the Village Voice

Issue No 7, Volume 25 Lanchester, July 2025





Lightning over Lanchester

This photograph was taken by Lyla Garside (age 11) of the lightning on the evening of 21st June, 2025



Blossom Time in the Community Orchard

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Lanchester WI visited Raby Castle

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The history of King's Café and The Old Ice Cream Shop

Last week Sarah from the Old Ice Cream Shop in the village joined the Thursday ladies to speak to them about the history of her family's ice cream making in the local area. Sarah opened her own ice cream shop in the village in March last year, and she feels that she's come back to her roots as by doing so as she comes from a long line of local ice cream makers and sellers, and her story is a fascinating one.



It all started with the five Bolton brothers from Ferryhill, the eldest being William – Sarah's great grandfather. William's brother Richard was the brain child in the family who established the first King's Café in Annfield Plain in 1937. Kings Café was given the name because it was situated in front of King's picture house. Tommy Bolton had a King's Café in Dipton, Davey Bolton had a cafe in West Cornforth,and Lesley Bolton was the first of the brothers to take the business mobile, hawking the streets of Lanchester with his homemade ice-cream.



Lesley's home-made ice cream was made in his basement in Murray House at the bottom of Maiden Law. Drafted into the army in the 2nd World War, Lesley was a Japanese PoW survivor, but he didn't like to talk about it.

William hawked fruit and veg around the local area, his usual route meant that his last stop was the Bird Inn at White-le-Head as he enjoyed his social time there. From then on, he lived at White-le-Head, and this property still remains in the family as Sarah's parents' home and attached their ice cream factory.

William and Eliza had two sons, Lawrence and George, who alongside their regular jobs they each had an ice cream van hawking the local area after hours.



Sarah's Grandad, George Bolton, worked for the Hobson Depot driving miners to the local pits and back – Marley Hill, The Eden Pit (South Causey Road, Morrison-Busty Pit) and then on a night he would hawk the streets in his ice cream van.

George and his wife Olive bought flats opposite the fish shop that his parents owned turning them into a family home and Bolton's General Dealers selling fruit, veg, cooked meats, pies, tinned goods, cigarettes, chocolates etc. They had two children, Billy and Peter, Peter is the youngest and is Sarah's dad.

Born to be an ice cream man, Peter helped out in the family business from the age of 13, and had his own van by age 18. Peter was the driving force in carrying on the mobile side of the business - he had four vans from a young age, and had the opportunity to place a van in the Colliery village inside Beamish Museum. The family's association with Beamish went on to last 32 years, with Peter gaining an extra pitch in the Victorian town with a bespoke Georgian horse drawn trailer which originally stood on Newcastle Quayside.



In 1995 the family business took the opportunity to run "Jubilee Confectionary", the sweetshop that's in the Victorian town in Beamish. For 19 years it was very much a family affair – Sarah and her husband Liam plus aunties, uncles, brothers and sisters all worked alongside each other making and selling the sweets.

Many of you may remember the Gateshead Garden Festival in 1990. Sarah's father Peter was very proud to win the contract to run the ice cream concessions at the event that dominated the summer of 1990 in the North East. This was an honour in itself, but also a pivotal moment for the business going forward. In the picture is Sarah's grandad George, her father Peter and her sister Emma, all holding the "butterfly ice cream" that they created as a butterfly was the emblem of the show.





In April 2020, just as Covid emerged, Sarah and Liam took over Lilydale Pet Supplies in the village (which they still run to this day) and a few years later they took the opportunity to convert the attached outbuildings into what we now know as The Old Ice Cream Shop, keeping up with tradition. This is again very much a family venture, and Sarah and her family are proud to carry on the family heritage serving local people good quality, delicious ice creams.



This summer Sarah and Liam are looking forward to producing big batches of their renowned vanilla ice-cream, using the traditional methods in their ice cream factory.

The Old Ice Cream Shop is open every day from 10am-5pm, serving not only a great selection of gelato flavours but also classic Mr Whippys, plus traditional sweet-shop sweets; crepes, fluffy pancakes and waffles; home-baked treats, hot food and drinks.

Rachel Smith

Congratulations!

Margaret and Alan Gill were married on 9th June 1965, and this week celebrated their diamond anniversary with an afternoon tea at Raby Castle followed by a houseful of family and friends to help them celebrate their special day.

Margaret wore the dress that her mum had worn for her wedding. 60 years ago!

Margaret and Alan have lived in the village since they were married.

Thank you

Andrea, Helen and Sarah (Margaret and Alan's daughters)









Above: Margaret and Alan on their wedding day and at their diamond wedding anniversary celebrations.
Right: Margaret's mum at their wedding and Margaret wearing the same dress at their celebrations.

VJ Day 80 Beacon Event



Lanchester Parish Council and Burnhope Parish Council are working in partnership to light the beacon as part of the commemorations for VJ Day 80 and would like to invite you to attend.
The 80th anniversary of VJ Day (Victory over Japan) takes place on Friday 15th August 2025, commemorating the end of the Second World War.
While VE Day (Victory in Europe) marked the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, many thousands of Armed Forces personnel were still engaged in fighting in the Far East. Victory over Japan would come at a heavy price, and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) marks the day Japan surrendered on 15 August 1945, which ended the Second World War.

Friday 15th August 2025
Burnhope Picnic Area, Edge Lane
7:45pm start
8:30pm beacon lit

Everyone is advised that the event site will be dark and the ground may be muddy and uneven. In addition, care needs to be taken when crossing the road from Burnhope to the picnic site.
There is no parking at the picnic area. You are encouraged to walk from Burnhope to the picnic area.
There will be no coach provided for the event but if anyone does need a lift so they can attend the event please contact Laura on 01207 520146.





Eric Hepplewhite awarded BEM in the King's Birthday Honours List

Well-known Lanchester resident, Eric Hepplewhite, was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the King's Birthday Honours List for services to the community in Lanchester.
Eric has been actively involved in the community for over 50 years: working with the Boys' Brigade, running the Croft View Halls and, of course, motivating people to make the ceramic poppies with the associated exhibition in the Methodist Church. There are many other activities with which he has been involved over the years particularly with the young people of the village. He is also a parish councillor and is involved with the Campaign for Rural Lanchester. He was also one of the recipients of the Maundy Money as reported in the previous edition of the Village Voice.
The Village Voice, of which he is a committee member, congratulates him.

Keith Brown

Dear Village Voice,

I would like to give heartfelt thanks to the many good folk of Lanchester who have helped me after the sad loss of my fiancée Alison Fawcett.
There has been so much love, support and sympathy for me, my family and of course Alison's family too. The community spirit of Lanchester has shone through for me during this dark time.
Anyone who had the privilege of meeting Alison will remember her cheerful voice, her smiling eyes, her concern for the vulnerable and marginalised and of course her great love of dogs. Her rescue Jack Russell terrier, Peanut, is a well-known character about the village.

Once again, thank you Lanchester.
Mark Watson



Monday Art Group

The Monday Art Group has had a varied month, painting tulips and articles from Granny's kitchen, as well as working on our own projects.
We had a 'one you like' show when we brought in pictures that we are pleased with for a small show, and we are about to have our outdoor painting day at Lanchester Garden Centre so we're hoping for sunny weather.
We are a small friendly group, and new members are always welcome. Contact tojimrafferty@yahoo.com for further details.
Jim Rafferty



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 2025

Many thanks to all those in the local community and beyond who helped raise the fantastic total of £2,582.88 for Christian Aid. People in need, of all faiths and none, will benefit from this effort.
Judith Brown

Lanchester WI

Lanchester WI met on Monday June 2nd where the President welcomed 37 members and 2 visitors; she reminded members about the summer outing to Raby Castle on Wednesday 11th June as well as several other events including our very successful Fashion Show on September 6th. Lucky raffle winners were Judith Collins, Jean Forster and Beatrice Bolton. The speaker for the evening was Jennie McVicar who is known as the "Cookie Fairy". Jennie told us of her journey from giving up her teaching career to setting up her own business and how it has grown. The meeting finished with refreshments including strawberries and cream and a catch up with friends.
On a very sunny Wednesday 11th June, ladies from Lanchester Women's Institute visited Raby Castle and Gardens. After lunch a guided tour of the castle and a walk around the gardens were enjoyed before the journey home.
Tracey Dobson



Right: Jenny McVicar the "Cookie Fairy"
Front cover: WI ladies at Raby Castle

Blossom Time in the Community Orchard!

This year the Community Orchard has been a sea of pink and white blossom. Members and regular visitors to the Orchard have been able to enjoy the view and indulge in a spot of Blossom Bathing under the trees. This year, for the first time, we set up a Blossom Trail putting up signs around the village to follow. It was lovely to see new visitors making the most of this. The blossoms have all fallen now but it bodes well for a bumper crop of apples in the autumn.
The Community Orchard is open from dawn till dusk every day and is open for anyone to visit and enjoy. If you would like to be an apple grower, why not become a member or join one of our work sessions to find out more. Visit our website at www.lanchesterorchard.org for session dates!
Eleanor Johnson
Lanchester Community Orchard



Above: Blossom trail directional signs
Front cover: Blossom in full bloom

Summer Special is back!

The ever-popular Summer Special returns to the village.
It is held in the Methodist Church and is for ages 4 to 11.
It runs from Tuesday 26th August to Saturday 30th August, 10am to 12:15pm – check in from 9:45.
There will be games, crafts, stories, messy challenges, puppets and music.
For a registration form please contact Kath Jones: kathjonesnwdc@gmail.com.



Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

July 2025

This article aims to help understand Prediabetes and Type 2 Diabetes.
Normally, when we eat foods containing carbohydrates, our blood sugar levels increase. The hormone insulin is then released to lower blood sugar levels back down to the normal. In Type 2 Diabetes the body cannot use insulin correctly resulting in sugar building up in the blood. This is diagnosed by a HbA1C blood test.
Prediabetes means that your blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough for a diagnosis of Type 2 Diabetes. However, having Prediabetes increases the risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes.
Prevention - with the right adjustment to your diet and lifestyle, it is possible to prevent the development of Type 2 Diabetes and reduce your blood level to normal.
Healthy Diet- adopt a lower carbohydrate diet by reducing the amount of carbohydrates in meals and adding more protein and good fats. Choose complex carbohydrates such as peas, beans, whole grains and vegetables rather than foods that have been processed to remove bran and grains such as white bread and rice, crisps, biscuits and sweets. Eat regular meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

HbA1C Blood levels & diabetes
Normal = less than 41.9 (mmol/mol)
Prediabetes = 42 to 47.9 (mmol/mol)
Diabetes = 48 & over (mmol/mol)

Exercise- that makes you breathe a little harder but can still talk: walking, riding a bike, gym based or follow a home exercise plan. Start small and build up aiming for 30 minutes of exercise most days of the week.

Long-term complications of Type 2 Diabetes
- **Damaged blood vessels – can cause heart disease, stroke**
- **Foot problems – ulcers, infections**
- **Sight problems – can cause blindness**
- **Kidney problems**

Sleep - poor quality sleep, too much sleep and too little sleep has a negative impact on blood sugar control. Most adults need 7-9 hours' sleep per night. Avoid having caffeine or alcohol or a meal too late. Make sure your bedroom is well ventilated.
Stress – can impact on sleep, practice techniques like yoga and meditation. Listen to a relaxation or nature CD.
Smoking – Stop, as it is a cause of Type 2 Diabetes.
Having prediabetes means that you're already on the pathway towards Type 2 Diabetes. However, by making changes to your diet and lifestyle, you have the opportunity to alter the course of your health journey and prevent developing long-term complications.
Ref:NHS Health My Diabetes.
Second Nature- Reset your lifestyle
Nice Definition of T2D

Patient experience: Volunteers Wanted Focus Groups

You may already be aware that Lanchester Medical Centre Patient Participation Group (PPG) are looking for any patient of the medical centre who would like to take part in Focus Groups that we anticipate running over the summer months. These are being introduced to ascertain personal views on patient experience with the practice. We would particularly like to hear from a spread of ages from young to old as we need the groups to be as representative of our patient base as possible.
This is entirely a PPG owned series of events to help us in our role of supporting practice owners and management to respond to local needs. As a PPG we work in partnership with Lanchester Medical Centre to offer patient perspective on the services that are provided. PPGs also work to improve communications, encourage patients to take more responsibility for their health and provide practical support.
What is a Focus Group?
A Focus Group is a group of 8-12 patients who will be asked a series of questions over a 2-3 hour period. All opinions will be noted and collated then shared with the practice. It will not be possible to identify individual contributions from the feedback provided.
The facilitator of the group will be a member of the PPG as will note takers.
Who can attend?
Any patient of the practice is welcome as are all views and perspectives. It's important we are as inclusive as we can be, so please consider joining a group.
Session timings:
We hope to run sessions in the morning and evening.
Next steps:
At present we are gauging interest in the initiative so please in the first instance register your interest by emailing the following address with your contact details: programmedirector@aol.com.
You will then be sent a short form to complete to enable us to ensure we do not invite too many of the same age or profile. There will be at least 4 sessions so we will need around 30 volunteers if possible.
We intend to start in August 2025 so very much look forward to hearing from you.
Susan Graham
Chairman: Lanchester Medical Centre Patient Participation Group

Thursday Club

Meeting in May

We had a speaker from the Weardale Railway who told us so much that several of us are making plans to visit on a Wednesday or a Saturday, to have a scenic train ride with afternoon tea included.
Meeting at Wolsingham, it will be a pleasant way to pass the time on a relaxing train journey as far as Bishop Auckland, and the return for more views of the countryside.
It's good to know about these local treats.

Meeting in June

Sarah from the ice cream cafe came bringing some of her delicious ice cream for us to try. It went with the local strawberries and blueberries and was enjoyed by all.
She told us with some emotion at times about her history. This spanned several generations and also showed them to be enterprising people.
The family had the sweetie shop at Beamish Museum for 19 years until that changed with a new group running the museum. Sad times.
They also made their own ice cream locally until that lease ran out. Also, they had ice cream vans all around the area keeping to their own patch and respecting other ice cream sellers.
There were sad times and happy times throughout the history but now they have the pet shop and the extended ice cream parlour with coffee and cakes also on offer.
If you haven't tried the shop yet you are missing a treat*.
Jan Vasey
** See the article on page 2*





From the House

It has been a year since I was elected as the Member of Parliament for North Durham, and although I have got to know this wonderful constituency well, there is still so much to see and many more residents to meet. I will continue to spend as much time in Lanchester as possible.

I was pleased to see Alison Gray elected as the County Councillor for Lanchester and Burnhope; Alison is a dedicated public servant who will do a brilliant job for residents. Thank you to Doug Oliver for his service as the previous ward councillor.

I will work closely with Alison and will be holding a joint advice surgery in the coming months. If you would like to book an appointment to attend the surgery, please contact my office using the details below.

Recent announcements around North East transport infrastructure are very welcome. I look forward to seeing the detail on how communities across North Durham will benefit from the package of investments in buses, roads and walking and cycling routes.

In Westminster, I have spoken in a number of debates on investment for deprived towns, the increasing number of HMOs, spending on defence jobs, additional security equipment for prison officers, supporting jobs in car manufacturing in the North East and tackling off-road bikes amongst other things. I am working hard to represent North Durham and what matters most to its residents.

Since the election, my office has responded to over 6,000 queries. I have helped return over £246,000 owed to constituents in taxes/benefits/utilities. My biggest priority is to serve individuals and communities across North Durham. I will always make time for constituents and want to help in any way that I can. If you need help or support, please email me on luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk or call 0191 371 8834.

Luke Akehurst, Member of Parliament for North Durham

House of Commons

County Councillor Update



Dear Resident,

I hope this report finds you well. So far, there has only been one full council meeting at County Hall to elect the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council and to notify us of cabinet members. Much other time has been taken up by essential training. In the meantime, I have been very busy undertaking a range of work in the ward. In Lanchester I have:

Met the neighbourhood policing team to talk about their work and how we can work together. They updated me on some of the issues affecting the village.

Met the neighbourhood warden to discuss his work including dealing with fly tipping and rubbish. We will be doing a walkabout in the village soon.

Had a meeting with MP Luke Akehurst and updated him regarding potential planning issues.

Met the Forestry Commission regarding the Greencroft Forest, with fellow Parish Councillor David Smith, where we discussed some concerns we had about the planned forest.

Dropped in to hear about the work of the Lanchester Partnership and look at ways of supporting them.

Met with residents with concerns about parking and speeding on Newbiggen Lane.

Requested white line painting outside the Dental Surgery and the adjoining home/shop to prevent nuisance parking.

Reported potholes and overgrown trees in a number of locations.

Petitioned the Council to rescind their decision to implement fines for children's library books.

Been looking with the Parish Council at ways to prevent another episode of flooding.

In addition, in response to pleas from numerous residents, I am working with other stakeholders to increase the number of GP appointments available in Lanchester. This obviously is not a straightforward matter and if you have any thoughts on this, please get in touch using the email address below.

Since being elected, I have continued to fight for better bus services for Lanchester and Burnhope. Whilst I welcome the new transport investment in the North East by the Government, it is reliable buses that residents need to get to college, work, and medical appointments. I have received an update from the North East Mayor, Kim McGuinness confirming her plans to bring our buses under public control. This is not a quick process but please be assured that I will continue to work with Kim until we get the bus services we need and deserve.

If you need help with a local issue please do contact me. Alison.gray2@durham.gov.uk

With best wishes, Alison Gray

The Lanchester Partnership is seeking a new Treasurer

We are seeking someone with appropriate experience to assist with the management of the finances of our local charity. This involves maintaining appropriate records of all transactions. The work includes inputting the resulting data into a simple excel spreadsheet. You'll also assist the trustees in the preparation of annual returns to the Charity Commission.

This is a voluntary position which normally involves (at most) a couple of hours each week. It might suit anyone, recently retired, or working part-time, who has experience of managing budgets. The main requirements are actually common sense and a systematic approach.

You would have the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting the local community. You'd be working with a very friendly bunch of trustees and working groups.

IT MIGHT BE YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE YOU KNOW – SO PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD.

If interested, please contact Henry Edwards via:
contact@lanchesterpartnership.co.uk
or on 07890803648

Wild Notes



It's a special wildlife encounter to spot an otter along the River Browney in Lanchester. You're most likely to see these elusive creatures at dawn or dusk. Otters were spotted as having returned to and started breeding in County Durham and our local area in the 1990s.

The Eurasian Otter is a large, powerful mammal, which can be recognised by its grey-brown fur, broad snout and pale chest and throat. These mammals are incredible swimmers and are well suited for aquatic life because of their webbed feet, dense fur that keeps them warm and their ability to close their eyes and ears when underwater.

They mainly feed on fish, amphibians, crustaceans and, occasionally, small waterbirds. They need to eat frequently—up to 15% of their body weight daily—so a healthy aquatic ecosystem is essential for their survival. Their return to the area in the 1990s is a sign of cleaner waterways. Otters are found in clean rivers, lakes and coastal areas with an abundance of food and plenty of vegetation, which is required to hide their secluded 'holts' (underground burrows).

Young otters, usually called pups, cubs or whelps, are born blind but start swimming after 10 weeks, learning essential survival skills from their mother. Once under threat due to pollution and habitat loss, otters are now making a comeback in the UK thanks to conservation efforts and cleaner waterways. However, they are currently listed as Near Threatened on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and tend to remain shy.

Still, if you sit quietly and hidden at dusk or dawn next to the river at Malton's Nature Reserve, you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of these beautiful and elusive creatures.

From our wildlife family

Above: "We don't have any local photos of the otter, so this is a painting by Eva Baldini"

Willow Burn Hospice Opens New Boutique in Lanchester

Willow Burn Hospice has expanded its retail operations with the official opening of a new charity boutique in Lanchester. The Willow Burn Boutique, located on Croft View, opened to the public on Tuesday 27 May at 11.00am, marking a significant development in the hospice's retail offering.

The new retail space offers a modern and curated shopping experience, with a focus on high-quality pre-loved fashion, including vintage, designer and high street items. The boutique has been designed to elevate the traditional charity shop model and support the organisation's commitment to sustainability and innovation in retail.

In addition to physical sales, the boutique will also house the charity's growing online retail platform, allowing Willow Burn to reach supporters across a wider geographic area and further diversify its income streams.

Rachel Quince, Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Fundraising & Marketing said: "We are absolutely thrilled to finally open in our hometown of Lanchester. We have been searching for the right retail space in the village for some time and opening the doors in our 35th anniversary year is incredibly special.

Retail is a key income stream for the hospice, and we are committed to growing in this area to continue to fund and develop our much-needed palliative care services."

The new store is managed by Olivia Kiss, who has worked at Willow Burn for over a year and brings seven years of retail experience to the role. Olivia also serves as the hospice's E-Commerce Co-Ordinator.

She said:

"I'm passionate about sustainable fashion, vintage clothing and raising money for a good cause – so it really is my dream job. The boutique is an exciting expansion of everything I love. We'll have more space for donations and even more opportunities to uncover those hidden gems that help us raise vital funds for the hospice".

"Around 90% of my wardrobe is from Willow Burn – from a Topshop faux fur coat to a vintage Laura Ashley dress – and that's not going to change! I'll probably be our best customer."

The boutique is open Tuesday to Saturday, from 9.30am to 4.00pm and welcomes shoppers looking to combine style with purpose.



Above: Rachel Quince, Paul Jackson and Olivia Kiss at the opening Right: Olivia Kiss at her desk in the shop

Ladies who lunch

Well, we've been back to the Steel House Bistro - Derwentside College's in-house catering training facility - obviously, as far as we're concerned, you can't get too much of a good thing! Our booking had been in place since our previous visit - we had enjoyed it so much.

The price for a 2 course lunch is £12.95, £13.95 for three - totally amazingly good value for the lovely meal that you can look forward to. Angelo was on top form - and what a tutor! - producing such talented staff from a new set of students each year.

So, the venue is easily reachable, it's an extremely pleasant place to be in, the welcome is always warm and friendly and the food innovative and very tasty. We would definitely say it is a good place to visit.

We had preordered for starters mushroom arancini with red pepper sauce; butternut squash soup with cheese and chive fritter and creme fraiche. Mains were grilled salmon, wilted greens and tomato sauce; retro Chicken Kiev resting on green beans and peas served with skinny fries; rigatoni Bolognese with garlic ciabatta and mixed salad leaves.

Desserts were clotted cream panna cotta with poached strawberries; tiramisu - the best ever(!); and posh pineapple upside down cake with coconut ice cream.

All the food was as wonderful as usual - totally faultless; another lovely memory to add to the Gourmet's collection.

Angelo and some of his students are off to Japan at the end of May. So, we should be able to look forward to some Japanese-inspired dishes in the near future.

The Gourmet Girls





Poppy's walks

Good day readers and for this summer issue I am going to describe to you a longer walk than I normally do. As you will know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale Terrier who enjoys sharing with you good people the walks I lead my Humans on.

This time myself and the male Human set off one Sunday morning from the village centre. We proceeded along Station Road and then right past the Station House before turning left into Brook View then Broadoak Drive. From there we joined Newbiggin Lane and walked up it past the allotments and the village boundary. Even when we reached Newbiggin we kept on walking along the road until we came to a crossroads.

Of course, I am kept on my lead along Newbiggen Lane because there is no footpath and we have to stand at the side of the road when traffic passes.

We turned left at the crossroads and continued along that road - I think it is called Humberhill Lane - for quite some time, past a farm on our right, until we saw a public footpath sign on our left. This took us to a stile, which the Human crossed with some difficulty while I sneaked underneath. I was kept on my lead because there were many sheep and lambs in the field we had entered. I don't bother them, and they don't bother me, but I know I have to be kept on my lead around these silly creatures.

We climbed up quite a steep gradient until we came to a sort of stone structure at the top. This is known as Humber Hill Trig. From there it is possible to see the surrounding countryside - a green and pleasant land - whichever way you look. The Human started singing I Can See for Miles and Miles and chuntered on about someone called Roger Daltrey getting a well-deserved knighthood. I had no idea what he was going on about, so I did my usual trick on such occasions by wagging my tail and appearing interested.

Soon fortunately we were on our way again, but this is when we encountered some difficulty. We had hoped to go down the other side of Humber Hill towards Hollinside but could not see any arrows or signs pointing us in the right direction - even though we thought we were on a public footpath as per the sign at the stile. For fear of trespassing by heading inadvertently in the wrong direction we decided instead to re-trace our footsteps.

This took us back down the hill onto the road, and we turned right after crossing the stile. We walked back along Humberhill Lane but when we reached the crossroads again instead of turning right back along Newbiggen Lane we went straight ahead, staying on Humberhill Lane. This eventually took us to Hurbuck Cottages where we turned right onto the Lanchester Valley path.

I was kept on my lead until we went beyond the farmyard just beyond Hurbuck but then was allowed off for the journey back into Lanchester, around a mile and a half. This included a tour past the cricket club to stop for a drink of water - someone kindly leaves a bowl out for thirsty dogs.

The walk took us almost three hours - longer than usual - but was worth it for the views I suppose, if not the Human singing!

Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

Our meeting was held on 28th May in Lanchester Community Centre. Our demonstrator was Wendy Smith, a regular at our flower club and a very experienced flower arranger. Her theme was "Rings and Things". Wendy chatted to her audience as she made some lovely arrangements. We then enjoyed our usual raffle. There were many happy faces from the lucky winners who took home their prize, a beautiful floral arrangement. We then enjoyed our usual cuppa and chat.

Dates for the diary:

Wednesday 23rd July demonstration by Susan Hall "Memories of Vietnam".

No meeting in August.

Wednesday 24th September demonstration by Val Guest "Autumn Odysseys".

All in Lanchester Community Centre main hall 1.30 pm.

Lestrine Kelly

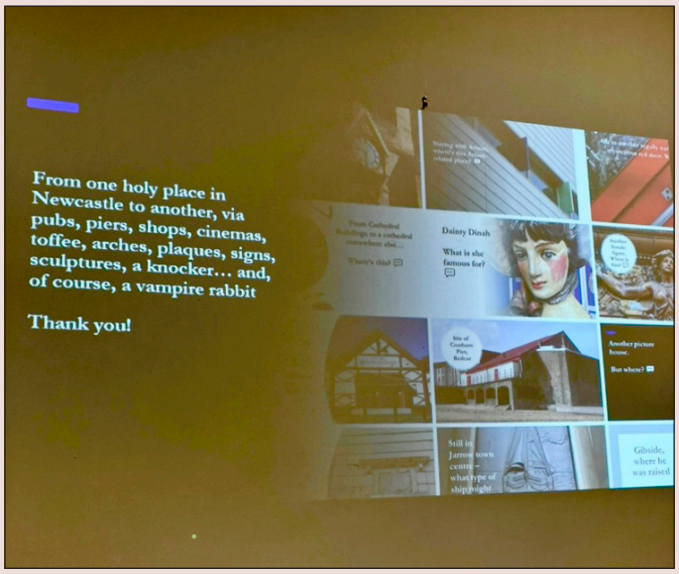






Local History Society

Lanchester History Society June meeting update.
We met on Friday 7th June with a surprisingly full audience considering the good weather we have been having. Graham Soult, a locally based retail consultant, returned to entertain the group. His topic was “Details and Detours: North East architecture and landscape”, which he started by reminding us that we don’t spend enough time being aware of what is in front and around us. We need to look up when walking around.
There was audience participation but only in him asking us to say where or what was on the screen as each picture rolled into view. This closing slide which is pictured summarises the talk succinctly. One chain was Durham Cathedral Sanctuary taking on a journey with St Cuthbert to St Cuthbert’s Walk Shopping Centre in Chester le Street. This led to Dainty Dinah Toffee as the factory was originally on the site of the current shopping centre car park. Another strand was Woolworths Stockton linking to another Woolworths store in Jarrow which is now the Viking Centre Shopping mall. An interesting fact is the first shopping centre was built in 1961 and was the first shopping centre in the UK and called The Arndale Centre. These were a chain and the last remaining one is the big one in Manchester. The whole evening smoothly progressed all over the north east with many interesting snippets keeping us amused and enthralled by the retail connections to the past.
If you are interested the Chester le Street Heritage group have an interesting page on G Horner and Dainty Dinah Toffee https://chesterlestreetheritage.org/dainty-dinah/
Marian Morrison





Above: The closing slide which summarises the speaker's talk Left: Chester le Street in 1932 (Picture courtesy of Chester le Street Heritage Group)

BOURNE & CO
in partnership with nested

Hi everyone, it’s Simon here.

I wanted to give a quick property update for those of you living in and around our lovely village of Lanchester.

Over the past 6 months, we’ve seen a really steady and encouraging property market locally. 38 homes have sold during that time, with an average sale price of £210,000. What’s particularly interesting is how quickly properties are moving – the average time from listing to SSTC (Sold Subject to Contract) is just 28 days. That’s a real sign of strong demand and realistic pricing.

Detached homes have been especially popular, making up the majority of sales, followed closely by semi-detached and terraced houses. We’re also seeing a healthy number of buyers moving into the area – which speaks volumes about Lanchester’s charm, community feel, and great amenities.

If you're thinking about moving, curious about what your home might be worth, or just want a chat about the market, feel free to pop in and see me or drop me a message. I’m always happy to help.

Simon Bourne
Bourne & Co – The agency that gives a duck.



For more details, see bournenco.com or contact Simon Bourne info@bournenco.com 01207 529 900

Boys' Brigade Report

At the beginning of half term some of our boys and leaders were stewards at an open day held by Broomley Grange Activity Centre at Stocksfield. This old manor house and grounds have been owned by the Boys' Brigade since 1976 and are used regularly as camping ground for BB companies as well as schools and many other organisations.

Our usual busy schedule has included baking cakes for a coffee morning held at the Methodist Church where we raised £150 for much needed BB funds. This was followed by a visit to the Lanchester Community Orchard where our hosts showed us around and explained all the different fruits that they are growing. This was followed by 20 minutes of activities from planting to pruning and weaving. We then had a campfire where we toasted marshmallows and played some games. Skipping was interesting to watch but more practice is definitely needed. All in all, it was an excellent evening, and we would like to thank all those involved in making it such a success. The Lanchester Orchard is a wonderful place, and they are happy for people to visit. It is well worth a visit. Some Boys' Brigade members will be in attendance at the 80th anniversary celebrations of VJ Day on Friday the 15th August at the Burnhope Picnic Area for the lighting of the beacon.

Eric Hepplewhite











Top left: BB baking,
Top right: BB coffee morning
Left & above: busy in the orchard.

Sponsored content

An interview with Adam Jameson, CEO of Adam the Gardener Lanchester, UK.



VV Hello Adam and thank you for talking to the Village Voice.

AJ My pleasure!

VV So, why gardening?

AJ Well my dear Gran was a keen gardener; she fed the family and kept a pig! My dad was a local dentist, enjoyed his garden and found it relieved the stress of dentistry. I started gardening for clients in my 20s to help pay for my uni fees. It also helped my mental and physical health and well-being.

VV What is special about gardening in Lanchester?

AJ We have a great community spirit here and I'm helping to keep some paths rubbish and weed free, so if you see me, please stop to say 'Hi ' and pull up a weed or two!

VV Any tips for Lanchester's gardeners?

AJ Sure thing! Gardening is about giving your chosen plants good condition and room to grow, both above and below ground... also persuading other plants (weeds!) to grow elsewhere... haha! ...ideally that is!

VV Good tips! Thanks Adam! So, what do you do in the winter when the gardening stops?

AJ Well like the swifts and swallows I fly south to Africa. I'm lucky to have a second home in Diani, Kenya where I can lie on the white sandy beach in the sunshine, go swimming and fishing, and enjoy a cold Tusker (local lager) under the palm trees!

VV Sounds fantastic, so any special gardening offers?

AJ Yes, I'm happy to keep prices low for my lovely Lanchester clients. Let me help look after your garden, build you a special custom garden bench, or a unique water feature!

VV Thank you for taking the time to chat with the Village Voice Adam; we wish you well with your gardening. Any other thoughts?

AJ Well Village Voice is a great little paper and thanks for the chat! Thanks to Ged of Lanchester Hardware for the fork handles! And to fellow residents of Lanchester, let me help change your garden into your own little Eden - Paradise on Earth!

VV Thank you Adam, and happy gardening from the Village Voice. For a quote, please contact Adam on 07539 173208.

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Police Report

See page 13 for the poster of a Cuppa with a Copper event; I will be trying to organise one for every month. I have just arranged three dates at the moment until August 2025, a chance for local residents to air any issues/concerns.

I had received complaints from residents of speeding along Howden Bank. Durham County Council undertook a full 7-day 24-hour speed survey on Howden Bank within the 30-mph speed limit near to homes, so we could see the current extent of vehicle speeds which were not influenced by a uniformed presence.

The survey took place between 26/04/25 and 02/05/25 and I'm now in receipt of the speed survey data which has been reviewed.

Overall, there was an average daily traffic flow of 6804 vehicles of which 2278 (34%) fell within the police speed enforcement thresholds. The average speed was found to be 33mph, so above the posted speed limit of 30 mph.

On closer review it was found that vehicle speeds travelling northbound toward Maiden Law were travelling at speeds higher than those travelling southbound into Lanchester.

Given the speed survey data shows vehicle speeds within our enforcement thresholds and would justify deployment of mobile speed cameras, the next step will be to undertake a risk assessment on the route to see if we can find any suitable and safe locations (which don't block footpaths) to deploy the speed camera vans to.

Paul Egan
PCSO Neighbourhood policing

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PARADISO CLUB PROGRAMME 2025/26

Paradiso Club members and guests were invited to suggest films for their 2025/26 programme. These were put together with suggestions from volunteers to form a list of 20 films. Following the vote the following 10 films have been selected.

Please cut out and keep this programme - and bring your friends. The more members we have the more secure the club will be. ***Helen McCree***

2025	
September 14th	**Billy Liar**
October 12th	**The Quiet Girl**
November 9th	**Child of Grace**
December 14th	**Maudie**
2026	
January 11th	**Lee**
February 8th	**Gregory's Girl**
March 8th	**Freud's Last Session**
April 12th	**Ma Mere, Dieu et Sylvan Vartan**
May 10th	**Ammonite**
June 14th	**Harriet**

THE QUIET GIRL (2022)
Coming-of-age, period drama
Carrie Crowley, Andrew Bennett, Catherine Clinch
Set in 1981, this film tells the story of a young girl, Cáit, who is sent away for the summer from her dysfunctional family to live with "her mother's people". These are Seán and Eibhlín Cinnsealach, a middle-aged couple she has never met. Slowly Cáit blossoms and discovers a new way of living, but in this house where affection grows and there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one.

AMMONITE (2020)
Period drama
Kate Winslet, Soairse Ronan, Gemma Jones, James McArdle
In 1840s England, once acclaimed fossil hunter, Mary Anning, now searches for common fossils to sell to tourists to support herself and her ailing mother. When a wealthy visitor entrusts Mary with the care of his wife she cannot afford to turn his offer down. Mary initially clashes with her unwelcome guest, but despite this an intense bond begins to develop, compelling the two women to determine the true nature of their relationship.

LEE (2023)
Period biography war drama.
Kate Winslet, Josh O'Connor, Alexander Skarsgard, Marion Cotillard
The story of American photographer Lee Miller, a fashion model who became an acclaimed war correspondent for Vogue magazine during World War II.

CHILD OF GRACE (2014)
Mystery/Thriller
Maggie Elizabeth Jones, Tom Hildreth
9-year-old Katie has spent most of her life traveling the country in an RV with her father. One day she sees a portrait of herself on a missing child poster and realizes that the man she thinks is her loving father may be her kidnapper. As Katie contends with this discovery, a small-town sheriff, her grandfather, simultaneously tries to figure out the truth of her disappearance when new evidence surfaces.

HARRIET
Biographical, period, action drama
Cynthia Erivo
Based on the thrilling and inspirational life of an iconic American freedom fighter, Harriet tells the extraordinary tale of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroes. Her courage, ingenuity, and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history.

FREUD'S LAST SESSION
Period psychological drama
Anthony Hopkins, Matthew Goode
Set on the eve of WWII and towards the end of his life, Freud's Last Session sees Freud invite iconic author C.S. Lewis for a debate over the existence of God. Exploring Freud's unique relationship with his lesbian daughter Anna and Lewis' unconventional romance with his best friend's mother, the film interweaves past, present and fantasy.

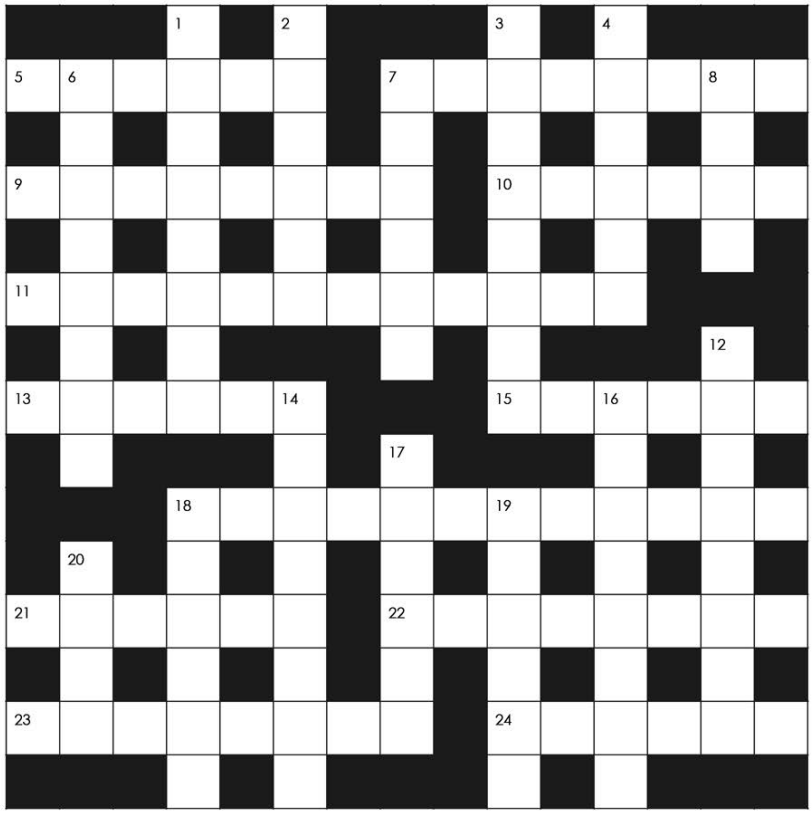
BILLY LIAR (1963)
Comedy, romance drama
Tom Courtney, Julie Christie, Wilfred Pickles, Mona Washbourne
Going nowhere fast, Billy Fisher, an incorrigible fantasizer, dreams incessantly of escaping his drab existence and humdrum routine work as an undertakers' clerk in Yorkshire. Seeking refuge from his working-class family and not one but two demanding fiancées in the imaginary country called Ambrosia, more and more, Billy finds himself cut off from reality, picturing himself as its ruler and hero.

GREGORY'S GIRL (1981)
Romantic comedy
John Gordon Sinclair Clare Grogan
In this warm Scottish coming-of-age film, gangly teen Gregory and his schoolmates are starting to find out about girls. He fancies Dorothy, not least because she has got onto the football team. He finally asks her out, but it is obviously the females in control of matters here, and that very much includes Gregory's younger sister.

MAUDIE (2016)
Biography romance drama
Sally Hawkins, Ethan Hawke
The true story of the unlikely romance between reclusive Everett Lewis and his housekeeper, a fragile yet determined woman named Maudie. Maudie, bright-eyed but afflicted with severe arthritis, yearns to be independent, and to create art. To keep herself happy, Maud begins to paint the interior of the house with happy pictures which come to the attention of Sandra, a New York socialite, and eventual recognition and respect in the community.

MA MERE, DIEU ET SYLVIE VARTAN (2025)
French comedy/true drama
Leila Bekti, Jonathan Cohen, Josephine Japy
A mother's unwavering devotion helps her son, born with a clubfoot in 1963, overcome physical challenges and social barriers. Her powerful promise drives their remarkable journey through life's ups and downs.

CLUES CROSSWORD 209



Across

5. Fee (6)
7. Builder's platform (8)
9. Lanchester born Magpie and '55 cup winner (3,5)
10. Hippo friend of Zippy (6)
11. Idiot snapped stupidly, causing you to feel like this (12)
13. Bread makers (6)
15. Revive your computer (6)
18. Coincidence (12)
21. Type of fish roe (6)
22. Typical instances (8)
23. 'Honestly', but in a devious way (2,3,3)
24. Floor covering (6)

Down

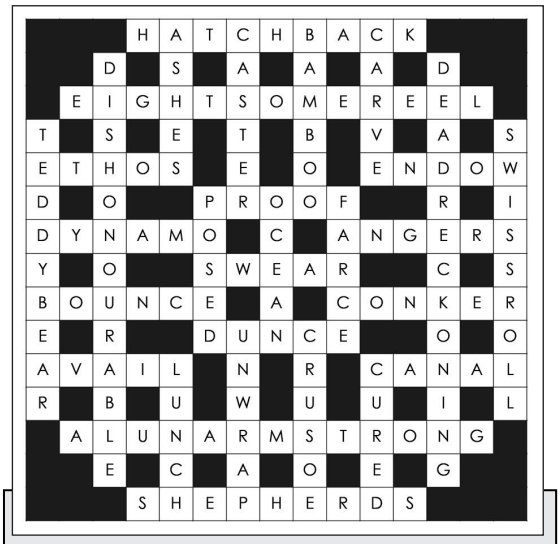
1. Card game (8)
2. Tabloid (3-3)
3. Profession of Tony Soprano (8)
4. Have enough to pay for (6)
6. Rowdy troublemaker (8)
7. Hinder progress (6)
8. Records (4)
12. Building material (8)
14. Keep down (8)
16. Durham village, with name derived from that of Beau Repaire (4,4)
17. Crunchy vegetable (6)
18. Peak (6)
19. Rare (6)
20. Long and implausible story (4)

Name:_____

Address: _____

_____

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by Friday 31st July 2025 to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



Solution Crossword 208
There were 23 entries of which 16 were correct.
The winner drawn from the hat was Lorraine Turnbull.

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Friends of Longovicium (Lanchester Roman Fort)

Part of the Lanchester Partnership

The Friends of Longovicium have been working on several large exhibition display panels that will be ready for use at our 'Discovering Longovicium - Lanchester's Roman Fort' FREE open evening, which will be taking place on 25 September in the Community Centre main hall from 6pm onwards.

A vast amount of information has been discovered about the fort that probably would not have been known without the formation and work carried out by the group over many years.

We are now in a position to make this information more widely known. We have been collating and preparing our findings to produce some informative, illustrated display panels that will form part of our drop in open evening.

We hope as many people as possible will pop in to see what has been discovered, look at the displays and hopefully stay for our very interesting speaker if you have time. There will also be the opportunity to try out a replica Roman helmet, shield and sword and have a selfie taken.

Our Facebook page (Friends of Longovicium) continues to grow with 667 people currently following us.

That figure is made up of 44.3% women and 55.7% men. 88.2% of the audience is UK based, although we do have a worldwide reach, we have 2.5% of followers in the US, 1.5% in Australia. The group's website (www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com) is also doing well with 1200 individual visitors to the site since going live in 2022 with a total of 4200 page views. We are averaging about 3 different visitors per day to the website since it started.

New members are always welcome. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (excluding December) 7.30pm at Lanchester Community Centre.

For further information about membership please contact: Rodney Hawkins Tel: 0191 4103472 - Email: hawkins_15@sky.com or Mrs M Williams Tel: 01207 520063

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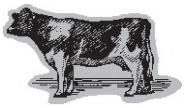
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FRIDAY 25th July 2025

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WHAT'S ON - July / August 2025

City Theatre, Durham
Waiting For Godot by Samual Beckett, a tragic comedy, will be on at The City Theatre, Durham, DH1 3 RA, from Wed 13th August until Sat 16th Aug. Performances 7.30 Wed-Fri, 2.30 Sat . Tickets £9.50 from Durham Gala on 03000266600 or www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk and follow the link to tickets.
'Vladimir and Estragon are waiting for someone, and pass the time talking and arguing. Pozzo stops to chat with them, but is it him they are waiting for?
This is a classic play that was ground breaking when first performed,and changed theatre forever.

Acappella Choir (singing without musical accompaniment)
This is held in the Chapter House of All Saints church every Monday between 10.30 and 12. New members are always welcome. No previous choir experience necessary. We sing a wide variety of songs, lead by Sheila Trow, and are open to both men and women.

Paradiso Social Club
NOTE: there are no films in July and August but we'll be back in September.
14th September: BILLY LIAR
We start our new season with a 1960s New Wave Classic comedy romance, Billy Liar. Starring Tom Courtney, Julie Christie, Wilfred Pickles, Mona Washbourne. "this excellent film directed by the late John Schlesinger (is) beautifully shot in B & W. Very evocative and imaginative". Going nowhere fast, Billy Fisher, an incorrigible fantasizer, dreams incessantly of escaping his drab existence and humdrum routine work as an undertakers' clerk in Yorkshire. Seeking refuge from his working-class family and not one but two demanding fiancees in the imaginary country called Ambrosia, more and more, Billy finds himself cut off from reality, picturing himself as its ruler and hero.
Lanchester Community Centre, 7pm refreshments and raffle. Film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £4, Non-members: £5. Annual membership: £5

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.

Wellbeing walk
Every Monday at 1pm on the village green next to the war memorial. Walk lasts up to 90 minutes, all welcome. Just turn up before 1pm and introduce yourself to a leader. www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham or call 03000 262539.

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

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

Lanchester Hiking Group
Meets at 10am every second Wednesday. 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).

Monday Art Group
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 if you would like further information.

Wildlife Group
No meeting in August.

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

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium
For our September 25th meeting we are holding a FREE drop in open evening with information displays about the fort, our work and what has been discovered. You can handle some genuine Roman pottery, try on a replica Roman helmet and feel the weight of a replica Roman sword. Event open 6.00pm until 9.00pm. Drop in for whatever length of time you like. Light refreshments will be available. From 7.30pm we will have a short talk about metal detecting, followed by a very interesting and engaging talk titled the Roman NHS revealing how amazingly advanced Roman medicine and health care really was.

WI
The next meeting is on Monday 4th August at 7.00pm in the Community Centre. The speaker will be Sarah Bolton, telling us about the history of Lanchester's very own ice cream parlour. Visitors are always welcome to come along.
Lanchester WI's very popular fashion show is being held on Saturday 6th September in Lanchester Club. Tickets are £5 which includes refreshments - they will be on sale from the Red Cross Shop; you can also contact us by email lanchesterwi@talktalk.net

Scottish Dance
Scottish dancing takes place every Friday 7.30 to 9.30 in the community centre and complete beginners are very welcome, contact Elizabeth Grayson on 0191 384 4836 for more information.

Local History
We will be meeting in room 3 at the community centre on Friday 1st August to hear Richard Annis tell us how to "Sustain Your Heritage" or planning, commerce and the historic environment. One of his topics is describing the process for the wall excavations at Melbourne Street in Newcastle.
Please remember that although the meetings start at 7.00 we need to arrive early enough to negotiate the security entry system. Thanks and all welcome- you don't have to be a member.

Musical Memories
Join us for music, refreshments and fun activities.
2pm-3.30pm on the 6th August and 3rd September - an Abba special.
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

Flower Club
No meeting in August.
Wednesday 24th September, Lanchester Community Centre main hall 1.30 pm. Demonstration by Val Guest, "Autumn Odysseys".

Lunch Club (Cuppa and Company)
The next meeting of the lunch held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 12th August 12 pm start, all welcome.

Library
Library Book Club
On Monday August 18th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing "Secrets of Cavendon" by Barbara Taylor Bradford, 'a glamorous read packed with period detail… strong women are centre stage' (Daily Mail). This book sounds like a good holiday read, but will there be divided opinions?
Thursday Book Club
On Thursday August 21st from 4.00-5.00pm, the group will be discussing "Skin Deep" by Liz Nugent.

'The unputdownable No1 bestseller in 2018', 'Absorbing, beautifully written' (The Times). I would like to read this, would you? If you would like to join this group, pop into the library and speak to the librarians.
Pins and Needles will meet up on August 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 1.30pm 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.
Rummikub Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 1.30 to 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.
Children's Summer Reading Scheme, pick up your pack and we hope you enjoy this year's theme 'Story Garden' - adventures in nature and the great outdoors, discovering the magical world where stories grow. Parents check out this Summer Reading challenge on www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk.

Advance Care Planning Workshop at Willow Burn Hospice
13 August 2025, 2pm - 3.30pm
Willow Burn Hospice Advance Care Planning is a voluntary process where someone thinks about and makes plans for their future health, social care and wider wishes. Join the team at Willow Burn for one of their Advance Care Planning Workshops and they will provide you with a care plan template and help you to document a written statement that sets out wishes, preferences and values about your care. The team will guide you through understanding and creating your own plan. Whether for yourself or a loved one, this workshop is open to everyone. To find out more or register your interest, call us on: 01207 529 224/ rquince@willowburnhospice.org.uk

Social Club
2nd August CONNER MIDDLETON.
9th EMILY PAYNE.
16th ANDY MAX
23rd JAY J STEVENS.
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY. - 80's TRIBUTE SHOW ALL DAY EVENT WITH SHAUN KEELAN.
30th CARL G .

Community Centre News

Here is your latest news from your Community Centre
Are you looking for a new hobby?
How about joining one of the clubs that are available here:
Quilting, Art, Lace, Bridge, Sewing, Table Tennis, Mahjong, Karate, Hapkido, Scottish Dance, Dog Training, Wildlife Club, History society, Friends of the Fort.
Or why not join a social group?
WI, Thursday Club, Pimms & Needles, Flower Club, Film Club, Reiki, Soundbaths.
You could get fit:
Join our gym, Keep Fit Classes, Pilates.
Need to entertain the little ones?
Hartbeeps, Bloom, Musitots, Activate Theatre.
There is so much choice; contact us for more details of groups or activities you may be interested in.
What's coming:
Saturday 6th September. Fun Dog Show. Keep a look out for details and get your entry in quick.
What's new:
The Community Cafe have reduced their opening days to Thursday to Saturday 9am to 2pm
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, 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.
Marie Murphy

Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on

Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7.15pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 8th April – approved

Police Reports

Members were updated on the recent PACT report for April – received

Correspondence

County Durham Association of Local Councils – Members were updated on several training opportunities – the Clerk to email the training dates to Councillors

Potential Lanchester Parish Councillor Positions – Members considered a request from a resident about a potential Councillor position – the resident to be informed that unfortunately all positions are filled

Mike McGaun Farewell Letter – received

Durham County Council

Our new County Councillor Allison Gray briefed us on a number of topics that she will be working on including:

Parking

Speeding

Greencroft Development

Consett police meeting

Training

VE Day 80 Beacon Event

Councillors agreed that the event was a success with a decent turn out. A donation was agreed to the Brass Band and the Piper – the Clerk to arrange a meeting to discuss arrangements for VJ Day 80 on Friday 15th August

Willow Burn

The Clerk investigated the possibility of building a wishing well on the Village Green and found no issues. Willow Burn will be submitting a full planning application to Durham County Council

Tree Surveys

Members considered the tree surveys and requested the Clerk obtain some more quotes before a decision is made –the Clerk to obtain a couple of more quotes

Internal Audit Report 2024/25– approved

Planning application

Councillors considered the planning application for developing 33 pitches and an access road for holiday units DM/25/00531/FPA – the Clerk and Cllr. D Smith to write another letter to the planning officer with our concerns

Insurance Renewal 2025/2 - Councillors considered the insurance document and premium – that the insurance premium of £1196.16 from Clear Councils be accepted

Solar Walk Project

Members were updated on the project. Councillors asked for this topic to be put on every agenda and a revised timescale to be given

Greencroft Forest Development

Councillors received an update from Cllr. D Smith

Financial report – approved

Accounts for Payment – approved

Meetings are every second Tuesday of the month, the next two meetings are June 10th and 8th July.

Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on

Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Annual Meeting 13th May, Ordinary Meeting 13th May, Planning Meeting 29th May – approved

Police Reports - Members were updated on the recent PACT report for May

Durham County Councillor - County Cllr A Gray provided an update on the areas she has recently been working on – Neighbourhood Warden and Cllr Gray will be doing a walkabout in July

Highways – this included speeding concerns on Howden Bank, a consultation for parking at Victoria Terrace, the parking on Newbiggen Lane, a dropped curb near the Kings Head pub has been requested

Cameras – to get extra cameras for the Village there are a lot of protocols to go through, and it isn't an easy task

The library has started to fine children for late books; there have been lots of complaints; DCC to look into this

Lanchester Medical Centre and problems with GPs

Beacon Event – **VJ Day 80**

Councillors were updated on the details of the event – Clerk to provide a poster for the Village Voice

Lanchester Solar Planet Walk

Councillors received an update on the project – Clerk to set up a meeting with the contractors for a further update

Greencroft Forest Park - Councillors received an update on the development

Christmas Light Switch On

Members agreed a date of the 22nd of November for the Christmas Light Switch On event.

Summer Holiday Activities

For the past couple of years Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists (OASES) have provided free sessions for families in local parks and greenspaces, such as den building and bug hunting. They also provide free healthy snacks and water to help combat holiday hunger.

Previously these sessions were funded by AAPs, but with the current transition to Local Networks they are unable to fund these for the upcoming summer holidays. Councillors agreed to fund these sessions temporarily this summer while the Local Networks get organised to put these sessions back on next year

Burnhope Car Park - Councillors approved a request to use the car park for the Centenary Gala celebrations

Wooden Animal Carvings - Members discussed a request to replace the wooden animals in the village, the Clerk to provide quotes

Flood Prevention - Clerk and Cllr Gray to ask Durham County Council to schedule a leaf collection and cleaning of the drains in the autumn

Victoria Terrace - A resident requested information about the area behind Victoria Terrace. The area does not belong to the Parish Council and the resident is to contact Durham County Council for advice

Financial Year 2024/25 End of Year Accounts – The Annual Governance Statement, accounting statement and the financial position for the end of the year were approved

Financial report – approved

Accounts for Payment – approved

Meetings are every second Tuesday of the month but we don't have a meeting in August so the next two meetings with be held on 8th July and 9th September

Cricket Round up

In the past six weeks the firsts have had wins over Eppleton, Philadelphia and Whitburn, and narrow defeats against Seaham Park and Gateshead Fell and rained off against Sacriston. All of which sees them sitting in fourth spot in a very tightly contested division, where they are only nine points behind the leaders. The seconds have only won one of their six matches, they had a winning draw and were also rained off against Sacriston, leaving them in mid-table.

The weekend at the end of May was quite special as three players made their maiden hundreds for the Club. For the firsts, batting in difficult conditions, opener Kieran Gohery batted throughout to hold the innings together finishing on 102 not out at home to Philadelphia. In a match winning performance, he followed that up by taking 4-21 off 13 overs, a herculean effort. This was his fifth century but his first for Lanchester. On the same day in the reverse fixture, 18 year old John McGilvray scored his maiden hundred despite batting at 6, he scored an unbeaten 103 from 96 balls and went to his ton by striking a six. Finally, on the Sunday, Toby Somersall scored his first hundred against Willington, making 104 from 95 balls. That was a pretty good weekend for the Club!

A few weeks earlier in May, Kieran Gohery took a hat-trick in a cup tie against Shotley Bridge to get his name in the record books there too. In the League bowling stats, Gohery, Jamie Dass and Henry Sherwood fill 3 of the top five places where bowlers have taken 15 or more league wickets.

Junior Section

The under 19s have played only one more match, losing at Crook, where they were too wayward with the ball, giving away 40 wides and consequently left themselves too much to do. The 17s have had two defeats, losing narrowly to Whickham with two balls to spare despite 71 by James Leary. They were then thumped by nine wickets by Lintz. Toby Somersall made 86 and Riley Sayer made 56 despite being an under 15. The 15s have had wins against Ryton B and Annfield Plain but suffered defeats against Ryton A and Burnopfield. Nathan Watson and Riley Sayer made 50s against the Plain with Nathan also taking 3 wickets. Nathan also took 3 wickets against Ryton B while Alfie Armstrong recorded a maiden fifty. The under 13s are yet to win but showing great fight and improvement as the majority of the side are still only 11. We have two under 11 sides and they are doing quite well in their group, but there is a gap with leaders Shotley Bridge. The under 9s are all classed as friendlies but they have a 100% record so far.

All Stars is going along nicely with 68 children attending. The weather has been very kind so far and we have had a food vendor on site each week to keep attendees interested.

Andrew McConnell

"That was the night that was"

The night we will always remember: the night David Hughes retired from conducting the Lanchester Choral Society.

The program was what all good programmes should be – full of quality, variety and presented with professionalism. Not 53 minutes long, but 53 years long. That is what we were offered. Tonight's program offered a flash-back of the music David had been presenting to his faithful audiences all those years: 53 years. Imagine the work that entailed: the research, buying music, studying the printed scores, organising the hire of soloists, whole sets of music, concert venues, learning the score, setting a timetable for each rehearsal, directing the choir, learning to listen critically for the desired effects, teaching singers of various abilities how to coordinate, working towards the final presentation: THE CONCERT. Time after time, year after year.

What stickability!

This is what the choral spokesperson had to say.

"This has been the last show that David has directed after 53 years with the society. He's had vision and imagination in shaping each performance. Over the years he has attracted hundreds of choristers, motivating us all with his drive, enthusiasm and his great optimism. "We will get it right on the night" has been an inspiration for us all. It's been a delight to be involved in the Society and that has been due to the pleasant atmosphere that David has created every week in practice." (Thanks Bill)

All this produced tonight's concert full of variety.

In Mozart's mass in C (Coronation) the choir sang with such quality of sound as to enhance the luscious harmonies of Mozart. A quartet of soloists achieved beautiful balance in the Benedictus, and soprano Elizabeth Woods delivered a sensitive Agnus Dei. Paul Conroy's organ accompaniment completed the gorgeous sound. Certainly, all the stops were out as if the choir was saying "Thank You to David".

Following this, Anna Foster and Paul Smith brought a smile as they had fun with their duet from Don Giovanni, proving that we were in for a night of variety. Then Paul's "Take a pair of Sparkling Eyes" from the Gondoliers followed and his humour brought the house down. The accompanist was David Williams.

Who does not like Les Misérables? Well Hilary's "I Dreamed a Dream" would have given you goosebumps. Anna's "On my Own" was gorgeous. (The chorus did keep her company.)

To bring us to coffee time, what better but the rousing chorus of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus".

Not only was the coffee good, but the atmosphere was buzzing as we all exchanged effusive conversations about the show so far. "Fantastic" was a favourite.

To complete his presentation of the show, David submitted us to a "Trial by Jury". Andrew Fowler was a formidable judge in a designer wig, using his considerable vocal powers to intimidate. He succeeded to keep Ian Gray, Paul Smith and Anna Foster in order, but the accompanist, Paul Conroy on organ and piano was spot on throughout the night. This Gilbert and Sullivan represented the many years when David, with the Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society, performed shows on St. Bede's School stage in full costume, accompanied by an orchestra. The verdict? Guilty m' Lord – of putting on 53 years of delight. At the end, the public demonstrated their delight with extremely noisy applause, cheers, pleas for silence while yet another bouquet or bottle was presented to the stars of the show, ending up with a very worthy STANDING OVATION. The cast then burst into a spontaneous rendition of "Thank you for the music" from Mamma Mia. The press was out with cameras, and heavy publicity is to be expected in the next Village Voice.

Pam Bygate



Below: The choral group in action with David Hughes conducting
Right: l-r Hilary Ions, Anna Foster, Elizabeth Woods, David Hughes, Andrew Fowler, Ian Woods and Paul Smith



Northumbria Lacemakers Competition

The Northumbria Lacemakers Competition was held on the 17th May and was judged by Doug Oliver, former County Councillor. The winners are shown in the photo below.

Left to right. Liberty Brooks, Junior Lacemaker; Jacqueline Wilson, first prize winner; Doug Oliver; Heather Cameron, 3rd prize; Diana Blackburn, second prize; and Lynne Fawcus.



Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of this academic year already – and what an exciting year it has been! We have had a very busy couple of months – as usual – and continue to wind up towards the end of term!

Nursery and 2-year olds!

We have been very pleasantly surprised (and pleased!) with the uptake for our 2-year old places in Nursery. Offering both 15-hour and 30-hour places in our 2 year-old room, we are now recruiting for a teaching assistant with experience in working with this age group. These are certainly exciting times for us. We also still have spaces available for 3 & 4 years olds for any interested parents. Please download an application form from our website or see the office if you are interested, or give us a call at school to find out more. Telephone: 01207 520436 or email us at: school.office@lanchesterep.net

Visit from our Indian Partners

We were absolutely thrilled to welcome 8 children and 2 staff members from Delhi to our school just prior to the half-term break in May. What a delightful group of children they were – so polite and enthusiastic. They stayed in a lovely cottage in Hamsteels Hall and were thrilled to breathe in the fresh air – something we just take for granted. They could not quite get over the green grass and fields! We took them to Soami's in Consett and they could not believe how authentic the food was.

They spent two days in school and also managed to visit Durham Cathedral, Newcastle, Alnwick Castle, Holy Island and Seahouses. It really was such a special few days. We only hope we are successful with the funding again next year so we can take some of our children back to their school again!

Turing Visit to Madrid

Eight of our Year 5 & 6 children enjoyed a fabulous week in Madrid at the start of June when they visited our partner school in the centre of Madrid. They also managed to fit in a tour of the city, visit to a theme park, zoo and a tour of the Bernabeu Stadium. Memories of a lifetime for them all I think.

Yanomamo

Our whole school has been immersed in a project about the rainforests as we prepare for our KS2 musical in Consett Empire Theatre. If you want a treat, just walk past our school when we are having a singing practice in the hall – it is tremendous! Parents and carers are in for a real treat when we put all this singing to movement, images with narrations included as well. The musical itself is quite powerful with a hard-hitting message for us all to think about. We will be performing this on Thursday 10th July in Consett Empire, and it is one not to be missed!

Jane Davis, Head Teacher



Top right: Indian Students visit Durham Cathedral
Below right: Indian students at Soami Restaurant in Consett
Below: l-r Malini Bindra, Jane Davis, Simon McLoughlin, and Hema Wadhwa
Bottom right: students in Madrid
Bottom left: Indian students and EP students with their teachers.









The following article is written by Quinn and Zoe in Year 3

Save the Rainforest!



Our glorious rainforests are being cut down, for products such as paper, cardboard, palm oil, chocolate and coffee, this is known as deforestation. Because of deforestation, many animals are losing their homes such as the Tapanuli orangutans, capybaras and gorillas, who are endangered. Other animals, like the piopio and laughing owl, have already become extinct. Every day 25 orangutans are killed!

Fear not! There are some things that we can do at home, to reduce the rate of deforestation, helping these innocent animals to live. Firstly, sharpen your pencils until they are just tiny stubs, use both sides of paper before you recycle it and instead of buying brand new books, visit a library, or use an e-book. Next, turn off the tap whilst you are brushing your teeth and turn off any lights when you do not need to use them. Finally, if you can, buy products with the fairtrade logo on and encourage others to do the same.

Please help us to save the rainforest and the animals who live there!

By Quinn and Zoe, Year 3, Lanchester E.P. School

St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Caring at St Bede's

This month saw a number of visits to St Bede's from representatives of different caring professions including the ambulance service and occupational therapy. These visits to our Health and Social Care students allowed them an insight into the career opportunities in this sector. Students were able to explore a non-emergency ambulance from the Supportive Charity including a stretcher, defibrillators and evacuation chairs.



Year 7 also received a visit from representatives of Newcastle University who discussed the care of patients in A&E to look towards future careers. Students responded really positively and asked some excellent questions. It's great to see students taking an interest in the caring professions in such a mature and sensible fashion.

Work Experience at St Bede's

Students at St Bede's have also been hard at work organising work experience placements for the end of the summer term with Y12 work experience taking place from Monday 7th July and Y10 work experience from Monday 14th July. As there are still some students seeking placements, if you feel that your business could offer a placement to a St Bede's student, please contact our Work Experience Co-Ordinator Anne Jukes (ajukes@stb.bwcet.com) to discuss this further.

Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Primary School



The sun has confirmed that summer is on its way, and we have been making the most of it this term! We enjoy getting out of school and our pupils love to explore, learn and be adventurous.

We're a very active community at All Saints', demonstrated most recently by: Nursery having such fun for water day and also learning in the water with Rockpool School; Reception and Year One spending time at Deerness Gymnastics centre; Year Two taking part in crate stacking, playing laser tag and enjoying bush craft at Whickham Thorns; Year Three have enjoyed experiencing wheelchair basketball as part of our health week; a lot of fun was had at Sunderland Marina by Year Four as part of their watersports experience; our Year Five pupils were out and about on their bikes for Bikeability; and our Year Six pupils most recently enjoyed bowling at the Metro Centre and demonstrating beautiful manners and skill during a tennis competition!

Across school, we were thrilled with our football teams: our girls won their league and our boys came third…well done to team All Saints'! We currently have just under 180 pupils at All Saints' and we love to have fun as a whole school. We know each other's names; class sizes are small and nurturing and we make the most of celebrating and learning together joyfully. Our summer fair, organised and run by our Year Six pupils and Friends of All Saints', was a massive success: stalls, games, inflatables, refreshments and a petting zoo provided lots of fun for the community. We also had another competitive, whole school sports day which always attracts a crowd! Our house teams with values of perseverance, wisdom, learning and peace shone as always, with excellent behaviour across the board.

We are all 'Pilgrims of Hope' in this jubilee year, and we celebrated our God-given unique talents and abilities as a school on our Jubilee Day: the bouncy assault course and massive water fight made sure everyone ended their celebration with a smile on their faces!

Hidden away in Lanchester, we are a small but perfectly formed Nursery and Primary School (and no, you do not have to be a Catholic or baptised to send your child here!). If you'd like to visit to experience our excellent behaviour and ambitious curriculum, please email on asl@asl.bwcet.com or phone us on 01207 520435.

Frances Stephenson,
Head Teacher







Top: pupil holds a star fish
Middle: Year 5 playing hockey
Right: All Saints Year Four and Year Six enjoyed watersports this term
Left: All Saints Year Two Year Six pupils at their Summer Fair stall

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

St Bede's sports teams continue to perform across a number of disciplines. Our Y7/8 rugby team played the Hermitage Academy in a friendly match, winning 56-12. In addition, a number of new extra-curricular sports opportunities have begun this term for students to coincide with the improving weather. Our KS3 pupils now have the opportunity to play cricket after school whilst other departments have also opened up opportunities for students to participate in drama and debating clubs. Our very own Lucas Wainwright MYP (Year 12) has also taken the initiative to begin a politics club for students interested in pursuing a political career. Well done to all students for their involvement in extracurricular activities.

Catherine Hammill
Head Teacher





Left: Ambulance crew with Mia Richardson strapped in!
Right: Students listening to the talk from Newcastle University on the care of patients in A&E
Far right: Lucas Wainright

Lanchester Bowling Club



Frank Redfearn 1935-2025

On June 10th bowls club members received the sad news that Frank Redfearn, a much respected and extremely well-liked member of the club, had passed away the previous night. Over the last few months of his life Frank had been living in Hampton Manor Care Home, Delves Lane, receiving excellent palliative care.

Frank was born into a mining family in Quaking Houses in March 1935. Upon leaving school, he became an apprentice draughtsman at Quaking Houses colliery. Quaking Houses was also where he met his future wife, Maureen. When they married in the late fifties the couple moved to Sunnybanks in Lanchester.

By then Frank was working as a mechanical engineer in Catchgate until the firm closed and he and a few colleagues started their own hydraulics business based in Gateshead.

The firm became very successful, but Frank developed a heart problem, having a series of mini strokes. Being unable to drive, Frank worked from home for a while (this was long before it became fashionable) until he eventually sold his stake in the business and retired.

Sadly, Maureen died in 2008 shortly after celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. The couple had three children: Geoff, Andrew and Catherine. Frank outlived Geoff whilst Andrew and Catherine now both live in New Zealand although Catherine was visiting her father when he died. Frank regularly visited his children in New Zealand until poor health meant travel insurance became far too expensive.

Prior to Maureen's death Frank was happy to play a bit of golf and share her pastimes, but as a widower he decided he needed to become more involved and expand his own interests. One of these interests was computing and he volunteered for the Computers for All scheme, helping people to become more computer literate in the early days of home computing.

It was here that he met Christine Monaghan who was also volunteering, and he became friends with her and her husband, Paul.

In 2010 Frank became assistant editor of The Village Voice (Christine was the editor). They worked together on The Voice until 2020. Frank was immensely proud of his work on the newspaper, sending copies to Catherine and Andrew in New Zealand. Catherine reports that during Village Voice week when the paper was being put together, he was too busy to spend much time on the phone to her!

Frank and Christine were recognised by the Parish Council for their work on the Voice by being asked to switch on the Lanchester Christmas lights in 2021.

Frank joined the bowls club in 2014, becoming a well-respected member. When he was unable to comfortably bowl his mauve woods anymore, Frank was pleased to be made a lifetime honorary member in 2023, presenting the trophies at the club's annual awards ceremony. Although he couldn't play, Frank was still a regular spectator, trundling up to the pavilion in the Frankmobile - his mobility scooter. With his love of formula one motor racing, it's not surprising that at times Frank could be seen zooming up the paths along the bypass.

Ever the pragmatist, Frank moved out of Sunnybanks into Lynwood House, the purpose built apartments on Durham Road; ironically moving in next door to Paul Monaghan's mother. Frank, however, didn't want to get involved in the social life in Lynwood saying, "It's full of old people." He was the oldest resident!

Although Frank wasn't particularly religious, Maureen and the children attended Lanchester Catholic Church and Frank became close friends with Father Bob (Canon Spence), regularly visiting him at Ushaw College.

In March Frank celebrated his ninetieth birthday at Hampton Manor, surrounded by friends and staff.

Having lived a full and happy life, Frank died peacefully. His quiet, unassuming nature, gentle ways and wicked sense of humour will be missed by all who knew him.

Bob Cuthbertson

Tennis News

This season is proving to be a fantastic one as far as the weather is concerned...unless of course you are holding an annual barbecue! Scheduled for 14th June, a day of torrential rain, fortunately we were able to postpone to the following day, a much brighter day altogether, with almost everyone able to attend and enjoy great tennis, fun games for all of the family, not forgetting delicious food provided by the LLTC social committee, and barbecue chef Sally Laverick!

A number of lucky LLTC members have been able to attend Wimbledon this year, enjoying the excitement and atmosphere of the competition...whilst picking up a few top tennis techniques from watching the professionals at work!





Right: "Chef Sally" at the barbecue. Above: Families enjoying the food and games

League results

League matches continue this month with both mixed doubles and ladies doubles in action, we enjoyed a fabulous evening of very competitive tennis with a visiting team from Blaydon who marginally beat our mixed vets team by 38 games to 37 (4 sets each)

The ladies doubles result wasn't quite so close, the team from Wylam beating us 7 - 1, we took solace in the delicious tea provided by the home team...always appreciated by everyone!

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook or check out our website*: *www.lanchesterlawntennisclub.co.uk

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