

# the Village Voice

Issue No 9, Volume 24

Lanchester, September 2024



**Raising money for the Great North Air Ambulance and Willow Burn Hospice**



**Sponsored Toilet Twinning Event**



**Congratulations  
to Lanchester  
fundraisers**

*(full stories, pages 2,3)*

**Great North Run for baby charity**



**Fundraising  
for pancreatic  
cancer research**

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## Lanchester Community Orchard Sponsored Toilet Twinning Event

We have a clean, safe compost toilet at the Community Orchard. We are also all lucky to have at least one indoor, clean, safe toilet in our own homes. Many communities and families in the world do not have this basic necessity and this has a huge impact on their health, working life, education and safety. The Toilet Twinning Organisation provides funds to build toilets, provide clean water and hygiene education. We decided to hold a sponsored walk to raise funds to build a toilet for one of these families and twin our compost toilet with them.

On Saturday 7th September, despite a foggy start, members of the Orchard and Margery Flatts Allotments walked laps of the orchard, 84 laps or 28 kilometres in total and raised an amazing £265.00. This has enabled us to provide funds and to twin with 4 toilets. We would like to give a big thank you to everyone who walked, even backwards, ran or sauntered and chattered around the orchard, generously donated and supported us online. You are all amazing!

If you would like to know more about Toilet Twinning then please visit [www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org) or read about the event on our website [www.lanchesterorchard.org](http://www.lanchesterorchard.org).

**Eleanor Johnson, Lanchester Community Orchard**

*Front cover: Eleanor keeping the records – and the snacks!  
Right: Some of the walkers walking through the forest past the nearly ripe apples.*



## 43 years of the The Great North Run

Like everyone taking part in the GNR this year, I was hoping we wouldn't have a repeat of the storms experienced last year, with high temperatures and torrential rain!

No chance of that, on the morning of Sunday 8th September, runners were greeted by thick fog, and persistent drizzle! This did nothing to dampen the spirits of the runners, from everyone I spotted leaving Lanchester Village in their running gear at 7am, to the crowds gathering on the platform at Durham railway station to take the early train to Newcastle, all buoyed by the cheerful staff offering complimentary bananas and bottles of water! Arriving in Newcastle, I'd forgotten just how many people (runners and spectators) this event attracts, over 60,000 runners. So many of the runners are inspired by someone close to their heart, a worthy cause or a personal goal, all contributing to around £25million being raised for charity.

Getting to the start line is quite a challenge in itself, with thousands of people all headed in the same direction, but once on the Central Motorway waiting for the off (with the rain coming down pretty heavy now) the atmosphere is memorable. There was some concern from my fellow runners that the crowds may stay away because of the poor weather, but we shouldn't have doubted the famous Geordie resilience, hordes of spectators lined every section of the route with umbrellas to cheer on friends, loved ones, and complete strangers! For the entire route of 13.1 miles there were offers of drinks, jelly babies and ice pops all gratefully received by many, including me.

The sight of the sea as the runners hit the coast at South Shields is one of the most glorious moments, the last mile of the GNR along the seafront was 10 deep with spectators, cheering on the runners to get over that finish line, and we did it! Driven on by the amazing crowds, the camaraderie between the runners, and sheer individual determination. What an experience, and I for one will doing it all again next year, hope to see you there!

**Barbara Ridley**

Barbara was running for **Tommy's** the baby and pregnancy charity

*Front cover photo: Barbara with her finisher's medal, and the start line in the fog*

## Tractor Rally

The Lanchester Vintage Tractor Rally took place from Newbiggin Farm on Sunday, August 18.

More than a dozen smart machines - some of them 70 years old - took part in a 30 mile procession which involved criss-crossing the A68 four times.

Members raise money for the Great North Air Ambulance and Willow Burn Hospice and the rally is a much-anticipated event in the local farming calendar.

Before the rally sets off, the Ann Suddes trophy is presented to one of the participants to keep for a year. This time the winner was Brian Wilson, who was presented the cup for the tractor with the "best work clothes" by Mr Peter Suddes.

This rally raised £275.20 for their charities.

**Neil McKay**

*Front cover photo: Peter Suddes (pictured right) presents the Ann Suddes Memorial Trophy to Brian Wilson for his Nuffield tractor.*

## Lanchester Local History Society

### Did You Know?

Some of the community may not know that the History Society is a member of County Durham Forum for History and Heritage. This group has the aim of providing a network for sharing. Set up in the early 2000's it ran a biennial history fair under the banner of "Yesterday belongs 2 you". This was a forum for member organisations to share any research or projects they were doing.

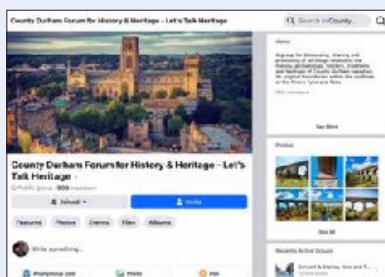
Sadly, this became a challenge as venues became expensive to hire and many local history groups stopped doing research and chose just to have their own series of talks. We all know what happened in 2020 which saw even these local events falter for many months.

The Forum set up a series of Zoom talks to bridge the gap and in the background the committee started reviewing their aims and

ways of achieving those aims. We have now embraced social media and gone public with a well-received Facebook Group. This provides a countywide "What's on" loosely linked to history, heritage, folklore and archaeology being undertaken locally. It's a great source of information about talks, events and a place for members to ask questions they have. You don't have to be a member of Lanchester History

Society to join the Facebook group; it's open to all. However, you may find it's something you could consider at a later date. The Forum only asks that if you post that it's appropriate to our purpose and that you add some text if posting pictures. Share your knowledge but please don't try and use the site for free business advertising as those posts will be removed.

**Marian Morrison**



## Fundraising for pancreatic cancer research

Saturday 13th July was a dry day, with the promise of sunshine in Lanchester but a few miles up the A1 as we crossed into Northumberland a few drops of rain fell and just got heavier and didn't stop. Not what I needed on the day I was going to walk 18 miles from Craster to Amble for Pancreatic Cancer UK (PCUK).

I was taking on this challenge in memory of Dawn Fairlamb-Chinnery who died last November of pancreatic cancer. This was an important day for me and something I had been working towards for a few months by doing the weekly wellbeing walks on a Monday plus other walks around the locality.

Dawn was well known in Lanchester, and we became friends when my partner and I moved to Victoria Terrace in August 2021. I only knew Dawn for 2 years but for whatever reason a friendship was created, and our time together will remain with me always. I chose to fundraise for PCUK to honour Dawn's memory and to support PCUK because if Dawn had received her diagnosis sooner, maybe, just maybe, she and her family and friends would not have had to travel the journey we have the last few months.

The walk was as part of the work that PCUK were doing to raise awareness of what pancreatic cancer is, to raise funds

for research and to allow the team to offer support to families of patients and those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

In doing the walk, by raising over £1300 (my initial goal was £250) for PCUK I hope I honoured her memory. I wore my PCUK t-shirt with pride and although no one could see it because it was such an awful weather day, I knew it was there. It's hanging up in my wardrobe ready for next year!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me.

### Save the date!

On September 28th Lanchester Cricket Club are hosting an event to raise money for PCUK. Dawn was their president, and this event coincides with the LCC end of season presentation event. Look out for further information around the village and we hope to see you there!!

**Claire Sewell**



Top: 4 miles in and already absolutely soaking wet! I have never been so wet as I was after 18 miles in the rain!!  
Right: My PCUK T-shirt worn with pride, so everyone en route knew what I was doing and who it was for.  
Front cover: I did it!! I made it to Amble. 18 miles, £1300 raised and Dawn's memory honoured.

## Summer Special Holiday Club

Lanchester Methodist Church hosted our Summer Special Holiday Club in the last week of the summer break – and what a brilliant pirate-themed time was had by all – nearly 50 children; 20 leaders and helpers; Captain Claire with her galleon, telescope and dead parrot; Grumpy for the last time before he retires happy; Sniffles the first mate; Dangerous Daisy and the drama team; bouncy castle; challenges; dance and songs etc.

We also learnt that the real treasure is found in knowing that God loves each and every one of us. The Sunday Celebration and picnic had the children singing the memory verse song "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid, for the Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go - so do not be discouraged".

The fun continues as we go into this new year – please see the separate notice about Boys' Brigade which has started. Our young people's Monday night event KOGs has also started up again. Please look at the website for information about all that is happening. All are welcome!

**Rev Stuart Earl aka Grumpy (now retired!)**



Top right: Enthralled children watching Grumpy on some sort of animal!

Middle right: l-r Captain Claire, Sniffles and Grumpy

Bottom: Children and leaders enthusiastically doing the actions to a song

Below: Boys' Brigade Poster

## Willow Burn Hospice

**Do you care for someone with dementia?**

**Drop-in to Willow Burn's Dementia Support Service**

On the first Tuesday of every month between 1.30pm and 3pm, come along to Willow Burn as a carer, with or without the person with dementia you care for, and meet other people.

Our day centre team can provide care, interaction and activities for your loved one while you have a coffee in our café, chat with other carers, professionals or have a complementary therapy. There will be a member of the team available from the Alzheimer's Society who can provide information, advice, support and signposting to other groups and resources available to you. No referral needed, just pop along on the day and meet the team.

Alternatively, for further information, call: 01207 529224 on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday 9am - 10.30am or 3pm - 4pm and ask for the Day Centre.

Lanchester Boys' Brigade  
Croft View Halls  
Anchor Boys (6 to 8 yrs) - Thurs 6.10pm to 7.10pm  
Junior Section (8 to 11 yrs) - Wed 6.15pm to 7.30pm  
Company Section (11 to 18 yrs) - Wed 7.30pm to 9pm  
Look for us on Facebook: Lanchester Boys' Brigade

Contact:  
Richard 07907980613  
Paul 07956393585  
Or message on Facebook

**Boy's Brigade starts on 11th Sept**  
**We are having a recruitment night on 25th Sept with fun activities and buns!!**





## From the House



Parliament is back in session ahead of the party conference recess and I am once again travelling down to Westminster from North Durham. It has been an incredibly busy few weeks with both the Budget Responsibility Bill and the Passenger Railway Services Bill passing through all their Commons stages. These will now be considered in the House of Lords. The Great British Energy Bill has also passed its Second Reading in the Commons and will move to its Committee Stage.

I recently met with the Chief Fire Officer at the Co Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service to discuss their work in keeping residents across the county safe.

I have also met with the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet at Durham County Council to discuss their budget planning and the state of the Council's finances as a result of austerity since 2010 and the cost pressures they are facing, particularly due to Adult Social Care and Children's Services. They clarified that the Council has lost over £270m from its budget since austerity began in 2010. I have coordinated a joint letter from Co Durham MPs to the Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, seeking a meeting to discuss these issues further and ensure a fair deal for County Durham.

Along with other County Durham MPs, I have also met with North East Mayor Kim McGuinness to discuss her plans to improve bus services and public transport across the Region.

I am delighted that my Constituency Office is now up and running and that I have now responded to over 1,000 enquiries from constituents since the general election. I am advertising for a Caseworker to join my constituency team. If this is something you would be interested in, full details are available at <https://www.w4mpjobs.org/> Please note that the application deadline is 25 September.

I have held my first advice surgeries in Sacriston and Quaking Houses and will continue to move the venues across the constituency. If you would like to meet with me to discuss any issues, please email me at [luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk) or call my Office on 0191 371 8834.

**Luke Akehurst**

**Member of Parliament for North Durham**



## Lanchester WI

President Marie welcomed 40 members to Monday 2nd September WI meeting and updated us with future events including a visit to Binchester, fashion show and birthday meal. Lucky raffle winners were Barbara Sproat and Joan Osborne. The speaker was Julian Harrop from Beamish, title of his talk: A Treasure of Memories, Co Durham 1930 to 1960. Julian had various jobs before doing 6 months work experience with the colliery manager then started work in the Photograph Department.

The department holds 2.5 million photographs from around the world. Julian is now working on 35,500 local history photographs from the Durham Advertiser 1934 to 1961. Julian then showed us pictures from Lanchester; members had fun trying to spot people they might know. The meeting ended with refreshments and a chat with friends.

The photo below is of 17 members of the WI who visited Binchester Roman Fort on Friday 6th September. We were shown round by Gordon Henderson who is very knowledgeable of the site and brought to life how the Romans lived at the fort.

**Tracey Dobson**



## New proprietor for the garage in Hallgarth Buildings

A new proprietor is due to take over the garage at Hallgarth Buildings in the centre of Lanchester.

The premises have been closed for business following the retirement of popular garage boss Dave Donnelly in May of this year. But in mid-October Geoff Venus and his partner Dawn are opening GD Autocare in the same building.

Geoff, 49, from Burnhope, has been in the motor trade for 30 years, although he has also worked as a civil servant. He will be assisted by Dawn and daughter Olivia, 16, who is currently studying

Business Studies.

Geoff explained: "I was working as a mechanic from home but could not do MOTs from there. When these premises came available, they seemed perfect to run our business. We are currently updating the place, but the plan is to be open by mid-October. When we do open, we will be inviting Dave Donnelly to come and have a look around. I know he had a very good relationship with local people and we hope to have the same."

Dawn added: "This will be very much a family business with a family ethos. People are more than welcome to pop in for a coffee and a chat to get to know us."

**Neil McKay**



Above: Dawn and Geoff the new proprietors at Hallgarth Buildings in Lanchester.



## Wildlife Notes

### Seldom seen, the Stoat

A black tip of a tail with something orange at the front whizzing across the road or path. Stoats rarely seem to stop. They're our second smallest mustelid. Weasels are smallest, they lack the black tip to their much shorter tail. Mustelids mostly look like they've been stretched, long bodies and relatively short legs, the badger being the less sleek exception.

They're powerful predators for their size, able to kill adult rabbits with a bite to the base of the skull; prey five times their size is fair game; adapted to climb and follow tunnels on their hunts. They can be a problem for ground nesting birds, particularly now that some species are threatened and occur in low density. Stoats are preyed by raptors (bird of prey) and foxes which should be present to keep balance.

They can live in most habitats within the UK, even moorland e.g. Waskerley/Weardale. Males and females live separately and are territorial. Out in the open they're vulnerable to raptors and foxes, so favour hedgerow/drystone walls/ditches and copses. They are so elusive that it's difficult to gauge population density. Removing linear features and the decline in hedgerows will negatively impact them as does fluctuating food sources of rabbits/voles etc.

They are able to change colour to almost completely white in colder weather for camouflage in snow. This fur 'ermine' is extra dense, and their pelts were prized in the past.

They mate during the summer, but the fertilised eggs are stored and not implanted until the following Spring (delayed implantation). Up to twelve kits can result! The female kits can become pregnant just weeks after birth, but don't give birth until mum is mature due to the delayed implantation.

Stoatally [will forgive the pun as their last article] good that some new 'Wild Notes' writers are venturing forth, so watch out in the next issue. It's been a pleasure waffling wildly each month. Stay in touch with your 'Wild'. Good luck with the future publication!

Now I'm leaving, perhaps I can be biased and say that I hope Lanchester doesn't get a large commercial Sitka Spruce plantation, or do I mean 'community forest', nearby.

**From our wildlife correspondent**

On behalf of the Village Voice team and our readers we would like to thank our correspondent for faithfully providing an article each month and we send our best wishes for their move to pastures new.



**Community  
Centre  
News**



**There has been quite a lot happening since our last News Bulletin.**

#### **What's New:**

New member offer for the gym. Join in October for £19.50 and pay only £9.75 for November, great value! The offer only lasts until 31st October, so be quick.

The two main halls and the porch are looking lovely as they have both been decorated after the recent works were completed.

The tarmac in the car park has been repaired.

A lot of overgrown shrubs and debris have been removed from the corner of the car park.

#### **Coming Soon:**

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.

November 2nd is the Christmas Fayre, 9am - 1.30pm. Please come along and support us. We will have over 25 stalls, the cafe will be open for refreshments, and there will be tombolas and raffles.

**Looking forward to seeing you.**

*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.*





## The Glass and Art Gallery is 25!

On September 6th, 2024, the Glass and Art Gallery in Consett celebrated 25 years in business. There was a special event with the gallery decorated with "25-year" pennants and giant 2 and 5 balloons outside. There was a champagne toast and local author Yvonne Vincent was guest of honour. The gallery was established by Maralyn O'Keefe, and her husband Ron, in premises in Medomsley Road in 1999. It was opened by the then MP Hilary Armstrong, now Baroness Armstrong.

Maralyn commented "We are so happy to celebrate this 25th anniversary as we heard many mutterings when it first opened - 'wrong location', 'one minute wonder', 'a gallery in a stone-built house away from the shops' etc. etc. Also, we've survived a pandemic (where we were closed for 7 months) and two recessions."

The gallery runs workshops and courses in stained glass throughout the year. The business continues to be headed by Maralyn alongside her son Tim who took over from Ron on his retirement. Maralyn and Ron live in Lanchester and have quite a few pieces of their stained-glass art in the village in churches and the schools.

The final word goes to Maralyn: "we're still here and intend to be for many a year to come!"



Above: l-r Tim O'Keefe, Ron O'Keefe, Maralyn O'Keefe, and their loyal staff Alison Ford, Bridget Hughes, Stephanie Winter  
Left: Author Yvonne Vincent, guest of honour.

## Ladies who lunch

On a glorious summer's day in August, we went to the New Board Inn at Hill Top with fabulous views over the countryside. The staff were very welcoming and helpful. It had a very extensive menu and after much chatter we chose Whitby scampi and salad with peas; mince and dumplings with vegetables; chicken fajitas; roast bacon chop with caramelised apple; hot shot parmo with crispy chicken; and a slow braised feather blade of beef in a rich Guinness jus with Applewood mash. The desserts were summer fruit pudding with custard; and fruity crème brûlée with shortbread biscuits.

After much talk and a great meal, we left for home and we will be back in the future.

## The Gourmet Girls



## COMPETITION TIME

**Look out for our children's art competition in next month's Village Voice**

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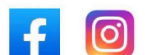
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## Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

### Earwax

Earwax is a natural, waxy substance that moisturizes, cleans, and lubricates the ear canal. It protects the inside part of the ear from injury and infection by trapping dirt, pollen, and even bacteria.

**Causes-** a build-up of earwax can happen if you have:

- narrow or damaged ear canals
- lots of hair in your ear canals
- skin condition affecting your scalp or around your ear
- inflammation of your ear canal (otitis externa or "swimmer's ear")
- anything that sits inside your ears, hearing aids, earbuds, earplugs
- excessive exposure to dust and pollens

### Symptoms

- hearing loss, muffled hearing
- earache or a feeling that your ears are blocked, itchiness
- ringing or buzzing in your ears (tinnitus)
- vertigo (feeling dizzy and sick)

**Non-urgent advice from your surgery-** If symptoms continue, make an appointment to see a nurse. By looking inside your ear using an otoscope, she will be able to see if there is a build-up of wax, any inflammation or irritation and advise what to do.

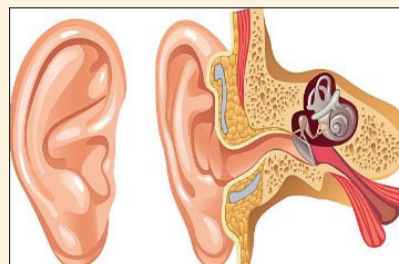
**Surgery treatment to remove wax-** you will be asked to soften the wax by applying drops.

- Lie on your side with the affected ear facing up.
- Put 2 to 3 drops of olive or almond oil in your ear – do not use almond oil if you're allergic to almonds.
- Continue to lie on your side for 5 to 10 minutes after putting in the oil.
- Repeat 3 to 4 times a day, for 5 to 10 days.

**Ear irrigation-** Once the wax has softened, make a second nurses' appointment where the wax can be flushed out with water.

### Important

Do not use any objects like cotton buds to remove earwax, this will push the wax further in making it worse. Do not use drops if you have a hole in your eardrum (perforated eardrum).



### Patient Participation Group coffee morning

The Patient Participation Group is trying to raise the profile of the group and also raise money for Macmillan.

They are to host a Macmillan coffee morning as a fundraiser for Macmillan and to raise the group profile at the same time.

This will be held at Lanchester Cricket Club, Kitswell Road on Thursday 24th October between 10 and 12.00. Cake stall and raffle and lots of friendly faces. Come along and join us for a chat and cuppa.

**It's time for  
Coffee Morning  
and you're  
invited**



**K.O.G'S  
(Kids Of God)**



**Games, Drama, Messy Games, Crafts, Day Trips, Weekend  
Residential Trips, Two Course Meal, Evening Trips, Bible Study  
and Debates PLUS MORE!**

### KoGs are back

We are back as usual on a Monday evening at KoGs after our summer break. We are very pleased to let you know we have opened up our books again and have a few spaces available if you would like to come along and give it a go! At KoGs we offer a range of activities including: 2 course meals, games, messy games, day trips, evening trips, residential weekend trips, crafts, drama, cell sessions/life skills and much much more!

We start at 5pm to 7.30pm, Mondays during school terms (and some half terms) at Lanchester Methodist Church for all ages 8 – 18 years! The cost of the sessions is £3 per person weekly or £30 per person a term but your first week is free! All activities (excluding additional trips) and your weekly meal is included. We are open to anyone who would like to join us, you don't have to have a religious background! For more information contact Laura & Peter Cole on 07428500059 / 01207 654291 or email [kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk). We also have a Facebook page if you'd like to see more or get in touch with us that way, [www.facebook.com/kidsofgodlanchester](http://www.facebook.com/kidsofgodlanchester).

**Laura Cole**



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## Poppy's walks

Good day readers.

This month's walk takes place in Lanchester and can be as easy or as difficult as you like. While that sentence may sound gibberish, all will be revealed, I hope! As you will know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale

Terrier who enjoys sharing with you readers the walks I lead my humans on.

This one, like many of them, starts on the village green from where we proceed past the Kings Head and for a very short way along Durham Road. At the traffic island opposite the church, we cross then turn left along the path which leads us along the by-pass. We follow the path past the Jet garage and across the road via another island towards St Bede's School. We cross the main road at the island there and head back taking a right turn towards the village centre.

But at the next junction we turn right again along Kitswell Road. We proceed along Kitswell Road although I sometimes fancy a detour around the cricket field. In summer the male Human often leads me there and makes me sit to watch the strange ritual which comprises a cricket match while he enjoys a glass - or three - of beer. But on this occasion, there was no cricket being played so we carried on past the cemetery and then along a farm track after Kitswell Road petered out.

When we came to Lizard Farm we could have turned left and up onto the railway line, but I insisted we walk a little further. So, we ended up at a cattle grid with a gate to the right which we passed

through. This is where I meant that the walk could be as easy or as difficult as required. Those who do not fancy crossing stiles could turn back there and head back towards Lanchester and when they reached Lizard Farm again, they could walk up the slip road back to the railway path. But I prefer to turn left just beyond the cattle grid and cross a stile.

From there I am kept on my lead across the first field because a sign says we dogs must be kept on lead due to the presence of horses. We cross another stile, another field and yet another stile and get onto the railway path. We then turn left to head back towards Lanchester, but after about ten minutes we reach a flight of stairs on our right where we branch off the railway path and up them onto Ridgeway. This is a footpath which leads us - with houses on the left and fields on the right - onto Newbiggin Lane.

We turn left onto Newbiggin Lane and down to the bottom. We turn left again then right past the EP school and back to the by-pass, this time on the other side of the main road. We walk along the footpath where carvings of animals abound - if it is warm I stop for a dip in the stream - and soon return to the village green.

The walk takes just over an hour and can be extended or shortened depending on inclination, time commitments and stamina.

*\*Just a note as a reminder that a walking group still leaves for a 90 minute walk from the Village Green weekly on Mondays at 1pm. Well-behaved dogs are welcome although for some reason I am rarely invited.*

## From our councillor - Waste and Litter

Back in 2020, before I was a County Council member, and in the nervous gap between Covid lockdowns, I joined our then MP Richard Holden and a number of village volunteers litter-picking around Lanchester and it was then I learned a lot about the waste problem facing our otherwise delightful village, and the area surrounding it.

And it was disappointing to return to the same spot on Cadger Bank for Lanchester Partnership's litter pick on March 9th this year, picking up multiple bags worth of plastic bottles, cartons, crisp packets, and the like.

It was interesting to reflect afterwards with Sonny Shepherd - who helped convene this spring's effort - about the presence of cheap convenience food and drink and the disposable wrapping that goes with it.

As a councillor, and a member of its Environment Scrutiny Committee, I often work with people from all parties on how we use a carrot and stick approach to make things better - (particularly Lib Dem Cllr Mark Wilkes who is Cabinet Member with responsibility for the environment across Durham).

Of course, my preference is the "carrot" and as a councillor, I am keen for DCC to do more to expand recycling provision - like the Household Waste Facility at Annfield Plain for big items, or the bin I was able to get installed outside of the SPAR shop useful for small bits from the shops.



But there is no excuse for anyone littering. Given the existing presence of bins and the relatively small inconvenience of waiting to get home, rather than tossing it out of the car window, Drs Freud and Jung would struggle themselves to fully understand the motivation some people seem to have for littering. That is where a tougher approach is right, and I back Durham's Coalition Joint Administration, which I am part of, which has recently increased fines for littering from £100 to

£250 and doubled fly-tipping fines to £1,000. But for fines to work, they have to be believable, and it has been good for Cllr Mike McGaun and myself to get to know Malcolm and Richard, our local Neighbourhood Warden and Countryside Ranger, respectively, who both do valuable work around the village and nearby rivers and fields to keep the place keen. You can also email me on [Douglas.oliver@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Douglas.oliver@durham.gov.uk) if you have any comments about unsightly or illegal waste.

Of course, a blended approach is right. It is useful for us all to consider what we consume, how we dispose of waste, what we pick up, and the Council needs to think about how we approach punishment for those

who don't think of others.

But I can conclude on a positive note, we should consider our glass half full: Lanchester and the area around is one of the most blindingly green and beautiful in the country, but we must never be complacent and work together to keep it that way.

**Doug Oliver**

## Proposed forest consultation

A steady flow of visitors attended the latest public consultation over proposals for Greencroft Forest Park.

Silviculture, the organisation behind the proposals to plant a commercial forest on land that is now agricultural, held the all-day event on Friday, August 30 in Lanchester Community Centre. Visitors were invited to scrutinise plans which will be submitted to Durham County Council.

Lanchester residents, the parish council and local

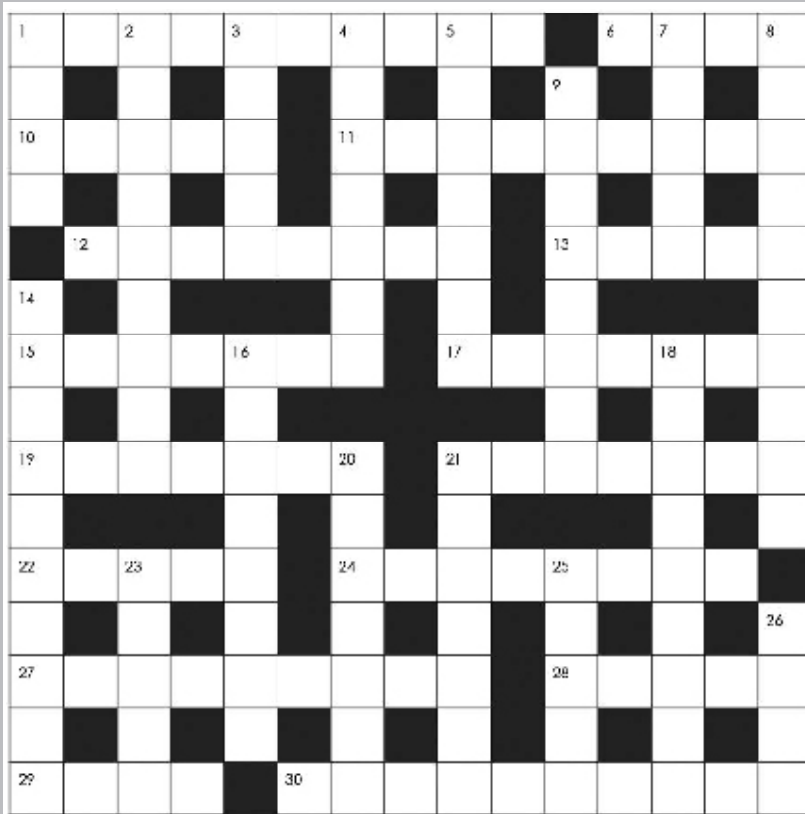
representatives will all be given the opportunity to comment on the plans which have already attracted considerable controversy.

Critics point out that the proposal is for a commercial forest and cast doubts on the extent of any environmental benefits from replacing agricultural land with trees. But other locals have welcomed the proposal.

**Neil McKay**



## CLUES CROSSWORD 200



### Across

1. Drug dealer (10)
6. Young sheep (4)
10. Health worker (5)
11. Garden seat (4,5)
12. Scold severely (8)
13. Flying elephant (5)
15. Submerge in liquid (7)
17. Make something appear to be better than it really is (5,2)
19. Patron saint of musicians (6)
21. Direct phone link for use in emergency (7)
22. Sound (5)
24. Be careful, Geordie! (3,5)
27. Town in Dumfries and Galloway (9)
28. Card game (5)
29. Undressed (4)
30. Auburn headed (4-6)

### Down

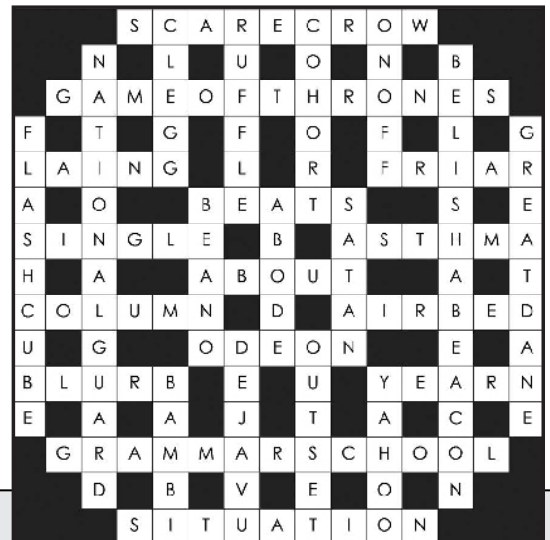
1. Flat-bottomed boat (4)
2. Denoting a group of three monotheistic religions (9)
3. Encounters (5)
4. Morphine based painkiller (7)
5. Achieve an aim (7)
7. Warning device (5)
8. Deadly on the wing (4,2,4)
9. A check of true quality (4,4)
14. Shildon born pitman, novelist and screenwriter (3,7)
16. Situation in which a lottery jackpot builds up (8)
18. Type of sail (9)
20. Branch of maths using symbols in place of numbers (7)
21. Continually boss around (7)
23. Chopped up into small cubes (5)
25. First Greek letter (5)
26. Network of lines (4)

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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



### Solution to Crossword 200

There were 23 entries for the August  
 Crossword of which 21 were correct.  
 The winner, drawn out of the hat,  
 was William Bell.

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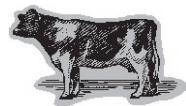
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### Wildlife group

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th October at 7.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre small hall. The speaker will be Noel Jackson talking about Botany of Poisons (in other words, which plants provide poison!). If you'd like more information, please email [Lanchesterwg@gmail.com](mailto:Lanchesterwg@gmail.com) (please note our new email address).

### 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](mailto:aenglish@willowburnhospice.org).

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

### All Saints RC Church and St Teresa's Church

On the weekend of Saturday the 5th and Sunday the 6th October, the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, the Right Reverend Stephen Wright, will be celebrating mass at St Teresa's Church at 4.15 on the Saturday. He will also celebrate mass at All Saints R.C. Church on the Sunday at 9.30 am. All parishioners are looking forward to his visit.

### Flower Club

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 1.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator will be Sue O'Brien, her

theme will be "Inspired". Our October meeting is a friendly social afternoon with one of our own club members doing a 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. For further information contact Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 or Lestrine Kelly on 01027 521494.

### Vintage Tractor Club

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## Paradiso Film Club

Sunday 13th October:  
"The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry". Starring Jim Broadbent, Penelope Wilton and Linda Bassett, this film is the story of an unremarkable man who sets off on a remarkable journey. Harold lives a life without purpose until he learns an old friend is dying and vows that by walking across England to see her, his journey can keep her alive. 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 October 28th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, this group will be reviewing 'Passage across the Mersey' by Robert Bhatia. If you have read Twopence across the Mersey by Helen Forrester, her son now continues the story of her life. Sounds interesting... We look forward to seeing you there and hearing everyone's opinion, that makes a Book Club very interesting.

### Thursday Book Club

On Thursday October 17th from 4.00-5.00pm, this group will be discussing 'The Thing We Never Said' by Susan Elliot Wright. Now this book sounds intriguing. One reviewer says 'it is a captivating book from this new author' (Goodreads). If you would like to join this group, pop into the library and speak to the librarians.

*Pins and Needles* will meet up on October 3rd 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.

*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. 2nd October 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 held in the Main Hall of the Community Centre on October 17th at 1.30pm. We shall be welcoming The Amigos to entertain us with 'Songs and Stories'.

## Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

The next meeting of the Friends will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 26th September in the upstairs Conference Room of the Community Centre. Unusually, the October 24th and November 28th meetings will be held at 1pm, not 7.30pm. This is a trial for the winter months so we'll see how it goes. Tuesday 17th September will see Rodney giving a talk to the Burnopfield W.I. on how the local population was affected by the Roman presence in the North. Further information on

the work of the Friends may be had from Mrs. M. Williams, tel: 01207 520063 or from Rodney Hawkins at [hawkins\\_15@sky.com](mailto:hawkins_15@sky.com). It's also worth checking out our website at [www.longoviciumcoulk.wordpress.com](http://www.longoviciumcoulk.wordpress.com) (note no dots in coul) or find us on Facebook.

## 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 lunch held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 8th October 12 pm start, all welcome.

## History Society

Our 4th October meeting will be David Mason County Archeologist telling us all about the Sedgefield Dig. I am sure it will be interesting to find out the past from what they unearthed. Then on 1st November David Griffiths is talking about 2 tragedies to end all tragedies, about a fire at Sunderland Empire Theatre. Please remember owing to the security system at the Community Centre although we start at 7.00 we need to be getting seated earlier and I advise trying to be there for 6.45 as the door will be locked by 7.00 and it's difficult to alert us in Room 3 of your presence. We look forward to seeing one and all.

## Social Club

5th Oct - Billy Irvine  
12 Oct - Laura Cairns  
18th Oct - Beyond Madness. A night of songs from Madness, Bad Manners, The Specials, Dexy's Midnight Runners and more. Tickets £6 from bar (no dynamic pricing in sight).  
19th Oct - Joseph Mills  
26th Oct - Mark Howells  
*All acts are subject to change at short notice. Non-members welcome.*

## WI

The next meeting of the WI is our AGM, on Monday October 7th 7.00 pm in

the Community Centre. Lesley Jerrard from WI House Spennymoor will be attending, visitors are always welcome.

## Lanchester playgroup

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

## City Theatre

'A Fine Bright Day' by Philip Goulding (a love story) will be on at The City Theatre, Fowlers Yard, Durham, DH1 3RA from September 2nd until 28th. Margaret mourns her long lost husband, but after her daughter thrusts Milton, an American painter, into her home, her life changes. Warm, moving and funny, 'A Fine Bright Day' explores love in later life. Tickets from the Gala box office or on 03000266600, or [www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk](http://www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk) and follow the link for tickets. Performances Sunday and Saturday matinee at 2.30, Monday to Friday 7.30. £8.50 with concessions (£7.50) on Sun mat, Mon and Tues.

## 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 next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 1.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The demonstrator will be Sue O'Brien, her theme will be "Inspired". Our October

meeting is a friendly social afternoon with one of our own club members doing a 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. For further information contact Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 or Lestrine Kelly on 01027 521494.

## Fashion Show and Sale

Saturday 5th October, Lanchester Social Club, 2.00 pm, doors open 1.30 pm. Tickets £5 includes light refreshments. Autumn/winter collection and accessories available. For tickets contact [lanchesterwi@talktalk.net](mailto:lanchesterwi@talktalk.net) or buy at Lanchester Red Cross Shop

## Art Group annual exhibition

Lanchester Art Group Annual Exhibition will be held this year on the weekend of October 19th and 20th at the Community Centre, 10am until 5pm, £1 admission, cakes, teas and paintings for sale.

## 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.

## Red Cross Coffee Morning

Lanchester Red Cross are holding a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 23rd October 10.00 am to 12.00pm in the Methodist Church, come along and enjoy coffee and cake with friends while raising funds for a good cause. Please note change of venue, raffle tickets will only be available from the shop.

# St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

## Exam Celebrations

This summer our students achieved fantastic examination results that we are extremely proud of. Our school has always been a school where students achieve well but we have really built on that strong foundation and significantly improved results. We are particularly delighted that at GCSE 24% of GCSE entries were awarded grades 7-9; 75% of students gained grades 4-9 including English and Maths with 50% of students achieving grades 5-9 including English and Maths. We are very proud of our ambitious curriculum and high academic standards and our hardworking and committed staff and students. We are expecting to be placed in the top 25 of 160 schools and colleges in the North-East.

## Scholarship Celebrations

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) is a world-leading military training academy where all officers in the British Army are trained to take on the responsibility of leading their soldiers. During training, all officer cadets learn to live by the academy's motto: 'Serve to Lead'. We are delighted that Lachlan Shaw (Y12 going into 13) has passed the selection for a scholarship and been granted a place at Sandhurst for officer training. This is testament to Lachlan's dedication not only to his studies but also to the valued contribution he has made to our school, Sixth Form and to the wider community. Congratulations Lachlan, we are all immensely proud of you!

## Years 5 and 6 Open Evening

This will take place on Thursday 26th September 5:30 to 7:30.

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



Above: Lachlan Shaw

## Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

September is always an exciting but nerve-wracking time for children all over the country as they start their new classes and for many, a new school. We have welcomed 55 wonderful children in our Reception classes this year as well as a number of children in other year groups. We are also fortunate to have two new teachers. Miss Rebecca Watt and Miss Jane Wood are both ECT (Early Career Teachers) and it is great to see their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to the children in their care.

We are already thinking about next year's intake and as a result, have an EYFS Open Morning on Saturday 28th September between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along to enjoy a tour of the school led by some of our oldest children, to meet the staff and see our lovely learning environment.

We were able to share the good news that we have, once again, received funding from The Turing Scheme for the fourth consecutive year. This means that in 2025 we will be able to take children to our partner schools in Madrid and Dubai as well as a new partner school in New Delhi, India. For the first time since the Erasmus projects finished, we are also hoping to be able to welcome children from the school in New Delhi to our school and village. This visit is planned to take place in May, and we hope to hold a big community event for the whole village when they visit. Watch this space...

We have another action-packed year planned for our children full of many different visitors, trips, residential, work and fun! We never forget the words of Aristotle that are displayed in our Meeting Room in school: Educating the mind without educating the heart, is no education at all.

**Mrs Jane Davis**  
**Head Teacher**



## Lanchester All Saints'

We have had a lovely start to the new school year: the children have returned to us with an excellent attitude to learning and ready to demonstrate the great pride they have for our school. Our families work hard to support us here and that was clear at our Family Introduction Event that was held within the first week of the return to school. Gathered in the hall, everyone had the opportunity to listen to our vision for All Saints' and our top priorities for the coming year. Then joining the children in their classes, they received some important input from the teachers.

The behaviour and kindness of our children are a credit to their families and the staff in school who work tirelessly to provide the best learning opportunities possible. Witnessing the older children help, support and form friendships with our new pupils is always heartwarming to witness. Our class sizes range from fifteen to thirty-one...large enough to offer a number of friendships but small enough to be a true family! If you are looking for your child to join us in Nursery or Reception, come to our Open Morning on Saturday 5th October from 10 – 11.30am. Myself and our four Early Years staff members will be here to welcome you. There will be refreshments, an opportunity to play and use the EYFS space as well as a chance to see the other classrooms and outside space. If you cannot make that date, please get in touch and we can organise a convenient time to show you around. I hope to see you.

**Frances Stephenson**  
**Head Teacher**

## PIANO LESSONS

Experienced teacher.  
Beginners,  
all ages welcome

**Jan Massey**  
**07826841224**





## Police Report - Parking During School Times

With the start of the new school year, I understand that some residents will be worried about the issue of parking outside the primary schools in Lanchester. Before the schools broke up for the summer holidays, I made attempts to help ease the issue. I was able to collect a substantial amount of data from emails sent to me, numerical data collected on patrol and also looked into other agencies' figures.

With this information, I was able to speak with members of Durham County Council's Road Safety Team and go through their suggestions and advice. I also met with the Traffic Management Officer for Durham

Constabulary, who was able to clear up misconceptions around police powers when it comes to parking issues. Durham Constabulary Neighbourhood officers are not able to issue a fixed penalty notice for parking on double yellow lines and keep clear areas and can only issue a fixed penalty notice for wilful obstruction.

We are working with the schools to educate pupils and parents around the issues of poor parking and how it can be very dangerous for pedestrians and also detrimental to the wellbeing of residents.

With collaboration from Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary, I have been able to have the white "KEEP CLEAR" lines around Millfield replaced with double yellow lines which if parked on, can result in a fine issued by the council's parking



service wardens. The works may be slow to progress as it has been added to the long list of projects the council already have in place.

The council have also recognised the need for more attendance by parking service wardens, who have more powers than police when it comes to parking offences and the issuing of fines.

After my meeting with Durham Constabulary's Traffic Management Officer, an application has been submitted for the primary schools in Lanchester to be part of a new pilot scheme "Park Safe". This new scheme allows members of the public

to submit images of illegal parking which would then result in the "offender" being issued a fine. This allows reports of poor parking to be addressed, even if there are no parking service wardens or police in the vicinity.

The application for the "Park Safe" scheme is not guaranteed for the schools in Lanchester, as it is currently in its pilot stages. So far, it has been rolled out to

three schools in County Durham, with great success.

I understand that the issue will not be solved overnight, but with these additions, I hope that the problem may be reduced and morale in the village will be increased.

**Connor Milner**  
**PCSO 30136**

## Lanchester Bowling Club - Champions!

As August ends and meteorological summer draws to a close, so too does a busy bowls season. Incredibly we have had to field ninety-eight league and cup teams over the course of a season of slightly less than four months and, unlike some clubs, have never failed to put out full squads. Add to this the various pairs and triples teams we have put out for other competitions, and it's been a great effort by all players!

Unfortunately, we never managed to get past any of the early rounds in any of the cup competitions and nor did we win any of the local leagues, although our Monday team were competitive. Sadly, the same cannot be said for our Wednesday evening triples squad who performed badly in the league, but we were able to blood new players so look forward to a better showing next season.

Putting out two teams on a Wednesday afternoon in the South West Durham League obviously reduced the pool of players available for the evening squad, but it was in this league where we had our success. For the first time in Lanchester Bowling Club's history one of our teams has managed to win a league, gaining promotion in the process. So, congratulations for a great season to all those who played some part in Lanchester A team's achievement.

Going into August the A team were in pole position to get promotion, but going up as champions was in the balance. A home defeat by Consett Park B didn't help matters although gaining a 6-2 victory over Cockton Hill eased the nerves before the all-important game against Lanchester B on August 21st. Lanchester A were nominally the home team, and it turned out to be a demolition derby. Not to the expected team though as

the B team gained bragging rights by crushing the A team 8-0 in a bruising 73-39 win!

The A team's final match was at Fishburn with its notoriously horrible ground. A 6-2 victory helped them maintain their advantage at the top, despite Durham City's 8-0 defeat of Cockton Hill. Earlier in the month the B team (who were the form team in August and would have been in line for promotion themselves but for a disastrous mid-season slump) had taken four points off Durham to greatly help their sister team.

Apart from league and cup games August was also busy for other reasons. A small but skilled team completed replacing, staining and marking the backboards and we also played our second friendly at home to Birtley. This is a long-standing annual game and the players on all five rinks enjoyed the occasion. Birtley had to borrow some of our players and Lanchester ran out winners on three rinks. The best part of the afternoon was the tea provided by the local deli and Ann Lee, whose cheese scones and ginger cake are to die for. A fantastic day to round off a great month of bowling.

**Bob Cuthbertson**

*Right top: Lanchester A team. The mainstay of the squad that won the South West Durham League 2*  
*Right below: Lanchester B team who resoundingly defeated the A team.*  
*Below left: The combined Lanchester and Birtley teams for the August friendly.*





## Cricket News

It has been a decent month for the firsts, winning three league games and losing the other by a small margin, plus they reached a cup final. They won at Sacriston by 58 runs, scoring 206 and bowling the opposition out for 158. Pasindu made 53 and all six bowlers took wickets, with Henry Sherwood leading the line with 3-14 off 9 overs. There then followed defeat at Philadelphia by 8 runs with the team feeling they should have won it. Pasindu took 4-29 and scored 51. The firsts then beat Willington by 5 wickets chasing down 224. Pasindu took 3-34 then Charlie McPhail played a splendid unbeaten 79 to guide the team home. They then trounced Crook, bowling them out for just 107 before losing just two wickets in the win. Henry Sherwood took 4-23 and Pasindu 3-14. Luke McCabe was unbeaten on 51 as the side cruised to victory.

They did reach the T20 Smash Finals Day at Tudhoe, a trophy they won last year. They beat Littletown in the semi final but after a poor batting display lost to Sacriston in the final. Pasindu had a remarkable month, made even more special by the fact that he took two hat-tricks in the space of ten days. He completed the feat against Crook in a cup tie and repeated it against Philadelphia in the league game.

The seconds lost to Sunderland and Philadelphia but then won against Willington and Crook. Dan Scott top scored and took 4-27 against Sunderland. Cameron Metcalfe took 5-29 and John McGilvray scored 45 against Philly. Wickets were shared around as Willington were dismissed for 97. Dan Arthur guided the team home with 35. They then chased down 259 at Crook for the loss of just 3 wickets. Dan Scott, having scored a maiden senior fifty back in June, scored a whopping 143 in a fantastic innings. Jack Slane added an unbeaten 61 in the great win.

## Junior Cricket

The under 18 season lumbers on, with the side winning two cup ties in recent weeks to set up a final with Burnopfield on Sunday 8th September. They beat Blaydon in the quarter final by 67 runs, scoring 202-4 and restricting their opponents to 135-6. Opening pair, John McGilvray and Toby Somersall, scored 71 and 46 respectively. The use of nine bowlers didn't hamper Lanchester's desire to win with Toby Somersall and Alfie Armstrong taking two wickets each. The semi final was at Lintz, and the holidays were causing problems as we struggled to get eleven players on the field.

Batting first, Lanchester made 108-8, which we feared wouldn't be enough on the small ground. Joe Malone top scored with 29 but had to retire to nip off for a doctor's appointment! He made it back to open the bowling and credit to all the bowlers, they bowled really well to restrict Lintz to 86-7. Ibs Khan took 2-12 off his 4 overs and 13 year old Riley Sayer also took 2-12 off 3 overs.

The under 15s should have played in a cup too but the competition turned into a farce as teams couldn't get enough players and the competition was abandoned.

The under 13s made it to a cup semi final where they lost out in controversial circumstances to Newcastle. After confusion over the scores, Newcastle claimed the win by one run. Lanchester set a tough target with Nathan Watson, Alfie Armstrong and Riley Sayer all making their retirement 30 scores. Newcastle shouldn't really have gotten near, but 46 extras conceded cost the side dearly.

The under 11 girls and under 9s teams have played lots of games but these are classed as non-competitive and just more about the playing experience, although they do love a win. **Andrew McConnell**

## Tennis Club News - Tennis Club Finals Day

Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club held its 2024 tournament finals on Saturday 7th September. Three finals were played, and a good crowd gathered to watch some excellent matches on a beautiful afternoon.

The mixed doubles final was contested by Jane Laycock and James Gray against Michelle Ridley and David Jackson. After two extremely close sets, Jane and James triumphed 7-5, 7-6. It was a busy afternoon for Jane and James as they both had to play the Ladies and Men's singles finals respectively. Jane played Liz Kime and Liz won in two straight sets. The men's final, however, was a much closer affair between James and Tom Sharp. After a tight first set loss, Tom was able to recover for a 6-7, 6-1, 6-2 victory.

The awards for junior and adult "Most Improved Player" were also presented on the day. The adult award went to David Jackson, who has enjoyed a good season, culminating in his appearances in two finals (the men's doubles match took place after this report was compiled).

The junior award was a more difficult decision to make for Coaches Adam Parker and Dennis Laycock. After due consideration, it was felt that the honour should go to Lucy Barella. Lucy is focused in lessons, keen to learn and is always ready for anything the coaches throw at her (not literally, I might add, only tennis balls!).

Well done to all our finalists and congratulations to the trophy winners. Pictures show the winners and MIPs.

The summer raffle was drawn, and the club would like to thank the following local businesses and friends for their kind prize donations: Lilydale, Hanley's, Lanchester Pharmacy, Country Home & Gift Store, "Ged's", Ravello, Mark Ridley, Sam Stokoe, Barbara Ridley, Sally Laverick, Northern Rail and the King's Head.

Our next fundraiser will be a coffee morning at the Methodist church on Saturday 19th October.

Sadly, the grass court season is drawing to a close, but tennis will continue, usually on Sunday mornings, at the hard courts behind the bowling club. Winter club coaching will commence in Croft View Halls on Monday 7th October. 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**



Top left: Dennis & Barbara with Lucy Barella.

Top right: Jane & James

Middle right: Dennis, David & Barbara

Middle left: Tom & James

Bottom: Jane, James & Liz.

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