickets for 6 runs off 7 overs. Pasindu helped himself to 3-19. The runs were knocked off for the loss of 3 wickets. In the final match, Lanchester were themselves bowled out for just 95 by promotion chasing Hetton Lyons. Lyons brought in Durham bowler Paul Coughlin who took 6 of the wickets before mopping up the win for the loss of 3 wickets.

The seconds had a big win over Burnopfield where Dan Arthur scored his maiden century scoring an unbeaten 146 while Nav Ahmed scored 70. The match ended at Burnopfield's twentieth over with them well short on Duckworth Lewis. The following week the seconds were well beaten by Eppleton. Lanchester had made a decent score of 214-7 with Glen Harrison making 44 and Harry O'Sullivan Brown unbeaten on 38, but Eppleton knocked them off easily thanks to an unbeaten 139 by Kristian Jefferson. In the final match, Lanchester were beaten by Burnmoor by 4 wickets. Cameron Metcalfe made 37 and Glen Harrison 35 and Cameron then took 4-26 but an unbroken seventh wicket stand of 73 saw Burnmoor home. Both firsts and seconds finished in sixth place in their respective divisions.

### Junior Cricket Round Up

The under 19s became the second team in the club to win a trophy when they became undisputed league champions. The competition had been played in four groups, Lanchester finished top of a group comprising Whickham, Lintz, Beamish and Shotley Bridge. The other three group winners were

Brandon, Sacriston and South Shields. The competition gave Lanchester the honour of hosting the two semi-finals and the final on the 15th September. Lanchester played Brandon in the first semi and had an easy 8 wicket win. Brandon were restricted to 104-9 in their 20 overs. Lanchester used six bowlers, and all took wickets at a modest expense. Charlie McPhail and Dan Scott soon racked up the runs and the victory was completed by the 12th over, Charlie having scored 60 in 40 balls. South Shields beat Sacriston in the other semi and then rain intervened, so with concern about further rain, the Final was reduced to 15 overs. South Shields opted to bat and made 87-5, their opener Mahid Uzair making 34 from 25 balls. Dan Scott took 3-15 but Henry Sherwood conceded only 8 runs from his 3 overs. Shields as you would expect didn't make it easy as Charlie McPhail top scored with 32 but it was left to Ben Rayner to seal the win with a four from the final ball of the 14th over. This group of lads have been together since they were 9 and have won each age group along the way, the 19s having evaded them until now, due to not getting completed, so finally they got the full set! Charlie is jetting off to Australia on 1st October to gain experience playing cricket down under and we all wish him well.

**Andrew McConnell**



Front cover photo: The under 19 team. From rear left - Dan Scott, Josh Cottom, Nathan Scurr, Henry Sherwood, John McGilvray, Jack Morris, Stu McPhail (coach) Front - Ibs Khan, Toby Somersall, Charlie McPhail, Ben Rayner, Jack Ledger, Tom Deaville  
Above: Charlie McPhail who is leaving to spend the winter in Australia

## Tennis Club News

An epic Ladies doubles final closed the 2024 championships at Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club in style! Congratulations to Sally Laverick and Jane Laycock who edged a very tight match against Michelle Ridley and Kathryn Eastwood, 7-6, 5-7, 7-6. After two and a half hours, played in beautiful weather, the ladies thoroughly deserved their cup of tea afterwards!

The Men's final was a little less fraught and James Gray and Dennis Laycock triumphed over David Jackson and Dougal Reed, 6-2, 6-3. The grass court coaching sessions also drew to a close at the end of September. All age groups were well supported, and the picture shows the under 8's section receiving their course certificates, along with coaches, Adam Parker and Dennis Laycock.

The group also presented club stalwarts, Sally and Jane, with a small token of appreciation and thanks for all their hard work behind the scenes at coaching sessions. The programme has now moved indoors, for the winter, at Croft View Hall.

The adult coaching section held a fun tournament to finish their year. It was won by Kathryn Eastwood and Jonny Tweddle, pictured, and was followed by a magnificent tea!

The club's annual general meeting will be held on Friday 15th November in Lanchester Community Centre at 7pm.

If you would like any information about the club, please contact Dennis at [lanchestertennis@gmail.com](mailto:lanchestertennis@gmail.com) or 07960494442.

Or follow us on Facebook.

**Dennis Laycock**

Front cover photographs:  
Group photo: the under 8's section receiving their course certificates, along with coaches, Adam Parker and Dennis Laycock.

Right: Kathryn Eastwood and Jonny Tweddle

Left: Ladies doubles final - Sally Laverick and Jane Laycock and Michelle Ridley and Kathryn Eastwood.