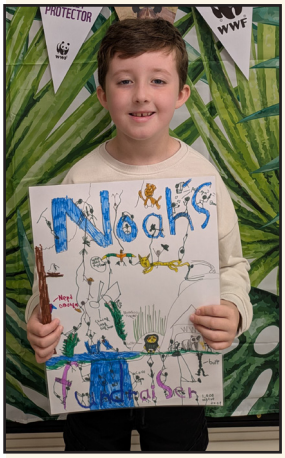
the Village Voice

Issue No 10, Volume 25

Lanchester, October 2025











Clockwise from the top left.
All Saints' Nursery Welly Wednesday (Page 20)
Friends of Longovicium open evening (Page 8)
Medals for children in the tennis coaching competition (Back page)
Nola at the Willow Burn Fashion Show (Page 13)
Eating the proceeds of the apple pick! (Page 2)
Noah's fundraising (Page 2)



Lanchester & Langley Hardware

for all your hardware requirements

• Calor gas sales • Discounted batteries • Dehumidifiers

and all home decoratng supplies

LANCHESTER: 01207 520377

LANGLEY PARK: 0191 3732278

Noah's Fundraiser

During last year's summer term at school, Lanchester EP staged a fantastic performance of the ecological musical, "Yanomamo". During this participation, my son, Noah Tatham, along with several of his classmates, developed a passion for the environment, specifically the Amazon rainforest, where the musical is set.

From this initial spark, Noah became determined to plan an event that could raise money for the World Wildlife Fund. After much brainstorming, he settled on the idea of staging a movie night for his classmates. With the help of Noah's year group's WhatsApp parents' community, we gauged enthusiasm from the rest of the children and were blown away by the response. Many parents explained how passionate their children had become since "Yanomamo" and that they would love to support Noah with this.

We were incredibly lucky to secure our venue, The Roxy, and the event was booked to take place on Saturday, 13th September. Noah then got to work, creating posters and buying supplies for popcorn, pick and mix, and drinks stalls.

We used the WhatsApp group for the children to vote for which movie would be shown, with "A Minecraft Movie" (unsurprisingly) coming out on top. The event was brilliantly attended by 42 children, with parents also staying to enjoy tea, coffee, and biscuits. The parents within the group have been so supportive, and at the time of writing, we have currently raised £725 through our JustGiving page and cash donations from the event.

To say we are proud of Noah for this is an understatement; we have also been blown away by the support of the Lanchester parents and feel amazed that we were able to make something like this happen.

We would also like to thank the fantastic team at Lanchester EP for driving the passion in our children. "Yanomamo" was a huge success and has clearly impacted our children positively.

Further thanks go to all those who contributed on the day itself. Special mentions must go to David Barnes at The Roxy, and Evelyn, Zoe, Scarlett, Luna, and Dennis, who created special stalls to sell crafts, books, and second-hand toys to boost funds.

We are still accepting donations at: https://www.justgiving.com/page/sloane-murray-1

Any contributions will be very much appreciated.

Harry and Sloane Tatham



Noah is shown on the front cover
Photo right shows the appreciative audience.
Above QR code link to Just Giving

Harvest Time
in the Community Orchard

This year's wonderful summer has produced a great crop of apples in the orchard. On a bright Sunday morning, orchard members enjoyed the sun, wandering round the orchard picking apples. Our younger members had good fun choosing their own apples and tasting them. Everybody pitched in to help with the apple juicing, and we all went away with bottles of fresh, organic apple juice.

Our community orchard is run entirely by volunteers. We maintain the fruit trees and wildflower meadows and in return we have an amazing crop of fruit every year. We are a friendly group of people who always welcome new members. Why not come along to one of our sessions to find out more. You can find more information on our website lanchesterorchard.org.

Eleanor Johnson, Lanchester Community Orchard



Photo above shows the juicing in progress after the harvest. Cover shows a young boy enjoying the crop

Scottish Dance Group

Lanchester Scottish dance group started up again at the end of September after the summer break. We are desperately keen to attract new people. No previous experience is necessary. For more information contact Elizabeth Grayson on (0191) 3844836 or email: e.j.grayson@durham.ac.uk. (The phone and email are now fully functioning again after a glitch due to fibre broadband upgrade difficulties which occurred when the article about the Scottish dance group came out in the May edition of the Village Voice!).

Elizabeth Grayson

Lanchester Food Week

The 25th October sees the start of our first ever Lanchester Food Week. We're so lucky that our beautiful village has so many fine eateries to cater for every taste, and they're coming together to bring you this appetising extravaganza. It's a great opportunity to take the family out as it coincides with the Half Term break.

Among the offerings, we'll see some very welcome discounts, new dishes and even some competitions. The Old Ice Cream Shop will be getting into the Halloween holiday spirit, with special offers throughout the week and various treats at the special price of £3 each.

Grandpa's Fish Bar has a special mini Fish and Chips for just a fiver, while Ravello's Italian Cafe will be offering a free cannoli with every coffee, iced coffee or tea purchased. Is your mouth watering yet?

Lanchester Country Basket are planning some unbeatable deals to prove that fresh local produce beats anything you can get from the supermarket, and at the time of writing, there are plans afoot to record a special Lanchester produced recipe, with goods supplied by the green grocers and Hanley's!

There are rumours afoot that Crinnions will be offering a great discount with the opportunity to gamble for an even greater deal, and even the Methodist Church are getting involved by planning a huge selection of activities to run throughout the whole week.

Lots of the other establishments are busy cooking up some tasty offerings, so be sure to show them your support and book yourselves a treat for that week.

The best way to keep abreast of what's happening is by following the Facebook page, that can be found at https://www.facebook.com/lanchesterfoodweek or for those of you who prefer to keep their lives in the real world, pop down and have a chat with the businesses about their amazing plans.

In a tough financial climate, it's more important than ever that we show our local shops and restaurants the love and support they deserve. They've gone out of their way to ensure that they are giving you the best deals they possibly can, so get out there, sample their wares and you might even find yourselves a new favourite.

Let's make Lanchester Food Week a roaring success and they might be persuaded to make it an annual event.

Barrie McDermid



Follow us on Facebook for details of all of these amazing local deals - www.facebook.com/lanchesterfoodweek

In association with the About Small Business Podcast

@aboutsmallbusiness



From the House

I held my latest advice surgery in Lanchester and was delighted to meet with constituents to offer help and support on a variety of issues. My upcoming surgeries will be held in other parts of the constituency; as ever if you would like to book an appointment please contact me on the details below.

I was delighted to hear that the National Federation of Fish Friers named Grandpa's Fish Bar on Front Street in the 'top 40 takeaways of the year' category at the National Fish and Chip Awards 2026. I took it upon myself to join local Councillor Alison Gray for a lunchtime visit to sample the fish and chips and agree they were top notch. Well done to Grandpa's for adding to Lanchester's great range of culinary options!

I continue to support residents in their fight against the creation of a solar farm in Burnhope. I formally objected to the planning application last year and have now written to object to the planning appeal submitted by Lightsource. I firmly believe that the massive size and scale of what is proposed significantly increases the impact on the village of Burnhope and local residents.

I would like to draw residents' attention to another Durham County Council public consultation – this one relates to the council's medium term financial plan. The consultation sets out proposed cost savings and Council Tax increases and I would encourage residents to read and respond to have their say. The consultation can be accessed at https://letstalkcounty-durham.co.uk/en-GB/folders/budget-proposals-for-2026-27-and-medium-term-financial-plan-2026-27-2029-30.

Since I was elected in July 2024, my office has responded to over 7,700 queries. I have helped return over £366,137 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, MP for North Durham



House of Commons

County Councillor Update



Dear Resident,

I hope you are well? The summer is now well behind us, and the weather is changing and bringing different challenges with it.

I was delighted to start off the autumn term with a visit to All Saints' Catholic Nursery and Primary School. I joined the children in their daily assembly, where each class asked me a question about my work and role as a councillor. I then had a tour of the school and saw the fantastic nursery facilities. It was great to talk to Frances the Headteacher and hear about the school's plans for the year ahead including their pantomime and a tour of Parliament. I was very impressed with the varied offering of after school clubs too.

I know the Lanchester Partnership are working hard to reinstate the Village Bus service and on Saturday 6th September I held a coffee morning to raise funds for it. Huge thanks to those of you who baked, helped out and very generously donated to the cause. We raised £340. Henry Edwards, the Chair of the Partnership briefly spoke at the coffee morning about the plans and explained the next steps. Hopefully it will be back soon. [See article on page 10 - editor]

One of the questions asked of me by the children of All Saints was 'what does a typical day look like?' One of the best parts of the role is that there is such variety. This month I have helped residents with issues including delayed bus passes, school admissions, potholes and pavements. I also visited New Warlands Farm just outside of Burnhope, which is a training centre for autistic adults. I had a tour of their specialist facilities including seeing their residential lodges for respite care.

I have a meeting booked with an officer from the parking team to look at how we can improve the situation over parking in the village, especially at some times of the day when it is problematic.

If I can be of assistance with council related matters please contact me on alison.gray2@durham.gov.uk or telephone 07469 105096.
Best wishes, Alison Gray.





Far right at the All Saints' Primary School
Right at the coffee morning with Fiona Cranston on the right of the picture

Wild Notes

Curlew, Queen Of The Moor

You sit there, with your curved bill
Incubating your brood, but still
Don't you wish to go flying or
Are you content staying here as Queen of the Moor?

I watch you as you sing your song
That has filled this place for so long
And soon, I'm sure, there is no doubt
The eggs will hatch and the chicks will peek out

But until then, you're on your own
In this enchanting place you call your home
And now I know that in my eyes
There has never been a more beautiful bird to grace the skies

However, when you come back, this might not be here
As this habitat is beginning to disappear
So we must protect this place for
What would we do without our Queen of the Moor?

Our wildlife family

Photos of the curlew by Ian Appleby





Wildlife Group

First Steps on Eight Legs. Ian Beddison

Love 'em or hate 'em. Spiders are a real marmite group of animals that intrigue many and inspire phobia in others. This means that our eight-legged friends do not get the attention from naturalists they deserve. Ian Beddison is a forensic scientist, and great photographer, who will be sharing his interest in Harvestmen, the long-legged relatives of true spiders that are so often ignored. He says that he will try not to spook the arachnophobes too much.

This is the second of the group's "Beasts for Beginners" series which explores interesting wildlife that people often ignore. It is based on the premise that most creatures that people notice are large or showy or both. Furthermore, they are likely to be common. So by learning a small number of flashy species, you can become an instant expert and amaze and amuse your family and friends.

Tuesday 11th November, 7.30 pm, Lanchester Community Centre. Admission free. All welcome. LWG hopes that any arachnophiles in the village will join us in this special meeting. Please phone or message Noel Jackson on 07786332465 for more details if needed.



Noel Jackson

Photo: Red Harvestman (*Opilio canestrinii*)

Poetry reading at the library

The library room was packed for a reading of Anna Barker's "Book of Crow" in September. The words were read by Jude Nelson, and the recorded music was from Durham Band the Shining Levels. It was a dialogue between a woman and a belligerent crow drawing on all the emotions from heartache and humour.

It then went on to Barnard Castle and then the Durham Book Festival.



Photo Jude Nelson, left with Anna Barker the author. (photo Judith Brown)

Ladies who lunch

In September we visited the Old Mill at Knitsley.

We were given a table in the conservatory. As we were quite private lots of time was spent chatting! We chose from a good Friday fish menu. Beer battered fish and chips with tartare sauce; Whitby scampi with hand cut chips and tartare sauce; poached cod with sauteed potatoes, peas and lemon butter sauce.

From the main menu we went for slow cooked belly pork, colcannon mash, black pudding and croquette roasted carrot with apple and cider sauce; triple smash burger with BBQ bourbon sauce, cheese, onion rings, coleslaw relish and hand cut chips.

After a much needed rest we ordered our desserts. Sticky toffee pudding with ice cream; apple and blackberry crumble with custard; pistachio, raspberry and white chocolate roulade.

This was our first visit under the new management. We felt the food and service were up to standard. So, once again good food and company.

The Gourmet Girls



Police Report

Update on the bus shelter damage and other offences

Consett police reported via Facebook in July that Simon Nagi (41) from Lanchester was charged with criminal damage of a bus stop on Durham Road, in Lanchester. He was charged with eight counts of criminal damage following several suspected incidents between June 22 and July 7.

He was also charged with harassment, aggravated public order and a breach of a restraining order.

At that time he was remanded in custody pending a court appearance. At court he was found guilty of the offences and was remanded again until October when he will appear at court for sentencing, which will be a custodial one.

Once released from prison he will have conditions/restrictions which he has to adhere to. If he breaks these he will be rearrested; police had requested these be put in place to the courts.

Updated information kindly provided by PCSO Paul Egan who has now left the police service. Paul was very helpful to the Village Voice while he was working in Lanchester.



Poppy's walks

Good day readers. This month's walk starts and ends at the Demesnes Mill car park in Wolsingham, just a short drive from Lanchester.
Since we were last there a parking machine has been installed, and these contraptions occasionally drive the male Human into a bit of a frenzy, if he hasn't got the right amount of change or cannot work out how to get the machine to read his card. But luckily on this occasion the machine seemed simple enough to work, and he had two pound coins in his possession which granted us up to three hours in Wolsingham.
The only snag was when the ticket issued by the machine on payment flew out of the slot and was carried over the grass by a gust of wind. The sight of the Human chasing after it, fortunately successfully, seemed to amuse the flock of ducks observing from the riverside.
As you will now know, I am Poppy a Patterdale Terrier who enjoys sharing my walks with you. From the Demesnes car park, which is on the right as you approach Wolsingham centre from Lanchester, we began our walk by passing through an entrance with a sign saying there is no such thing as a poo fairy - I knew that already - and onto some grass with a river on our right.The river, it turns out, was called Waskerley Beck.
We walked along to a gate and turned left through it and onto another field. This again had some water on the right of it, known as Thornhope Beck, but was a wide expanse of grass ideal for running around. When we reached the end of that field we walked through a metal swinging gate and could have turned either left or right. Left would have taken us behind the Wolsingham School playing fields and back towards the village centre, but we turned right instead.
This took us over a narrow footbridge over Thornhope Beck and onto a footpath with a field on our left on the other side of a fence. By crossing a stile - there were quite a few of those on this walk - we came into another field with sheep in, so I was put on my lead. We walked to the end of that field and came to some stepping stones. These are great fun I always think. I enjoy running across them and back again, while the Human traverses a lot more slowly and tries not to fall overboard. We managed to negotiate them with only one of us getting wet - and that is because I chose to have a dip in the stream.
We went across another stile and onto a farm track which we followed to our right. This took us back in the direction of Wolsingham with some rather imposing houses to our left. This area is known as Holywood. After maybe 100 yards the track joined a road which we followed towards Wolsingham. Had we continued along that road we would have come to a pub called the Bay Horse, but surprisingly the Human agreed to divert to the right at a public footpath sign. This took us through a metal gate and then across two fields where again I could run around happily because there were no livestock present.
We walked across the fields diagonally and then across another stile before walking between two buildings and out onto the main road at an area called Upper Town. From there it was only a short walk downhill across a bridge and back into the Demesnes Mill car park.
The walk took only 45 minutes or so, but it meant we had time to walk past the car and up to some steps from the car park which took us onto another field. We walked all the way around it and arrived in a churchyard which we walked through, then along the side of the church and down into a road called Rectory Lane. We walked back along Rectory Lane and onto Angate Street which led us back to the car park again. By this time we had been on the go for more than an hour and I felt I had my money's worth. As did the Human from his parking fee!

BOURNE & CO
in partnership with nested

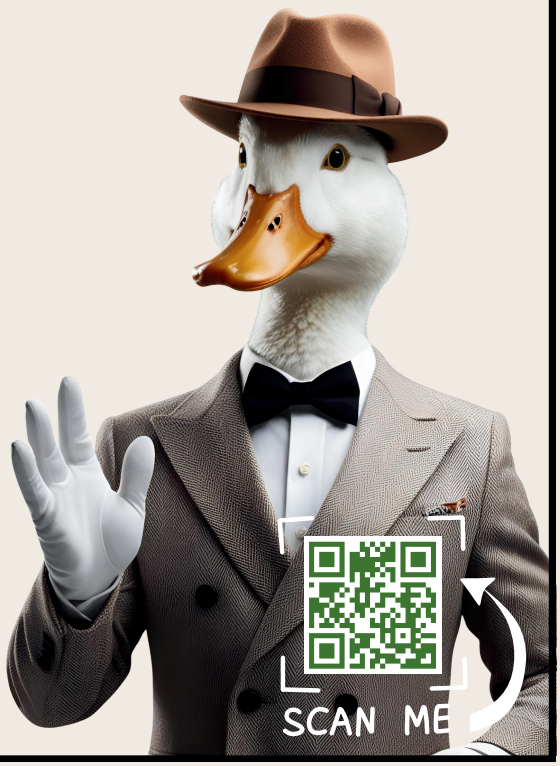
Give us a call
01207 529 900 | 07450 642 976
info@bournenco.com

It's been a lively few months for us here on Front Street. We're proud to say we've sold over 95% of our current stock – so we're now eager to help more local people make their next move. We're also quacking for more rentals, with an ever-growing list of vetted tenants waiting to feather their nests.

What our clients tell us they value most is the personal touch. Whether it's a chat in the office, a quick call, or a late-night WhatsApp to keep things afloat, we're always on hand. We don't paddle off at 5pm – we're with you every step of the way through to exchange and completion.

We've also had lovely feedback on our marketing – professional photography, clear descriptions, our slightly quirky (sometimes poetic) videos, and first-class listings that help homes really stand out from the flock.

As ever, our pond is open. Please do waddle by for a chat and a cuppa.



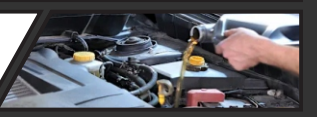
GD AUTOCARE Ltd

Complete service & repair

Air Con now available! from £59.99



We provide upfront Pricing - We guarantee your satisfaction - We treat your property like our own

Servicing	***Fixed price servicing* - Interim Service & MOT £99.95*** Oil & Filter £64.95 / Interim £84.95 / Full £164.95 / Major £214.95 * Additional charges may apply for specialist oils or excessive fluid requirements.	
Tyres	***We won't be beaten on price!*** Wheel alignment available - *Puncture Repairs £15*	
Diagnostics	***Fixed price diagnostics - £39.95*** Full vehicle scan to highlight any faults	
Batteries	***Free Battery Check while you wait*** Helps identify any underlying faults with your vehicle battery	
All other work undertaken	MOT / Brakes / Steering / Suspension	

(Formerly Witbank Garage), Hallgarth Building, Hallgarth Terrace, Lanchester, DH7 0HS

☎ 01207 529192 ✉ service@gdautocare.co.uk www.gdautocare.co.uk

LANCHESTER COUNTRY BASKET

www.lanchestercountrybasket.co.uk FAMILY RUN GREENGROCER & FLORIST 07979 955 471

SHOP LOCAL

FREE DELIVERY FOR ORDERS IN LANCHESTER OVER £10

FREE DELIVERY FREE



We are expanding our delivery service by offering FREE delivery for orders in Lanchester over £10. We offer Fruit Boxes and Veg Boxes from £10, but you can drop us a line on email, messenger, or text with your personal shopping list and we will bring it to your door. We prefer cash, but happy to take card payments or direct bank payments.

We have fresh Fruit & Veg every day. We also sell a wide range of dairy produce: fresh milk, eggs, butter, yogurt, cottage cheese, cream; using local suppliers where we can. We also have our food cupboard range which includes nuts and seeds, dried fruit, pulses, award winning marmalade and jam, local honey, chilli sauce.

Thank You for shopping local !



Longley Farm

LANCHESTER DAIRIES LTD

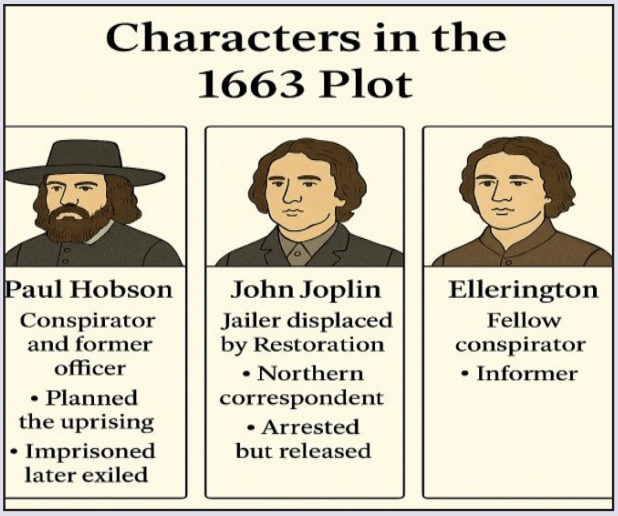
6 Front Street, Lanchester, Durham, DH7 0ER Email: lanchestercountrybasket@hotmail.com

Phone Andy: 07979 955471 Find us on Facebook

Lanchester Local History Society

We met to hear Paul Heatherington regale us of the goings on at Muggleswick in the Seventeenth Century: “Oaths, Arms and Anarchy: The 1663 Plot that shocked England”.
There was an uprising of sorts when the parishioners demonstrated their religious and political dissent following the restoration of Charles II. The 1663 plotters were Baptists, Independents and Nonconformists. The Muggleswick Plot emerged from that repressive time. John Ellerington, a repentant conspirator, revealed the plans to assassinate the clergy, destroy the churches and seize northern cities.
The plot was part of a wider national conspiracy, culminating in the failed Farnley Wood Rising. Harsh sentences were handed down - executions, imprisonments, and transportation to colonies like Tangiers and Jamaica.
The Conventicle Act 1664 further suppressed dissent until the Toleration Act of 1689 offered limited relief.

Marian Morrison



Friends of Longovicium

The Discovering Longovicium open evening was held on 25th of September and we had an excellent turnout. As well as the many people who could only manage a short time to walk around the displays and look at the artefacts on display, we also had a large group of people who stayed for the whole evening and listened to our two very interesting speakers.
On behalf of the Friends of Longovicium I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who attended our open evening, both visitors, group members and speakers. Everyone’s participation and contribution in the Discovering Longovicium evening was instrumental to the event's success.
Special thanks go to:
Francis Hagan a Roman reenactor who put on an excellent display dressed in the clothing and kit of a Roman soldier of the 4th Century naval/marine unit stationed at Arbeia at the mouth of the Tyne.
Gordon Henderson for his very enlightening and often humorous talk about how advanced Roman military and civilian medicine and surgery actually was.
Charles McKinnie for his talk about ethical metal detecting along with his display of finds and artefacts.
Tony Drake a reenactor and maker of replica weapons who kindly brought some of his amazing quality museum quality replica Roman swords to put on display and talk about to visitors.
We really appreciate the time and effort that everyone spent in helping to promote an interest in Lanchester’s Roman past. We have had some very positive feedback about the event and it was a pleasure to meet so many people who had an interest in the village’s history.
Extra special thanks go to **Nick Greenwell** whose family have owned and farmed the land that the fort stands on for many generations. Nick has always been a great supporter of the group and has encouraged all our endeavours. His ongoing support is greatly valued by everyone in the group.

Darin Smith









Watoto Stories of Restoration Tour

Date and time: Wednesday 3rd December 2025 6.30pm
Venue: All Saints Catholic Church Parish Centre, Kitswell Road, Lanchester, DH7 0JH
Watoto is a charity that brings hope and healing to vulnerable women and children in Uganda and South Sudan. A Watoto Village is a safe place where orphaned and vulnerable children can experience the love of a family. The villages provide homes, families and holistic care to over 3000 children. Watoto Neighbourhood provides adult literacy classes, discipleship, business skills training and job opportunities to some of the most vulnerable women in Africa, women who have been left to bear the brunt of war, poverty and disease.
Come and listen to Allen, a Watoto Graduate who was once orphaned and abandoned as she shares her testimony of growing up in the Watoto family. She will share her testimony of redemption, restoration, and the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.
You’re invited to this special event where you’ll have the opportunity to meet two remarkable women, Allen and also Ritah, and hear their incredible stories of how their lives were transformed by the love of Jesus. Refreshments available!
Although there is no charge for this event, an offering will be taken to contribute towards the work of Watoto. There will also be the opportunity to purchase beautiful merchandise made by the talented Watoto Neighbourhood women.
Advance notice! Watoto Children’s Choir will be visiting Lanchester Methodist Church on the afternoon of Saturday February 14th 2026, time to be confirmed. They last visited a few days before lockdown in March 2020 and for anyone who attended this, it was simply inspirational.

Julia Lloyd





Allen (top)
Ritah (bottom)



Songs of the North East

The recent concert at Lanchester Methodist Church was a great success. Valerie Reid and Graeme Danby were in very good voice and Graeme's usual touch of humour brought much laughter. A full church and an appreciative audience meant that there was a lively and warm atmosphere.
Thank you to everyone who attended helping to support the work of Willow Burn Hospice as £720 was raised.

The next concert in aid of Willow Burn will be on Saturday 6th December, 7pm in Lanchester Methodist Church. **Sound the Trumpets** is an ensemble of four excellent trumpeters who will be playing Christmas music and some familiar carols. Further details and tickets to follow!

Margaret Coates



Above. Some of the large appreciative audience.
Right. Valerie Reid and Graeme Danby.

care connect



24/7 response at the press of a button

We provide a monitoring and response service to people's homes 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, 7 days a week with a 24-hour Control Centre and simple personal alarms.

What can our personal alarms do for you?

- Help on hand out of hours
- Maintains freedom and independence
- 24/7 support and reassurance
- Peace of mind for all

TSA Code of Practice Platinum Accredited Organisation

For further information:
www.durham.gov.uk/careconnect
03000 262 195
care.connect@durham.gov.uk

You can also find us on facebook.com/CareConnectDCC

Durham County Council

TALES OF A VILLAGE BUS – EPISODE 1

FEISTY BUS ANGELS RESCUE VILLAGE BUS SERVICE

The story so far …….

Many readers of the Village Voice will have noticed that we have been without the Village Link Bus Service since the start of the summer. This arose because the total annual cost of running the three-day service (£1,000 per month) was outstripping the financial reserves laid aside. We needed to think out our arrangements from first principles.

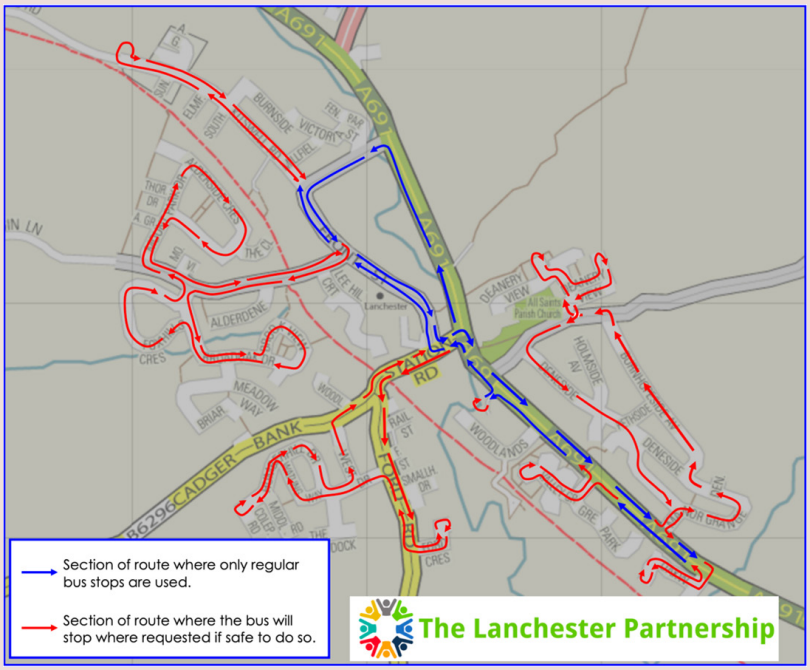
Lanchester residents who use the Village Link Bus Service met with Paul Jackson and Henry Edwards of the Lanchester Partnership on 26th June at Lynwood House. The newly formed Bus User Group ("BUG") set about putting a plan together which would result in a financially sustainable service.

We're happy to report that Lanchester Partnership has now been able to negotiate a revised contract with Stanley Travel for a revamped service that will start on **Friday November 7th**. We are very grateful to officers of Durham County Council's Transport Development team who helped to design and register the service with the Transport Commissioner. Andrew Goodchild from Stanley Travel and his drivers and staff have also given valuable time and energy to get us to this point.

In the first instance the service will operate on Fridays only and make three complete circular tours of the village along the route shown below. Along the blue section only regular bus stops are used. Along red sections the bus will stop wherever requested provided it is safe to do so.

The standard fare for a single journey is £2.50 but concessions are available for those who have a valid bus pass. Donations are gratefully accepted and can be given to the driver.

Kitswell Road (Cemetery) *Depart*	10:00	11:00	12:00
Newbiggin Lane (Library)	10:02	11:02	12:02
Brook View	10:05	11:05	12:05
Foxhills Crescent	10:07	11:07	12:07
Alderside Crescent	10:09	11:09	12:09
Front Street (Vill. Green) *Arrive*	10:13	11:13	12:13
Front Street (Vill. Green) *Depart*	10:15	11:15	12:15
Lynwood House	10:18	11:18	12:18
Ford Crescent	10:21	11:21	12:21
Colepike Road	10:23	11:23	12:23
Station Road	10:25	11:25	12:25
Fenhall Park	10:27	11:27	12:27
Front Street (Vill. Green) *Arrive*	10:29	11:29	12:29
Front Street (Vill. Green) *Depart*	10:31	11:31	12:31
Burnhopeside Avenue	10:34	11:34	12:34
Deanery View	10:36	11:36	12:36
Deneside	10:38	11:38	12:38
Oakwood	10:42	11:42	12:42
Valley Grove	10:45	11:45	12:45
Lynwood House	10:48	11:48	12:48
Front Street (Vill. Green) *Arrive*	10:50	11:50	12:50
Front Street (Vill. Green) *Depart*	10:52	11:52	12:52
Kitswell Road (Cemetery) *Arrive*	10:55	11:55	12:55



Sponsorship needed per week = £90
Sponsorship per month = £360
Sponsorship per year = £4,500

What's happening next?

The group has set itself the task of raising from within the village between £3,000 to £5,000 per year (£250-£425 per month) to cover the costs. The table above shows the approximate sponsorship we need for the full cost of the proposed one day a week service.

Members of the group will be out and about over the next few weeks seeking support from individuals, local businesses and other groups in the village. We'd be delighted if you can make a contribution, however small, to a great cause which helps individuals with any kind of mobility issue to access the centre of the village.

How about the longer term?

- We'll be looking at refining the shopping and errand service
- We will be contacting local social groups to see if we can align the bus service more closely with social activities happening in the village
- There will be a campaign to increase the number of passengers/users
- Any surplus funding will be used to support special trips out for the user groupIf funding allows, we would like to expand the service

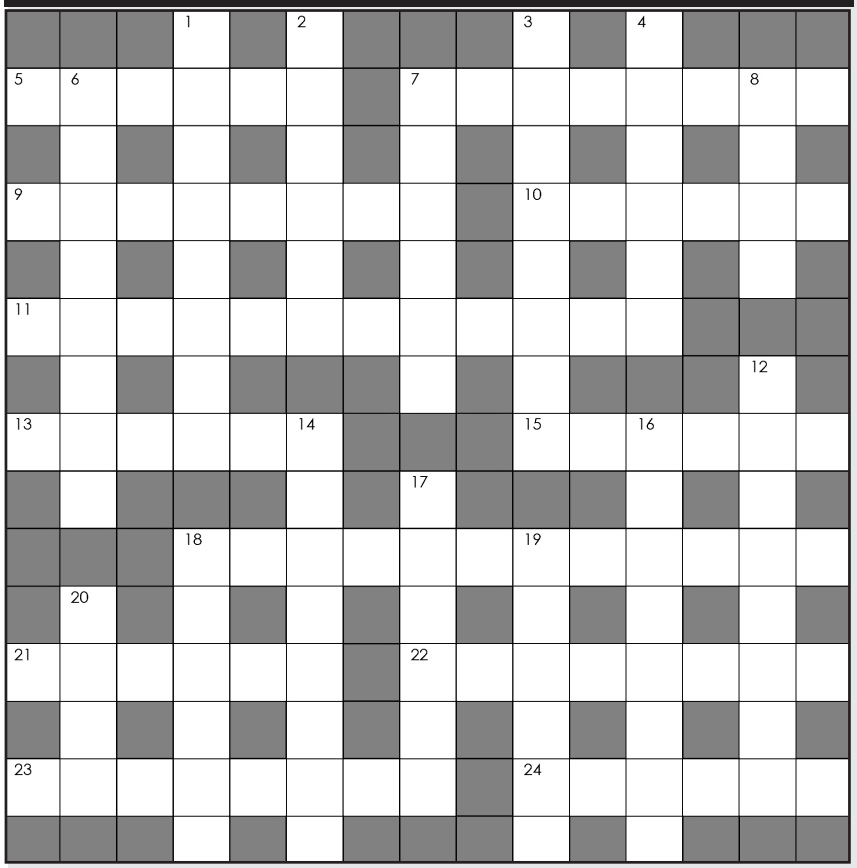
Thank you to individuals and businesses who have already supported the bus. If you would like to help us with our plan or have any further questions, please contact:

Henry Edwards 07890 803648 Paul Jackson 07957 871106 or email: contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk



Right. The Feisty Angels!

CROSSWORD 212



Clues

Across

5. List of items for discussion (6)
7. Light at the front of a car (8)
9. Unmarried man (8)
10. Where a browser might pick up cookies! (6)
11. Time to get the pudding going, 23rd of November this year (4-2,6)
13. Warning of conditions or limitations (6)
15. Look thoroughly (6)
18. Consett born footballer who played for clubs on both the Tyne and Wear (5,7)
21. Coastal town in south west of Italy (6)
22. Bedtime drink (8)
23. William Brown's weapon of choice (8)
24. Untie (6)

Down

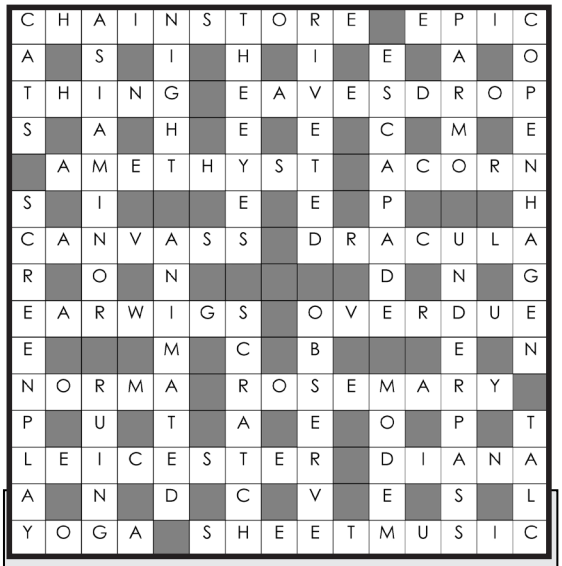
1. A description of a small and unimportant town (3-5)
2. Run like a horse (6)
3. Country in the Caribbean (8)
4. Stan Butler's nemesis (6)
6. Birthplace of a certain Margaret Roberts (8)
7. Short of funds (4,2)
8. Additional or greater than (4)
12. Acknowledgement of merit (8)
14. End of the line (8)
16. The study of flight (8)
17. Young swan (6)
18. Sentimental or romantic song (6)
19. Completely surround or overwhelm (6)
20. Jane Austen novel (4)

Name:_____

Address: _____

_____

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



C	H	A	I	N	S	T	O	R	E	■	E	P	I	C
A	■	S	■	I	■	H	■	I	■	E	■	A	■	O
T	H	I	N	G	■	E	A	V	E	S	D	R	O	P
S	■	A	■	H	■	E	■	E	■	C	■	M	■	E
■	A	M	E	T	H	Y	S	T	■	A	C	O	R	N
S	■	I	■	■	■	E	■	E	■	P	■	■	■	H
C	A	N	V	A	S	S	■	D	R	A	C	U	L	A
R	■	O	■	N	■	■	■	■	■	D	■	N	■	G
E	A	R	W	I	G	S	■	O	V	E	R	D	U	E
E	■	■	■	M	■	C	■	B	■	■	■	E	■	N
N	O	R	M	A	■	R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y	■
P	■	U	■	T	■	A	■	E	■	O	■	P	■	T
L	E	I	C	E	S	T	E	R	■	D	I	A	N	A
A	■	N	■	D	■	C	■	V	■	E	■	S	■	L
Y	O	G	A	■	S	H	E	E	T	M	U	S	I	C

Solution Crossword 211

There were 28 entries of which 25 were correct. The winner, drawn out of the hat is Ann Cooper.

IAN SAYER

Roofing Specialist

Tel: 01207 509862

Mobile: 07947 542570

e-mail: Iansayerroofing@btinternet.com

36, Gill Street, Consett, Co Durham DH8 7JT

SLATING - TILING - GUTTERING - REPAIRS
UPVC FASCIAS & SOFFITS - LEADWORK
FLAT ROOFING

Calling all Businesses

Andrew Spence

Health, Safety & Fire Consultant

Occupational Health

Be Compliant, Call Today: 07775 913772

Local & Affordable

ALL TYPES OF PLASTERING AND BRICKWORK
Re-Skims, Ceilings, Concreting, Pointing ... etc
Over 20 Years' Experience. All Work Guaranteed

BILLY CARR
PLASTERING



Free Estimates. No Job Too Small
QUALITY WORK AT AFFORDABLE PRICES
Telephone: (01207) 284881 *Mobile: 07813 339467*



Beautilley
BEAUTY & MASSAGE
Appointment only, Lanchester based.
Call Ann on:
07534775077 or,
email: beautilley@hotmail.com
Facebook: beautilleybeautyandmassage
BEAUTILLEY
BEAUTY & MASSAGE

PC - ASSIST *Mobile service for:-*
PC repairs or upgrades, data recovery, virus removal, tuition and any other IT related problems. Assistance also available for tablets, e-readers, smart phones & audio equipment.
If your PC is slow - I can help.
Call Alan on 01207 521628 or 07961497093
e-mail pcassist4@gmail.com

LANCHESTER PLUMBING & HEATING LTD
Gas Safe & Oil Service Engineers
FROM A LEAKING TAP TO COMPLETE CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM
NO JOB TOO SMALL
• COMPETITIVE QUOTES • FREE ADVICE
• NO CALL OUT CHARGE
CALL BARRY ON: 07717174739

ADVANCED DECORATING
FREE ESTIMATES

David Gallagher
Painter and Decorator
4 Woodside Tce,
Stanley
Co. Durham DH9 7HG
01207 231338
07887 881396
davidg3001@talktalk.net
www.advanced-decorating.org.uk

LANCHESTER CARPETS
THE QUALITY RETAILER GIVING FRIENDLY RELIABLE SERVICE
Call in for a quote now!
Tel: 01207 521771
• Free estimates
• Free local delivery
• Expert fitting service
• Rugs and Vinyls
• 100's of remnants
• New stock every week
9 Church View, Lanchester, Co. Durham DH7 0ES

Durham Soap Company
Durham Soap Co.
Luxurious artisan soap and other bathroom products handmade in Lanchester using natural oils, butters, botanicals, clays and pure essential oils.
Check out our website for our stockists, events and fabulous produce
www.durhamsoap.co.uk
Email: handmade@durhamsoap.co.uk
Tel no: 07969123023
We also do click and collect from Lanchester Hardware store

SteelTown HANDYMAN
CONTACT LEE:
01207269695
07450088561
- QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN
- HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE/ REPAIRS
- FLAT-PACK ASSEMBLY
- TILING, PAINTING & DECORATING
- BLIND/ CURTAIN POLE INSTALLATION
- GARDEN MAINTENANCE

"FROM HANGING A PICTURE TO TILING A WALL, FOR THE STEELTOWN HANDYMAN, NO JOB'S TOO BIG OR SMALL"
TRUSTWORTHY - RELIABLE - COMPETITIVELY PRICED

RUTHERFORD & CLARK
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
All electrical work undertaken
LOCAL
RELIABLE
COMPETITIVE
Lee Rutherford: 07791 582 420
Joe Clark: 07931 639 450
Email: Info@rutherfordclarkelec.co.uk

How to contact the Village Voice
To advertise, email: lanchestervvadverts@gmail.com. telephone: Paul on 07957 871106
Please do not use this number for matters relating to content.
General and news enquiries, email: lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk

By post:
The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

Stuart Wright
Funeral Service Ltd.
• Complete funeral service to all areas
• Private Chapels of Rest
• Silver fleet
• Funeral pre payment plans by Golden Charter
• 24 hour service
• Established 1992
Tel Durham 0191-3863850

For more information:
www.stuartwrightfunerals.co.uk
Head Office Gilesgate, 38 Sunderland Road, Gilesgate, Durham. DH1 2LG
Pelton, 3 Front Street, Pelton, Durham, DH2 1DB
Pity Me, Front Street, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5DQ
Langley Park, 43 Front Street, Langley Park, Durham, DH7 9SA

Lanchester Boutique Showcases Pre-Loved Style at Willow Burn Hospice Fashion Show

Willow Burn Hospice marked 35 years of care in style with its first-ever Pre-Loved Fashion Show curated by Olivia Kiss, Manager at Willow Burn Boutique in Lanchester.

The free event, made possible by funding from Durham County Council, celebrated sustainable fashion and community spirit, while shining a spotlight on Willow Burn's three shops (Consett, Lanchester and Stanley) and online stores, which together generate 18% of the hospice's annual income.

As well as the fashion show, guests on the evening enjoyed music from Ellie Caile, a selection of drinks and nibbles from the Willow Burn Catering Team and the opportunity to shop. £855.40 was raised on the evening from clothing sales, donations and raffle tickets, providing a welcome boost to hospice care in Derwentside.

Rachel Quince, Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Income Generation and Marketing, said:

"We are absolutely delighted with the success of our first Pre-Loved Fashion Show. It was a wonderful way to incorporate retail in our 35 year celebrations, while showcasing the creativity, generosity and spirit of our community. Every donation, every purchase and every raffle ticket sold makes a real difference and we are so grateful to everyone who supported the event, particularly the models who looked amazing on the evening.

Watch this space for next year's event."

Special thanks to all of the people who made the event such a success: Consett in Focus, Durham Youth Project, DW Media, Ellie Caile, Illustrated by Helen, Soul Street, The Glo House and all of the models who brought pre-loved fashion to life.

Willow Burn Boutique is open Tuesday to Saturday, 9am – 4pm on Croft View in Lanchester, with online sales available on eBay, depop and Vinted under the name Willow Burn Retail.

Rachel Quince



Models l-r Rogan, Charlotte English and Hayley Gowland.

Lanchester Community Centre Dog Show

The Dog Show was held at Lanchester Community Centre on 6th September. It was a great day, with lots of doggy fun.

We had 5 categories to enter: puppy, waggiest tail, veteran dog, young handler and precious pooch.

The winners of each category went into best in show, which was won by the very beautiful 12 year old Dalton who is a Saluki.

Thank you everyone who came along, to our judge for the day, Lynsey Morgan from Spa Paws Grooming at Delves Lane and Sue from HUND who came along selling her wonderful essential oil pet care products.

Alison Boyd





The 2 photos are :
All the dogs in the best in show category, and right the winner from best in show - Dalton with owner Sally Laverick, her grandson and our judge Lynsey Morgan.

Lanchester Parish Council

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 7.00pm

Minutes –Ordinary Meeting 8th July – approved

Police Reports
Members were updated on the recent PACT report for July and August

Haystax Holiday Park
The planning consultant for the holiday park attended the meeting and gave an update on the planning application as well as answering questions from the Parish Councillors and members of the public.

Correspondence
AAP – Farewell letter from Derek Snaith who has recently retired – a letter of thanks to be written to Derek for everything he has done over the years for Lanchester

Durham County Councillor
County Cllr A Gray provided an update on the areas she has recently been working on, these included –

- Trees – overgrown in a few areas in the Village
- The Village Bus is starting up again
- Handrail has been requested at Alderdene
- Meeting with traffic warden to discuss parking around the Village
- A dropped kerb has been approved on the pavement outside the Kings Head
- A request for a new Lanchester sign coming into the Village as the last one has disappeared and a clean/paint of both fences

Lanchester Solar Planet Walk
A meeting to be arranged to discuss the project

Beacon Event – VJ Day 80
Councillors agreed that the event went well and around 100 people attended

Lanchester Cricket Club
Councillors approved permission for work to be carried out at the Cricket Club

Tree Surveys
The Clerk to request lead times for the tree work

Planning policy
Members were in favour of the proposal to change HMOs so planning permission would be needed to allow the conversion of dwelling houses into small Houses in Multiple Occupation for between 3 and 6 residents.

Lanchester Food Week
Permission was granted for the Parish Council to pay for the printing and display of a banner for Lanchester Food Week, along with an article in the Village Voice.

Doras Wood
Members discussed the situation at Doras Wood.

Friends of Longovicium
A grant of £200 was approved towards the open evening the group are having.

National Pay Award 2025/26 – approved
Financial report – approved
Accounts for Payment – approved

Meetings are every second Tuesday of the month, the next two meetings will be held on 14th October and 11th November

FB HOME
IMPROVEMENTS
BUILDING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
KITCHENS BATHROOMS
FENCING & DECKING PLASTERING
ALL ASPECTS OF JOINERY WALL & FLOOR TILING
DECORATING COMPOSITE DOORS
WALL & CEILING CLADDING ROOFING & GUTTERING
LAMINATE & LVT FLOORING
HANDYMAN SERVICES
fbhomeimprovements@gmail.com
Craig: 07789481500
Ryan: 07754103753
Find us on: facebook

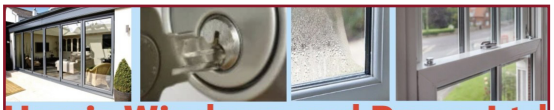
Hanley & Sons
Purveyors of fine quality meats and home cooked food
Family Butcher & Delicatessen
Apart from the normal butchery and delicatessen products we now offer:-
A Selection of Cooked Meats and Outside Catering
Open Monday - Saturday from 8 am
14 Front Street Lanchester
01207 529970

Deadlines

Articles, letters and photos by Friday 31st October to
lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk

Adverts by Friday 31st October to
lanchestervvadverts@gmail.com

FRED McALOAN
ELECTRICAL SERVICE
Landlord and Household Electrical Test Certification, Additional Sockets, Lighting, Showers, Cooker Points, Full or Part Rewires
RELIABLE & DEPENDABLE SERVICE
Free Estimates & Friendly Advice
0781 3202 470
01207 500770


Harris Windows and Doors Ltd
Composite, upvc and Bi-Fold doors,
upvc casement windows, sliding sash windows,
door and window repairs - misted glazing repairs
Call David: 07725 803366
Call Caroline: 01207 501380
Call today - We come to you!
Durham road Leadgate Consett
hwdsales@outlook.com
www.harriswindowsanddoors.uk

PAUL KIRBY Est 1987
Plumbing, Heating, and Building Services
Specialists in Bathroom and Kitchen refurbishment,
Tiling, Shower panels, PVC ceilings,
and all related plumbing work.
FREE ESTIMATES
Tel/Fax: 01207 284230 Mob: 07836742359
email: pk.plumbing@live.com

Angel Drain Away
Blocked Drain Services
Call: 07301 319 555
www.angeldrainaway.com
Follow us on Facebook & Instagram


• Blocked drains including manholes
• Toilets and sink blockages
• Bathroom blockages
• Overflowing drains/slow draining water
• CCTV Inspection
• Kitchen blockages
• Surface water drain servicing
• Emergency callouts


FREE PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY
Lanchester PHARMACY
If you live in Lanchester, Esh Winning, Esh, Langley Park, Burnhope, Cornsay Village or Satley, we can deliver your prescriptions straight to your door.
Call today to book
01207 520365
or pop in store to find out more...
15 Front St, Lanchester, Durham DH7 0LA

RAVELLO
Ristorante Italiano
Open 7 days a week - Noon until 10pm
Serving weekly Specials
Sunday Lunches 12noon - 4pm
Front Street, Lanchester
Contact 01207 528825

Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group

Routine Adult Vaccinations in England

This article focuses on adult vaccinations in England. Other age groups, comorbidities, individual and social influences require a different regime.

The two public health interventions that have had the greatest impact on the world's health are clean water and vaccines. This is conclusive evidence to encourage us to ensure that we are up to date with all our vaccinations.

Influenza can be a serious or life-threatening illness. The vaccine aims to protect you against the most common types of flu viruses and usually takes up to 14 days to become activated.It is important to be immunised every year as protection from the flu vaccine goes down with time. Because the types of viruses change, the vaccine composition is updated yearly.

Pneumococcal vaccine helps protect against some types of bacterial infections that can cause serious illnesses like:

- meningitis (an infection in the brain and spinal cord)
- sepsis (a life-threatening reaction to an infection)
- pneumonia (an infection in the lungs)

Shingles is a painful condition that causes a rash to form along a nerve root. It can sometimes lead to serious problems such as long-lasting pain, hearing loss or blindness. You can get shingles more than once. It is caused by the same virus as chicken pox.

Measles, Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccine provides long lasting protection for these viral infections. They are spread by coughs and sneezes.

- Measles is a highly contagious respiratory illness causing a rash, cough, red watery eyes and fever, and can lead to pneumonia and brain damage.
- Mumps leads to swollen salivary glands, glands under the ears and flu-like symptoms. It can cause deafness, meningitis, and painful swollen testicles in males and ovaries in females.
- Rubella or German Measles is a mild illness that can cause a rash, sore throat, headache and red itchy eyes.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common cause of coughs and colds that affects millions each year. It can lead to breathing problems:

- pneumonia (lung infection)
- bronchitis (chest infection)

RSV is a serious illness that can require hospital treatment, especially in people with existing COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

COVID-19 can be a serious or life-threatening illness. Some people need an extra dose of the COVID-19 vaccine if they have a health condition or treatment that severely weakens their immune system. The virus changes and protection fades over time. It's important to top up your protection if you're eligible.
Getting the COVID-19 vaccine can help to:

- reduce your risk of getting severe symptoms
- recover more quickly if you catch COVID-19
- reduce your risk of having to go to hospital or dying from COVID-19
- protect against different types of COVID-19 virus

Vaccination side effects are typically mild and vary per person and per vaccination type, and include:

- localized redness, swelling and tenderness at injection site
- low grade fever
- temporary tiredness
- serious allergic reactions are rare

Most side effects resolve within a few days, but it is important to monitor unusual or persistent symptoms.

When not to have a vaccination- feeling unwell with high temperature, feel too unwell to do normal activities, then wait until better.

All vaccinations require a discussion with your surgery clinician about your medical and vaccination history to determine which vaccines are appropriate for you. Please remember that the surgery orders in vaccines especially for you, if you do not attend or make an appointment, these vaccines are wasted.

References

The World Health Organization (WHO)

NHS website and GOV.UK book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment online or NHS App book a flu vaccination appointment at a pharmacy online or in the NHS App

Routine Adult Vaccinations in England
Influenza: offered annually, age 65 & over
Pneumococcal: offered once, age 65 & over
Shingles: offered as 2 doses 6 to 12 mths. apart, age 70 to 79 & those who are 65 on Sept.1 / 23
MMR: offered to adults who have not been immunised as a child. 2 doses /1 mth. interval
RSV: offered once, age 75-79
COVID-19: offered spring & early winter

Changes to the way GP practices work - New charter from 1st October 2025

The new guidance for how GP practices work has recently been issued by the NHS. The key points are highlighted below.
Opening times: your general practice is open from **8.00am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday**. Throughout these hours you, or your carer on your behalf, can: visit the practice, call them or go online using the practice's website or the NHS App.
You can choose the way you contact your practice based on what is best for you. Some practices may have longer hours or may ask that you contact them via phone or in person for urgent queries.
If you need urgent help for your physical or mental health when the general practice is closed, and you cannot wait until they open, go online to 111.nhs.uk or call 111. They will tell you what to do next. (https://111.nhs.uk/)
If it's a serious or life-threatening emergency, go straight to A&E (Accident and Emergency) or call 999.
What happens when you contact your practice to request an appointment?
Whether you make your request by phone, on line or visiting your practice, you may be asked to give your practice some details so that they can assess what is best for you based on your clinical need. The practice team will consider your request for an appointment or medical advice and tell you **within one working day** what will happen next.
This could be:

- An appointment that day or a subsequent day
- A phone call that day or a subsequent day
- A text message responding to your query
- Advice to go to a pharmacy or another NHS service.

Your practice will decide what is best for you based on your clinical need. **Your practice cannot tell you to just call back the next day.**

Further details are available on this link: https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/you-and-your-general-practice-english/

Watoto Stories of Restoration Tour
Wednesday 3rd December 2025, 6.30pm, All Saints Catholic Church Parish Centre.
Watoto is a charity that brings hope and healing to vulnerable women and children in Uganda and South Sudan. A Watoto Village is a safe place where orphaned and vulnerable children can experience the love of a family. The villages provide homes, families and holistic care to over 3000 children. Watoto Neighbourhood provides adult literacy classes, discipleship, business skills training and job opportunities to some of the most vulnerable women in Africa, women who have been left to bear the brunt of war, poverty and disease.

Come and listen to Allen, a Watoto Graduate who was once orphaned and abandoned as she shares her testimony of growing up in the Watoto family. She will share her testimony of redemption, restoration, and the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. You're invited to this special event where you'll have the opportunity to meet two remarkable women, Allen and also Ritah, and hear their incredible stories of how their lives were transformed by the love of Jesus.

Refreshments available! Although there is no charge for this event, an offering will be taken to contribute towards the work of Watoto. There will also be the opportunity to purchase beautiful merchandise made by the talented Watoto Neighbourhood women.

Thursday club
The next meeting is on 20th November at 1.30pm. This time it's the 101 club game: lots of fun and letting off steam in this episode. The EP school choir will sing for us too. Also final payments for the Christmas meal are due: £24 for two courses or £28 for 3.

Lanchester Wildlife Group
'First Steps on Eight Legs'. Ian Beddison who is a forensic scientist, and great photographer will be sharing his interest in Harvestmen, the long-legged relatives of true spiders that are so often ignored. He says that he will try not to spook the arachnophobes too much. Tuesday 11th November, 7.30 pm, Lanchester Community Centre. Admission Free. All are welcome. LWG hopes that any arachnophiles in the village will join us in this special meeting. Please phone or message Noel Jackson on 07786332465 for more details if needed.
WI

The next meeting is on Monday December 1st at 7pm in Lanchester Community Centre, and is the Members' Christmas Party.

Musical Memories
MUSICAL MEMORIES OF REMEMBRANCE: Join us for music, refreshments and fun activities.
5th November 2024 @ 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.

Flower Club
Our meeting on Wednesday 22nd October will be a social afternoon. Everyone welcome, £5 entrance for non-members. We will be holding our open afternoon meeting on Saturday 22nd November 2025 in Lanchester Community Centre main room. The demonstrator will be Linda Fraser, her theme "Fantastically Festive." Tickets £7 from Lestrine Kelly or Helen Tomlinson. You can also pay at the door the day of the event.

Friends of Longovicium
Our next meeting is on Thursday 23 October in the upstairs room in the community centre, 7.30pm - 9pm.
If you would like to join the Friends of Longovicium, or if you have information you think the group would find useful, please contact Mrs M Williams Tel: 01207 520063 or Rodney Hawkins Tel: 0191 4103472, Email: hawkins_15@sky.com, Facebook – Friends of Longovicium.

Willow Burn Hospice events
To find out more information or to book a place at an event, please see www.willowburnhospice.org.uk/our-events, or call 01207 529 224 (ask for Ali English).

Wreath Making Workshop with Simply Blooms
Willow Burn Hospice, Thursday 27 November at 6pm.
Tickets £38 per person including a glass of fizz and a light supper.

Nurses Christmas Fair
Willow Burn Hospice, Saturday 29 November 11am - 2pm.
Free entry, everyone welcome.

Luxury Cracker Making Workshops
Willow Burn Hospice, Thursday 4 December at 6pm or Monday 8 December at 2pm
Tickets £30 per person including a glass of fizz and a light supper.

Light Up a Life
Remembrance Service
All Saints Catholic Church, Kitswell Road, Lanchester, Sunday 7 December at 2pm
Everyone is welcome. 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. If you would like to remember your loved one(s) with a dedication in our Light Up a Life Book of Remembrance, please contact Ali at Willow Burn: 01207 529 224 / aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk before 7 November.

Library
Library Book Club
On Monday November 24th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing 'Homecoming' by Bernhard Schlink. 'It is a story of fathers and sons, men and women, war and peace. It reveals the humanity that survives the trauma of war and the ongoing possibility for redemption' (Goodreads). An appropriate book for November.
Thursday Book Club
On Thursday November 20th from 4.00-5.00pm, 'Mr Tambourine Man' by Graham Whalan is the reading book for this group. A 'rite of passage' story set in the 1960's and I think you will have Bob Dylan's song in your head while reading this! If you would like to join this group, pop into the library and speak to the librarians.

Pins and Needles will meet up on November 6th 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.

Book Loan Reminders.
Did you know that you can ask Crystal, our librarian, to put a reminder on your library ticket when your books are due? It is very useful, getting an email reminder. Ask at the library.

Paradiso Social Club
CHILD OF GRACE (2014): NOVEMBER 9th
A mystery/thriller, starring Maggie Elizabeth Jones and 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.
Lanchester Community Centre. 7pm refreshments and raffle. Film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £4, Non-members : £5. Annual membership: £5

Local History Society
We will be meeting on Friday 7th November to hear from Julian Harrop about "A forgotten North East photographer - Charles Nicol of Jesmond". Then on Friday 5th December we are into the festive season and our social night. Over some light refreshments there will be a quiz with a historical theme, hopefully generating some friendly hysteria. Join us for either or both events in the Community Centre Room 3. Things start at 7.00 but we advise arriving about 6.45 to ensure you can get in through the security system.

City Theatre
"Lucky Numbers" by Mike Yeaman (comedy) will be on at The City Theatre, Durham, from Sun 23rd of November until Sat 29th. Nana has a winning lottery ticket, but where is it? The family schemes to find it but Nana has a hidden agenda. Tickets from The Durham Gala box office on 03000266600 or www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk and follow the link for tickets. £9.50

each. Concessions £8.50 Sun/Mon/Tues. Performances Sun 2.30 pm, Mon-Fri 7.30, Sat 2.30.

Lunch Club - Cuppa and a chat
The next meeting of the lunch club held at Lynwood House will be 11th November, 12pm start, all welcome.

Social Club
NOVEMBER 1st
KELLY DIVINE
NOVEMBER 8th
DEBBIE TAYLOR
NOVEMBER 15th D PATTERSON
NOVEMBER 22nd
SUSAN FEEGAN
NOVEMBER 29th
MICHAEL WALTERS

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.

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. To book please visit 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 on the 2nd Wednesday 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).

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.

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

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.

Sewing Group
Every Wednesday, 1-3pm at Lanchester Community Centre. We are a small friendly group with space to grow into. We enjoy sewing, knitting, crochet, embroidery and cross stitch - as well as having a cuppa and a biscuit and sometimes cake! There is chatting and a laugh. Starting Wednesday 10th September. We do have to pay for room hire after 10th September. For more information ring Elaine 01207 520063. If no reply, please leave your name and number and Elaine will get back to you. Looking forward to meeting you and for you to join us.

Community Centre News

Here is your latest news from your Community Centre.

Car Parking
The new term has started. Our **private car park** is now used daily in the morning and afternoon for cars to drop off and pick up children. We are happy that the Community Centre can provide a safe environment for this, however, the car park continually needs repair and attention and obviously there is a cost attached to that. The Friends of Lanchester Community Centre provides us with a way to maintain the car park. For just £24 a year you get a sticker and our thanks. Please call into the office for further details.

What's coming:

- **80's Night** which will be held on October 25th. We have the wonderful Miranda Newton singing all the great 80's tracks, there will be a bar, dancing and included in your £12.50 ticket, is a delicious chilli and jacket potato supper. The Spar are very kindly donating the ingredients for the supper and Stuart from the Community Cafe will be cooking it for us. Please come along, get dressed up, have a great night!
- **Christmas Fayre** on November 8th, 9am to 1.30pm. Santa will be visiting between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along and support us, it is a fundraiser for the Centre. There will be lots of great stalls plus lunches and refreshments will be available.

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 brilliant activities or clubs available please get in touch on 01207 521275.

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 new QR code (above) for our website.

Marie Murphy

Thursday Club

This sunny afternoon has been fun filled with story telling by Glynis Granger. She has a wonderful way to unfold characters and scenes from our history. Her audience were spellbound as she recounted history that she has gleaned from several record books and accounts of life during the Second World War.

We heard about the life of Virginia Hall, a tall fresh-faced young woman with long hair, who became an S.O.E for the secret service. She had accidentally shot her own foot while practicing using a shotgun. This sadly was not treated properly, and she eventually lost a large portion of her leg. In those days the prosthetic replacements were not so good, and she was given a wooden leg. She called this leg Cuthbert!

As an American she had easier movement in France with her cover story as an American reporter until America was drawn into the war. She used many disguises and dragged herself through the Pyrenees to safety.

Eventually her efforts were recognised and she was one of the first members of America's CIA.

More than 30 ladies enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment and we finished with the raffle and a nice cup of tea or coffee.

The next meeting is November the 20th. The EP school choir are coming to sing for us.

Visitors are always welcome

Jan Vasey

Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

Our meeting was held on the 24th September in Lanchester Community Centre. Our demonstrator is well known to the club and is also Chairperson, of the Northumberland and Durham Area, of National Association of Flower Arrangers Society. Val's theme was "Autumn Odysseys". Val once again thrilled us with her chatter while producing some wonderful arrangements. The attendance was 31 which was members and friends so an excellent turn out. The arrangements were raffled so many attendees went home very happy. A lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all. Tea, coffee and biscuits were served.

Our meeting on Wednesday 22nd October will be a social afternoon. Everyone welcome, £5 entrance for non-members. We will be holding our open afternoon meeting on Saturday 22nd November 2025 in Lanchester Community Centre main room. The demonstrator will be Linda Fraser, her theme "Fantastically Festive." Tickets £7 from Lestrine Kelly or Helen Tomlinson. You can also pay at the door the day of the event.

It is with great sadness that the November meeting will be our final meeting. Due to declining membership numbers, rising flower and demonstrators' costs, we will be closing the Flower Club doors. It is a very sad time as the club has been going for 52 years. Helen Tomlinson and Maureen Clarkson have been with the club from the beginning. Helen was Chairperson for a great deal of those years. Maureen was also a committee member for much of those years. Lanchester Flower Club owes these ladies a big thank you.

Lestrine Kelly



Boys' Brigade

The BB season is underway with three sessions already gone. We have already held an evening when they designed an emoji for themselves. It was interesting how different some of these were (see photo below)..

This was followed by a bring a friend week, where we had four new recruits. We baked cakes which the majority ate and then played a series of indoor games organised by the senior lads.

Last week we had our very own Logan Smallwood with a very interesting talk about the 200th anniversary of the Railways followed by a railway knowledge quiz. I am sure you will all have read last month's Village Voice which had an article about Logan being the youngest Heritage Railways train driver in the UK. We are extremely proud of him as he has been a BB member for over 13 years.

In our next evening, we will learn more about the Boys' Brigade, its history and its current role in our village and beyond. We may be a small company in County Durham, but we are part of a worldwide organisation. It is the oldest uniformed organisation in the UK and possibly the world. Our object is as appropriate today as it was in 1883 when the Boys' Brigade was formed:

"The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self Respect and all that tends towards true Christian manliness."

If you have a boy who is 5 years or older and would like to join us, we would be pleased to see him.

Eric Hepplewhite



Monday Art Group

In September, the Monday Art Group welcomed back Megan Jones from the outreach team at Ushaw Historic House to lead us in a printing workshop. By impressing polystyrene sheets, we created designs which, when inked, gave us vivid, and sometimes surprising, results. Megan had brought all the necessary papers, inks and rollers and members enjoyed the session which was a little different from our usual activities.

If you'd like to join the group, contact tojimrafferty@yahoo.com.

You'll be very welcome.

Jim Rafferty



WI News

At our meeting on Monday 1 September, 37 members and 2 visitors were welcomed.

Marie gave details of upcoming events then we listened to our speaker for the evening, David Hastings BEM. David has been fundraising for the RNLI for 48 years and is branch secretary of the RNLI's Durham Fundraising Branch. He told us of the history of the RNLI from its inception in 1824 through to today. It was a very interesting and informative talk. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Come and join us, it will be lovely to see you.

Marie Murphy



Photo David Hastings BEM. RNLI Fundraiser

WI Fashion Show

We held a fashion show on Saturday 6 September at Lanchester Social Club, what a fun event it was, lots of laughter, great models and lots of shopping opportunities! There was a fabulous raffle with lots of brilliant prizes that had been very kindly donated by our local businesses, a huge 'THANK YOU' to them all.

From the proceeds of the show, we were able to donate £200 to both Willow Burn and to St Cuthbert's Hospices. In addition to this there was a donation box on the refreshment table that raised £74, so an additional £37 to each of the hospices.

Thank you to everyone that came along and supported this event and to Ross, Lanchester Social Club, for allowing us to hold the event at the Club, very much appreciated.

Marie Murphy



Photo of models with the host for the evening

Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

We have all enjoyed a great month back in school – it is always good to get back into the routine and structure of school life. It has been very exciting for us all as we welcomed the first two-year-olds into our wonderful Nursery. They have settled brilliantly and what a lovely room our staff have created with so many wonderful activities to keep them busy during the day. From water to sand, to paint and chalk, to stories and nursery rhymes – they are all being kept very active. I am sure they must sleep well on a night time – children and staff alike!

Our Reception cohort are just fabulous! What a lovely group of children they are, running into school ready for the new challenge of every day. Last week, they came into school clutching their vegetables ready to make soup – they loved that – even though the whole area smelled of nothing but onions and leeks!

The best part of September has to be our Welcome Services for our Reception classes. Each Reception child is partnered with a Year 6 buddy – chosen after they spend time playing together so we can see who gravitates towards each other. These are very special friendships which develop over the year and it is lovely to see them start to look out for each other in the dinner hall when they are on lunch at the same time. The Year 6 children also thoroughly enjoy playing with them when they go down to their classrooms!

At the Welcome Services, the Year 6 children welcome their buddy to the school, talk a little about them and give them a gift of wildflower seeds. They also write a message of support for their buddy. One Year 6 child wrote, 'I hope you flourish just like I have during my time at the EP.'

Our first residential of the year takes place at the start of October when our Year 5 children head to our partner school in Birchwood, Tamworth. I know they will have a great time when they visit The National Space Centre and Cadbury World. Meanwhile, Year 2 had a very enjoyable day at Hartlepool Marina at the Trincomalee while Year 3 had a very interesting day at the Great North Museum and Captain Chemistry has spent two days working with Year 4 and Year 5.

I am sure that all these opportunities and experiences we give our children help them to reach the very high academic standards they achieve when they leave our school.

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher

Photos below Reception class with their year1 buddies





Margaret Matthews

It was a real shock to the whole school community of Lanchester EP School when we heard of the very sad news about the death of Mrs Margaret Matthews on Monday 29th September 2025. Margaret was a much-loved member of our school community and devoted many hours of her time to helping both support and challenge our school to be the very best it can. Margaret was a Foundation Governor, appointed back in 2007 by All Saints' Church. For 14 years, she has given her time and energy freely to support the life of our school. She loved seeing the children flourish and they gave her such great joy and happiness. Her care, wisdom and kindness were all attributes of her that we truly cherished. Margaret will be deeply missed, not just as a governor, but as a great friend to our whole school community. She served on every committee and rarely missed a meeting, such was her commitment. Our heartfelt thoughts are with her family at this very difficult time. Thank you, Margaret, for such great dedication. We will do our best to continue to make you proud and ensure that your legacy to our school lives on.

Rest in peace Margaret.

All Saints' Catholic Primary School

Since returning to school as a family in September, we have been in the midst of showing families around who want to join our Nursery or Reception Class in 2026. We are thrilled to open our doors.
Between our nine teachers, we have 145 years of teaching experience (and this doesn't include our marvellous teaching assistants or my experience, as Head Teacher). This experience ensures our staff are effective, experts in their field and happy within their job! The only teaching staff who tend to leave All Saints' are for promotion or retirement. We are proud to offer an ambitious curriculum to our pupils and, due to this, they achieve exceptionally well.
At All Saints', we can also offer nurturing class sizes which allow us to know each and every pupil intimately. Our class sizes range from 16 – 32 and all pupils know each other. We celebrate together, learn together and play together.
We make the most of our extensive school grounds (large yard with play area, an additional multi use games area, a running track, an outdoor classroom, a prayer area, a garden and a large field which contains equipment for the children to play and build with and an area for our EYFS pupils to enjoy their outdoor 'Welly Wednesday').
Across the course of their time here, pupils experience a range of visits, educational experiences and workshops as well as three residential opportunities: one in Year Four, one in Year Five; and one in Year Six. Each year, by October, we inform all families of the visits/workshops/residentials that are planned for the year in the hopes that this helps with financial planning.
We have so much to offer our pupils and families: this is appreciated by our school community by the strong relationships, positive feedback and local support we receive.
We have been praised for our results in summer 2025 and for also being an inclusive school (CSI and Ofsted inspections 2025); we welcome all families – you do not have to be Catholic to attend All Saints'!
To book an individual visit with me for Reception 2026, for admissions to our Nursery or across our school, please do not hesitate to get in touch. It will be a privilege to show you around:
01207 520435 asl@asl.bwcet.com

Frances Stephenson
Head Teacher



Football practice year 6 boys



African drumming in year 3



Wheelchair basketball

Purple Haze – Part 3



Skin Crawlers is just like Goosebumps for kids aged 5 and up. All Skin Crawlers books are standalone and can be read in any order. By local Lanchester author – Matthew James.
Below is an extract from Purple Haze – Book 5 in Skin Crawlers Series of books by Matthew James. Available on Amazon Kindle, paperback and on Amazon Kindle Unlimited.
Last time, Lavender discovered a portal that began to open right in front of her in school!
Lavender walked forward slowly, the swirling purple mist where the whiteboard had been was frightening. Why couldn't anyone else see it?
She stood near the front and to the side of the whiteboard, not daring to look back. Lavender could feel a pull, a sort of energy radiating from it.
Maybe she was going insane?
Trembling, her eyes watering and feeling sick, Lavender stood in front of the class and couldn't speak. All she could think about was the purple swirling haze behind her. It wanted her near it.
"Go on, tell us your name and something special?" Mrs. Kennedy was really getting annoyed now.
Still, nobody seemed to notice the vortex behind Lavender. The rest of the class were laser focused on her, their eyes unmoving. Some were still smirking, not bothering to hide their sniggers.
The portal was swirling, it didn't seem to make any noise, but Lavender could sense movement. As if the portal was pulling at her, closer and closer for her to be reeled in and swallowed up.
"I erm…" she tried, her throat closing and mouth feeling dry. The laughter around her continued. "I…May I be excused?"
Mrs. Kennedy looked furious but nodded. "Please come back here right afterwards, Miss Amobi."
Lavender left the classroom and out into the corridor. She didn't even know where the bathrooms were, but she had to get out of there!
She daren't look back as she didn't want to see the portal again. What was happening to her? Why was she the only one who could see it? What even was the portal?
Monstrous Mobiles, the first book in Skin Crawlers is free on Amazon Kindle for a limited time! Grab your copy from Amazon now. Please follow my Instagram for more information: Instagram.com/matthewjamesauthor

St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

A Joyful Return to School

As the autumn term gets underway, we are thrilled to welcome back our students after the summer break. The energy and enthusiasm they've brought into the classrooms and corridors have been truly uplifting. From the very first day, it was clear that our young learners were ready to embrace the new academic year with positivity, curiosity, and a strong sense of community. Teachers have been especially impressed by the way students have settled back into routines, supported one another, and engaged wholeheartedly with their learning. Whether it's lively discussions in history lessons, creative projects in art, or teamwork on the sports field, the spirit of collaboration and commitment has been evident across the school. We are proud of how our students have adapted and grown, and we look forward to seeing their continued progress throughout the term.

We also want to extend our thanks to parents and carers for their ongoing support. Your encouragement and involvement play a vital role in helping our students thrive, and we are grateful for the strong partnership between home and school.

With such a strong start to the term and inspiring achievements already taking place, we are excited about what lies ahead. There are many events and opportunities on the horizon—from enrichment activities and school trips to festive celebrations and academic milestones.

We encourage all students to continue striving for excellence, supporting one another, and making the most of every moment. Let's carry this momentum forward and make this term one to remember.

Thank you once again to our students, families, and wider community for your continued support and encouragement.

Amazing Artwork

We are delighted to announce that Leyla in Yr12 has won this year's Christmas card design competition with her stunning artwork titled *"Manger in the Mountains."* Leyla's design stood out for its originality, warmth, and thoughtful depiction of the nativity scene nestled in a serene mountain landscape. Her use of colour and detail beautifully captures the peaceful spirit of Christmas.

As part of her prize, Leyla's winning design will be professionally printed and sold in parish shops across the community this festive season. This is a wonderful achievement, and we are incredibly proud of her. Leyla's success is a testament to the creativity and talent we see in our students every day, and we hope her work brings joy to many homes this Christmas. You can purchase Leyla's card by following the QR code.



Catherine Hammill
Head Teacher

Father Vernatius's Induction

We held a very special service and mass on Friday evening the 26th September. It was Father Vernatius's induction to become Parish Priest of All Saints and St Teresa's Church. A very auspicious evening. Many priests and deacons and parishioners and friends attended the official ceremony. The Dean of Sunderland and Durham, Father Andrew, officiated the formal part of the induction ceremony on behalf of Bishop Stephen Wright. The full mass was then officiated by Father Vernatius. Father Charles attended as a fellow priest but also as Father Vernatius's friend. We look forward to many happy and successful years with Father Vernatius as our Parish Priest.

We then all enjoyed tea, coffee and light refreshments in the Parish Centre with lots of laughter and friendship.





Lestrine Kelly

Community Ceilidh

The Lanchester Partnership is hosting a community Ceilidh on Saturday 15th November at Lanchester Social Club - doors open at 7pm. This event has something for all ages: dancing, music, a raffle, food, and great company. Ceilidhs are a fantastic opportunity to let your hair down and have fun with family and friends of all ages. It doesn't matter if you haven't done it before, the Colpitts Ceilidh Band will give detailed instructions, and more experienced dancers will be there to support you. And if you're not as mobile as you once were, come along to enjoy the music, a chance to win prizes in the raffle and good company while supporting the work of Lanchester Partnership in your local community.

Everyone is asked to bring some of their favourite food for a shared buffet table. The Social Club bar offers affordable drinks and there's plenty of free parking.

"We are very grateful to the Partnership's Village Vita team who organise social events in the village including the Paradiso Club, live recording of the Christmas lights switch on and Christmas Trail, coffee mornings and this Ceilidh. These provide a wonderful cultural and community service as well as raising funds to support the other valuable work we do." Henry Edwards, Chair of Trustees, Lanchester Partnership.



Tickets are £10 for adults and £2.50 for children and are available from Ged at Lanchester Hardware, Lanchester Social Club and by emailing contact@lanchesterpartnership.org.uk

Helen McCree

Lanchester Bowling Club

Great Bowls and a Fly Past Too!

The club held its annual internal cup competitions on the weekend of the 6th and 7th September.
Three matches were played on Saturday. Like most of the season, the green was very hard and fast, and this certainly helped Adrian Evans in his game against Paul Hammond Junior. Paul is an infrequent bowler and never really got the hang of the green. Adrian, however, played really well and ran out victor to become the club champion for the first time.
Also played on Saturday was the handicap final between Richard Hall and Andy Travis. Andy started with a one shot advantage, but a tight game swung one way then the other with both players playing some excellent bowls. After a long, tight game Richard eventually ran out the winner.
Andy also had a game to play on Saturday afternoon when he contested the three wood final against John Vickery. Yet again the match was an enjoyably tight affair with both bowlers playing some accurate bowls. Unlike in his match in the morning, Andy managed to cling on and was crowned three wood champion.
The Sunday matches included the two woods final between Keith Brown and the club's new champion, Adrian Evans. This match is played over twenty-one ends and, because each player only bowls two woods, is a very quick game. Adrian started as he'd played the previous day and took an early lead. Keith soon found his form, however, and began to pull back. The lead see-sawed, but on the final end Keith, who was doing better on long jacks, put in a short one and Adrian took advantage to win his second trophy.
Just before the start of the afternoon pairs final the Red Arrows graced us with their presence, flying low over the ground. A fitting start to a good game of bowls.
As with most of the games, the pairs final was a tight affair with some excellent bowling despite the match ending in heavy rain. Jimmy Dearden and Ian Murray played against Andy Travis and John Vickery. All players played well, but Andy was in tremendous form, putting in some accurate woods as lead. It was these woods that allowed John and Andy to take control and eventually win the trophy.
All the weekend matches were well supported, and thanks must go to Sally Laverick for supplying hot drinks on a chilly Sunday afternoon.
The final match - the Challenge Trophy - had to be played on the following Tuesday. Richard Hall took on Ron Irwin, who only joined us this season.
The first ends were tight until the score was five each and then Richard's experience and recent good form took over and he played some good woods to win his second trophy.
The weekend was a fitting end to the season. Well done to all who got to the finals and especially to those who won.

Bob Cuthbertson



Paul Hammond Jnr and Adrian Evans the eventual winner of the club championship.



Andy Travis and Ian Murray playing in the rain.



Andy Travis and Richard Hall

Please support our Village Voice advertisers, and mention the Village Voice when using their services!

If you would like to advertise in the Village Voice for as little as £30 per month, and delivered to over 2700 homes in the area...please contact:

lanchestervvadverts@gmail.com

DAVISONS

Clothing



New Autumn stock now landed, come and compare our prices

Front Street, Leadgate
01207 502355

Talking Heads

Est 23years

Unisex Hair Salon

QUALITY CARE FOR YOU AND YOUR HAIR

Ring Jeni

for an appointment

01207 520 926

LANCHESTER DAIRIES LTD

PASTEURISED FULL AND LOW FAT MILK - FRESH CREAM - ALL DAIRY PRODUCE

01207 521826

Fresh Milk Daily





SAI GLOBAL Food Safety

EFSIS

Cricket Round Up

The final three weeks of the season saw the firsts lose to bottom of the table Eppleton, beat Tynedale and lose to Seaham Harbour but they did win the Hedworth Williamson Cup! The results left the first to finish in sixth. Following the departure of Reuben Du Toit, the firsts were well beaten at Eppleton, despite Jordan Grosert taking 4-44 and John Meadows continuing his fine run with 74. Against Tynedale, Lanchester made 289-9 in their 45 overs, John Meadows racking up a third century with 113 off just 69 balls and 71 by Jamie Dass. Tynedale were fighting to avoid relegation but three wickets each from Callum Barnes and Kieran Gohery saw them off.
In the final game, Lanchester travelled to Seaham where victory for the hosts would see them promoted. After Meadows was out for 44, the final two wickets put on 100 to give the side a chance, Jordan Grosert finishing unbeaten on 48. However, Harbour didn't let their promotion chance slip and won by 8 wickets.
The second team lost their remaining league games with Eppleton, Burnmoor and Seaham Harbour. Eppleton racked up too many runs and Lanchester were in trouble but John McGilvray scored 85 from number 6, while 15 year old Alfie Armstrong batted resolutely for 30. Against Burnmoor, the side put on 178 thanks to 58 from Dan Scott and 36 from Jack Slane but it was never enough as Burnmoor cantered home by six wickets. In their final game with Seaham Harbour, they posted a decent total of 221 but when rain affected the Harbour innings, a simplified rain score gave Harbour plenty of time to rack up the win. Dan Scott top scored with 42 and Jack Slane took 3-22. The side finished eighth, but this was a young team who more will be expected of next year.

Hedworth Williamson Finals Day

On the last day of August. It was a different story on the Hedworth Williamson Finals Day. Harbour had a brilliant win in their semi final chasing down 205 against Hetton Lyons, whilst Lanchester faced hosts Whitburn. Batting first Lanchester made 155-7 with opening pair, Jamie Dass making 46 and John Meadows 36. It was wondered if this was enough following the high scoring first match but Lanchester then bowled Whitburn out for 142 with all the bowlers contributing. Kieron Taylor took 3 wickets but also took 3 catches and Kieran Gohery took 3- 28. The final two wickets were run outs as the pressure mounted.
Lanchester opted to bat first in the final and raced to 132-1 from 14 overs when the heavens opened. Once more Meadows and Dass were on form with Meadows making 78 from 44 balls and Dass 48 not out from 39 balls. Under Duckworth-Lewis, Harbour were set a target of 161 from 20 overs but were never in the hunt as they were hurried out for just 86 in just 11.3 overs in a stunning win. Kieran Gohery took 3-19 and Jamie Dass 3-23 with Callum Barnes finishing the tail with 2-10. The club last won this competition in 2019 but have reached Finals Day twice in that time.

Andrew McConnell



The winners of the Hedworth Williams Cup. Picture with the team is George Wilkinson, the club's elder statesman and Farun McPhail, son of the team manager Stu McPhail

Tennis News

Part two of the LLTC tournament took place on Sunday 7th September, another beautiful sunny day for the men of the club to battle it out on the tennis courts.
The first game was between two of our strongest players, Tom Sharp and Dougal Reed, taking part in the final of the Men's Singles. An excellent game between these two, ending in a well-deserved victory for Tom the defending champion, but can he make it a hat-trick in 2026…watch this space!
This game was closely followed by some outstanding tennis in the Men's Doubles finals, Adam Plumpton and James Gray versus Dennis (tennis) Laycock and Dougal Reed, this was a 3 set scorcher! Thoroughly enjoyed by the audience, and the players, Dougal and Dennis eventually winning and taking home the trophy.
After this excitement, we all needed a much-deserved cup of tea and cake in the clubhouse!
Many thanks to all the competitors, spectators and organisers who helped to make our LLTC Tournament 2025 such a great success.
Competition time was also in full swing for those taking part in our juniors and seniors coaching programme this year. Competition, and great fun for all, was facilitated by our ever enthusiastic coaches Adam Parker and Dennis Laycock. All junior participants received a medal. Noah Hunter and Matthew Gray received the winners trophies, with "most improved" players taking part in the coaching programme this year went to sisters, Lucy and Jessica Nelson...well done girls!
During this event we also took the opportunity to catch up with Laura Turnbull Lloyd to award her with the trophy for the "most improved" club player 2025...well done Laura!
The summer season coaching may have come to an end, but junior and senior coaching will continue into the winter months undercover, at Croft View Hall, Lanchester. If you would like to take part in the coaching programme as a beginner or improver, please contact LLTC on lanchestertennis@gmail.com

Barbara Ridley



Children taking part in the coaching competition



Children with their coaching certificates for the summer season.



Tennis Dennis and Dougal winners of the doubles 2025



Laura (most improved player 2025) with Barbara Ridley and Jack on the spacehopper.



Tennis medals for all the children in the coaching competition above and cover



Lucy and Jessica Nelson



Tennis Men's doubles competitors - Dougal & Dennis v's Adam & James



Noah Hunter and Michael Gray



Tom with his men's singles winners trophy, and Dougal with his runner up trophy



Left The polished trophies ready for presentation.

Published by Lanchester Publications Ltd, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB
The views expressed in this periodical are not necessarily those of the publishers. Whilst all efforts are made to check the authenticity, and accuracy of all articles submitted for publication, occasionally something is bound to be printed incorrectly. Please let us know, and we will endeavour to correct the mistake.