# the Village Voice

Issue No 8, Volume 26

Lanchester, August 2026









## More summer activities!!

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## Preserving the North East's Heritage – John and Rosy Gall






Few people have contributed more to preserving the heritage of County Durham than John and Rosy Gall.

Born at Hollinside Farm, Lanchester, John Gall grew up with a love of farming, history and music. After studying Physics and Maths at Hull University, he worked in industry before joining the newly established Beamish Museum in the early 1970s. There he met fellow historian Rosy Allan, one of the museum's very first employees. Together they spent almost four decades helping to build Beamish into one of the country's leading open-air museums. John went on to become Director of Museum Services, while Rosy, as Senior Keeper, played a key role in developing the museum's collections, research and publications. Their work helped preserve the traditions, industries and everyday lives of the North East for future generations.

Following retirement, the couple returned to Hollinside Farm, where they painstakingly restored the historic farmhouse and surrounding buildings. Their research revealed the property's origins as **Hollinside Hall**, dating back to the 17th century, while restoration uncovered remarkable historic features, including an early 18th-century fireplace and Roman stonework linked to the nearby fort at Longovicium.

John also transformed the gardens using reclaimed historic stonework from across the region, while together they created **The Goose House**, a beautifully restored farm building that has become a unique venue for music, exhibitions and community events.

A founder member of the Lanchester History Society and a lifelong champion of the region's heritage, John has dedicated his life to ensuring the stories, buildings and traditions of County Durham are preserved for generations to come. Together, John and Rosy have left an enduring legacy, not only through their work at Beamish but also through their remarkable restoration of one of Lanchester's most historic homes.




## Karate in Lanchester

Karate is far more than kicks and punches. It is a martial art that develops discipline, confidence, respect, fitness, and self-control while teaching practical self-defence skills.

At Seiken Ryu Karate Association, students train in the Shukokai style, a system founded on continuous improvement and the efficient use of movement and power. Established in 1975, Seiken Ryu has helped thousands of people develop both as martial artists and as individuals. Leading classes in Lanchester, Deerness Valley, and Esh is 4th Dan instructor Simon Rayner, who has trained with SRKA since 2008. As an experienced competitor, referee, and instructor, Simon is passionate about helping students of all ages build confidence, develop skills, and achieve their goals.

Whether you're looking to improve fitness, learn self-defence, compete, or simply try something new, there's a place for you on the dojo floor.







## Three generations of dairy farming – and counting!

For almost 60 years, the Bradley family has farmed the land around Lanchester, although their dairy farming story began even earlier in Langley Park. Today, Graeme and Hillary are passing the reins to their son Matthew and his partner Ellie, ensuring the family's proud farming tradition continues.

Home to the 'Langpark Herd' of more than 280 pedigree Holstein cattle, the farm is a hive of activity all year round, with animal welfare and sustainable farming at the heart of everything they do. Local team members Olivia Morris and Jamie Ferry also play an important role in keeping the dairy running smoothly.

The future is already taking shape too, with young Laurie happily helping to bring the cows in for milking. It seems the next generation of the Bradley family is already learning the values of hard work, dedication and caring for the land.

A wonderful local farming story that spans generations.







Photos and words by George Ledger including cover photos.

## A day fit for Royalty for KoGs Leaders!

Laura and Pete Cole who are in charge of Lanchester Methodist Church's youth group "KoGs" have recently had the privilege of attending the Royal Garden Party at Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh, on Tuesday 30th June 2026.

They received the invitation after being anonymously nominated for their services to voluntary youth work within the church.

Laura, who started the group alongside her best friend at age 15, has now been running KoGs every Monday (during term times) for 19 years. Pete, who married into the group after being recruited by Mervyn Burdon (Laura's Dad) to become a leader, has been helping run it for 17 years.

They had an absolutely incredible day and it has left them with memories they will cherish forever. The Gardens and Palace were breathtakingly beautiful, the food and other refreshments were divine and the overall atmosphere was indescribable.

From the two brass bands, traditional bagpipers, the royal archers and of course the King himself, the whole day was a truly unforgettable experience.

Both Laura and Pete would like to say a HUGE thank you to all who made this amazing day an opportunity and a memory they will always cherish.

To our anonymous nominator - we do not have the words for how truly grateful we are and how much we appreciate the help, love and support you have all given us to make this happen.

Finally, none of this would have been possible at all without the man who inspired Laura's journey and love for youth work and encouraged her to make it happen, her dad Mervyn. Laura has watched her dad for 35 years in various voluntary youth working roles.

From Boys' Brigade officer and Company Captain to Oxhill Youth Club, football teams, cricket clubs, Pantomimes, hockey coaching, all the way to Christian youth work, he has more than an incredible 45 years in youth work and she is so thankful to be following in his footsteps.

Once again to you all, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

***Laura and Pete Cole*** *(Photo on the cover)*

## KoGs

We are currently on a break for the summer holidays at the moment.

But don't panic – we will be back VERY soon, Monday the 7th September to be exact!

When I tell you we have SO much coming up, I mean we have SO MUCH coming up!

We will be starting with 2 weeks of science with guest Speaker Roy Quinlan.

We have planned an evening session at Hall Hill Farm, a trip to Tynemouth Aquarium in October, our Festive Fundraiser on Saturday 28th November, our Christmas Party – this year themed to "Winter Wonderland", Christmas Movie Night, day trip to Sheffield to watch Sheffield Steelers ice hockey team in the New Year (you can blame Laura for this one!), KoGs! A 20 YEAR CELEBRATION event in April, our yearly residential to Seahouses 30th April – 3rd May 2027 and are planning to revisit our homeless awareness month we did a few years back with a Sleepout Fundraising event.

Our Festive Fundraiser tickets will be on sale from September and will take place at Lanchester Methodist Church on Saturday 28th November from 4:30pm.

They will be priced at £5 per child under 8 years and £8 per adult and can be bought via Laura and Pete – 07428500059, Kath Jones – 07704160449 or email us at Kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk

Each ticket includes homemade broth supper and bread roll, festive hot chocolates, teas and coffees, mince pies and gingerbread men. We will have light entertainment and will be showing the film 'The Nativity' after the meal.

We are very pleased to let you know we have opened up our books again and have a few spaces available if you would like to come along and give it a go!

At KoGs we offer a range of activities including: 2 course meals, games, messy games, day trips, evening trips, residential weekend trips, crafts, drama, cell sessions/ life skills and much much more!

We start at 5pm to 7.30pm, Mondays during school terms (and some half terms) at Lanchester Methodist Church for all ages 8 – 18 years!

The cost of the sessions is £3 per person weekly or £30 per person a term, but your first week is free!

All activities (excluding additional trips) and your weekly meal is included.

We are open to anyone who would like to join us, you don't have to have a religious background!

For more information contact Laura & Peter Cole on 07428500059 / 01207 654291 or email kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk

We also have a Facebook page if you'd like to see more or get in touch with us that way, www.facebook.com/kidsofgodlanchester

***Laura and Peter Cole***

The year in pictures, including cover shot.





## From the House

I have been out and about across the constituency and wanted to highlight some of the visits I have been on recently.

One such visit was to Kaffeehaus Coffee Roasters in Sacriston. Many of you will know owners Bernhard and Carina from when they ran Kaffeehaus Amadeus in Lanchester. During their years in the village, they delivered coffee workshops, tasting sessions and a range of activities for coffee enthusiasts. They continue to share their expertise through barista courses run from their Sacriston premises and roast coffee for customers across the UK.

I also had the opportunity to visit the South Causey Inn for lunch and a peek at its new spa. Just a stone's throw from Lanchester, the new development includes private spa areas for small groups. The new spa is a welcome addition to North Durham's visitor offer.

Elsewhere, I have been supporting our cadets at North Durham Academy and unveiled a new memorial at Stanley Park Care Home.

Alongside these visits, I continue to be contacted by residents about the GP services provided by Lanchester Medical Centre. I welcome the scrutiny undertaken by the Care Quality Commission, and it is reassuring to see that their inspection has resulted in an initial upgrade in the centre's rating. But this is still not good enough and as the local Member of Parliament, I will continue to support residents in calling for faster and stronger improvements to the GP service they receive.

I have also been out campaigning in Sacriston, Ouston and Chester-le-Street. As ever, it is great to meet constituents and make new connections. During one visit, I met the Treasurer of the Rotary Club of Chester-le-Street, which continues to do valuable work in the local community and is currently looking for new members.

Finally, I was delighted to read about Pip, a new café due to open on Percy Crescent in August. Pip will fill the gap left by Serendipity Café, which closed earlier this year, and I know many residents will welcome having a community venue back for coffee, cake and catch-ups. I look forward to visiting once it is open and wish the new owners every success.

I am aiming to hold my September advice surgery in Lanchester. Please contact me on luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk or call my office on 0191 371 8834 if you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss any issues or if there is anything I might be able to help with.

House of Commons



## From our Councillor

Dear residents,

Hope you have all had a great summer?

Typically there are no meetings at the council in August as staff and councillors take leave but I have been busy in the village. I note the most recent report by the Care Quality Commission into Lanchester Medical Centre, with some concern. I do welcome the improvements seen regarding patient care but I am still uneasy at the stressful and toxic working culture cited. In addition, the patient satisfaction survey was very worrying. I will continue to work with the PPG, to aim to bring sustained improvements and also increased choice.

Planning issues have also been a concern to many residents. I would urge you to have your say on the consultations over the County Durham Plan, which will shape what Lanchester and the county looks like over the coming years. There are drop in sessions available, advertised at the bottom of this article. Lanchester Parish Council is also about to begin work on the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan which is also crucial when it comes to the allocation of appropriate development in the ward. Also from October 31st, whilst elected members (councillors) will be able to speak for or against planning proposals, we will not be able to ask for them to be decided at the planning committee. This makes resident input into the plans even more crucial.

Thanks to all who gave feedback on the food waste bins. A huge number of you are managing with them well. They are better for the environment and will save DCC money, as the waste goes to a methane digester instead of landfill. If you have any questions about them please get in touch using alison.gray2@durham.gov.uk or telephone 07469 105096 / 03000 260 683

Best wishes,

***Alison Gray***

LANCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTRE

## Community Centre News

**Just a Reminder** - we no longer have a land line, our new mobile number is 07776 953016 - please use this number to contact us.

**What's coming up:**

**De-Stash sale** - September 19. 12 noon to 2.30pm. Come along and grab a bargain on crafting, fabrics, art essentials and lots more.

**Quilted Bag workshop** - September 19. 12 noon to 4pm. Kim Suleman will be hosting this lovely workshop. Cost is £25. Please ring the community centre to book your place.

**Food Festival** – 24 October, starting at 2pm. This year we will be getting involved in the village 'Food Week' by holding a food festival. There will be food stalls and entertainment. Keep an eye out for more details.

**Organising an event?**

Did you know we have meeting rooms and large halls available to hire? Contact the office and arrange to come in for a look around and see the great facilities we have to offer, we are bigger than you might think!

The office is staffed Monday and Wednesday 9am to 3pm. On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday it's 9am to 1:15pm. If you have any enquiries about the activities or clubs available, how to join our fantastic gym, or you want to know more about hiring our brilliant venue, please get in touch on 0777 695 301 or drop in and have a chat - it will be good to meet you!

To keep up to date with what's going on check out our Information Point, follow us on Facebook 'Lanchester Community Centre' or check out our website - https://lanchestercommunitycentre.com

**Alison Densham Smith**
**Community Centre Manager**

## Lanchester C of E

## Church Wives



Twenty two ladies set off by bus on the morning of the 11th July on our "2026 Away-Day" and what a great day we had! Our first stop was Preston Park Museum in Stockton. Not many ladies had visited before, and everyone was very impressed. As you can see, some of our members were visiting the Victorian Village shops, and took advantage of trying on some fancy hats, ready for the races. In the afternoon we set off again to join the Teesside Princess on a river trip sailing from Stockton to Yarm. We had a delicious afternoon tea, only costing £10 extra. Plus, we had a lady singer to entertain us. An excellent day topped off by Hazel and Eric Gaskill joining us on board. A real treat for Hazel to be able to socialize with everyone again. If any of the other village groups need new ideas then this day, I think, was one of our best and not too far away.

***Deanna Leyland***




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## Lanchester Parish Council

**Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7.00pm**

**Minutes** – Ordinary Meeting 9th June – approved

**Cadger Bank –** The owner of a plot of land on Cadger Bank attended the meeting to inform members of plans they had for the land – Members thanked them for informing the Parish Council, but no further comment could be made until a planning application was received

**Police Reports**

Clerk asked for a more detailed report from the PCSO and received a reply that stated a more detailed report could not be sent – Members instructed the Clerk to write a letter to our local PCSO and the Deputy PCC explaining how it is important the Parish Council are informed of local policing matters so members are able to answer concerns that residents may have

**Correspondence**

**Communities in Focus**

Members were asked their thoughts on a book being made of the photos taken of Lanchester – the book was supported on an individual level

**Oases – Summer Holiday Family Activities**

Members were asked to support the summer holiday family activities again this year – members agreed as long as dates and figures for the event were received

**Lanchester Allotments**

Members were updated about rats possibly coming into a resident's garden from the allotments – The Parish Council to monitor the situation closely with the Parish Council

**Wooden Animals**

Members were updated that the new wooden animals are scheduled to arrive in October

**County Durham Plan Scoping Consultation**

Members were updated on the consultation – Clerk to arrange a Special Meeting with our contact at Durham County Council and our consultant regarding Neighbourhood Plan

**Solar Planet Project**

The planning application is still waiting for approval.

**Park House/Bike Track/Village Green**

Councillors were updated on the site visit that took place with the Clerk and Councillors. An article has been sent to the Village Voice asking for residents' ideas on how to improve Park House Play Area and the Bike Track and Kitswell Park

**Civility and respect**

Councillors were given information regarding the Civility and respect campaign and pledge. Councillors were happy that they met the commitments of the pledge

**Financial report** – approved

**Accounts for Payment** – approved

**Chairperson's Announcement**

Demolition of stable buildings, erection of 98 dwellings (Use Class C3) and a retail unit (Use Class E), and associated landscaping, drainage and infrastructure - Land at Oakwood Stables, Durham Road, Lanchester – DM/26/01684/FPA – a letter of objection to be written and sent to Durham County Council

**Meetings are every second Tuesday of the month our next two meetings will be the 8th of September and the 13th of October**

## Volunteers Wanted for Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan Review

Lanchester Parish Council is beginning a review of the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan and is looking for local volunteers to help with this important work.

Neighbourhood plans need to be reviewed so that they remain up to date and continue to reflect local priorities, changes in the area and wider planning policy. The Parish Council now wants to bring together a group of residents who can contribute their time, knowledge and ideas to the review.

Volunteers from all backgrounds are welcome. The Council is particularly keen to hear from people who have knowledge or experience of neighbourhood plans, planning policies etc.

Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to contact the Clerk at Lanchester Parish Council by email at **clerk@lanchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk** or alternatively by telephone - **01207 520146**.

This is a practical opportunity to use your skills, experience and local knowledge to help ensure that the community continues to have a strong say in the future of Lanchester Parish.

## Help Shape the Council Plan

The consultation will run **until 23 September 2026** and seeks views on the ambitions, objectives and priorities of the Council Plan 2027–2031.

**Why are we consulting?**

The Council Plan is our main corporate planning document, setting out how we will provide the services that matter most to our communities over the next four years.

Following the adoption of the current Council Plan in October 2025, we are now reviewing the plan to ensure it continues to:

- Focus on the things that matter most to our communities
- Reflect changes that have taken place since last year
- Demonstrate how we will deliver efficient and effective services
- Ensure our ambitions and priorities remain the right ones for County Durham

We have also taken time to review our current Council Plan priorities. We have added further detail to some objectives to reflect new priorities, provide more information and give clarity to how we will achieve our ambitions.

**Building on previous engagement**

The current Council Plan was developed following extensive consultation with residents, partners and stakeholders.

More than **3,635 people** responded to the survey, alongside feedback from County Durham Partnership, our Local Networks, the voluntary and community sector, local councils, staff and other organisations.

This year's consultation will help us review and refresh those priorities, ensuring they continue to reflect the needs and aspirations of people across the county.

**What are we asking?**

We want feedback on our current ambitions, objectives and priorities and would like people to tell us:

- Whether there is anything missing or that needs more focus
- Whether there are changes in their community that should be reflected in the plan
- Their views on our approach to refreshing the Council Plan
- Any other comments they would like to make about the Council Plan

**How people can take part**

- Participants can:
- Complete the online survey at https://letstalkcountydurham.co.uk/en-GB/projects/council-plan-2027-2031
  - Pick up and return a paper survey from any County Durham library
  - Book a place at https://letstalkcountydurham.co.uk/en-GB/projects/council-plan-2027-2031 to attend one of our online events on:
    - 1 September 11am
    - 10 September 6pm
  - Email comments to **letstalkcountydurham@durham.gov.uk**

The consultation closes on **Wednesday 23 September 2026**.

## Volunteering Opportunities in Lanchester

Looking for a rewarding way to support your local community? Willow Burn Hospice, right here in Lanchester, is seeking volunteers for a variety of roles that help raise vital funds while supporting patients and families across County Durham.

**Join the Team at The Willows Café**

The much-loved Willows Café is set to reopen in mid-October and volunteers are needed from Tuesday to Saturday. The role involves welcoming customers, serving refreshments and helping create a warm, friendly atmosphere for visitors. Whether you can offer a regular few hours each week or occasional support throughout the month, this is a great opportunity to meet new people and be part of a welcoming team.

**Volunteer at Willow Burn Boutique**

The Willow Burn Boutique is also looking for volunteers from Tuesday to Friday. Front-of-house roles include greeting customers, assisting with sales, displaying stock and helping create an enjoyable shopping experience. These positions are ideal for anyone who enjoys working with people and contributing to a thriving community charity shop.

For those who prefer a behind-the-scenes role, the boutique is also seeking volunteers to support its growing online sales operation. Tasks include photographing items, creating online listings and helping manage digital sales. It's an excellent opportunity to gain retail and e-commerce experience while making a meaningful contribution.

Volunteering with Willow Burn Hospice is a chance to give back to your community, learn new skills and support an organisation that makes a real difference in this village every day.

**For more information, visit www.willowburnhospice.org.uk/volunteer or call into Willow Burn Boutique to pick up an application form.**

## Underwater archaeology talk



The **Friends of Longovicium** are delighted to announce a fascinating talk by **Gary Bankhead**, underwater archaeologist, author and Honorary Fellow in the Department of Archaeology at Durham University. Gary will be presenting:

**Roman Sunderland – Discovering a New Understanding of Sunderland's Past**
**Lanchester Community Centre – Main Hall, Thursday 24th September at 7.00pm**
**Admission: £5.00. Light refreshments will be available**

The talk will explore the remarkable discovery of a previously little-understood **Roman industrial hub on the banks of the River Wear at Offerton, near Sunderland**, which featured on the BBC television programme *Digging for Britain*.

Archaeological excavations at the site have uncovered **more than 800 whetstones** – stone bars used for sharpening bladed tools and weapons – along with **11 stone anchors**.

Whetstones were an essential part of everyday life in Roman Britain, playing an important role in domestic, commercial, agricultural, industrial, medical and military activities.

The extraordinary abundance and condition of the whetstones discovered at Offerton suggest that the site may have been a **major production centre serving a much wider area of Roman Britain**.

Gary's talk promises to reveal a fascinating new chapter in the history and archaeology of the North East, shedding light on the industrial activity taking place along the River Wear during the Roman period.

**Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there.**
**Friends of Longovicium**


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# Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

This academic year has been a very long, but highly successful one for our school. Our cohort of 58 Year 6 children left us on a real high after a very busy final week in school.
The final **Monday evening** our Year 6 cohort enjoyed a social





evening in school with a barbecue, water slide and games on the field which they all thoroughly enjoyed. What was really special about the evening was the number of staff there who came to enjoy some time with them all too. It was lovely to be able to step back and just watch them have such fun together – just enjoying being children…
On **Tuesday morning** we celebrated participating in a plethora of different sporting events over the year – many with great success – in our annual Sports Assembly. Many of our teams qualified for the county events with some amazing wins. However, what makes us most proud is the great sportsmanship our children show on a regular basis. Our children are often complimented for their great team spirit as well as being very good sports to the opposing teams.
We then enjoyed a wonderful barbecue on the final **Tuesday lunchtime**, thanks to our great kitchen team. Thankfully, the weather was kind to us this year and it meant we could all enjoy our lunch outside. Huge thanks to Mr Southern and his team for sweating it over the grills for almost 2 hours!
**Tuesday evening** brought many of us back to school for a wonderful celebration of musical talent prior to the choir performing the great cantata 'Of Mice and Mozart'. The children performed brilliantly while the adults sat back proudly, enjoying some Pimms and strawberries provided by The Friends of the School.
**Wednesday** was an action-packed day as we had our postponed sponsored walk in aid of Henry Dancer Days and Willowburn. The whole school walked along the line towards Knitsley (changing plans at the last minute due to St Bede's walking to Malton on the same day for their sponsored walk!) and enjoyed some time playing in the football



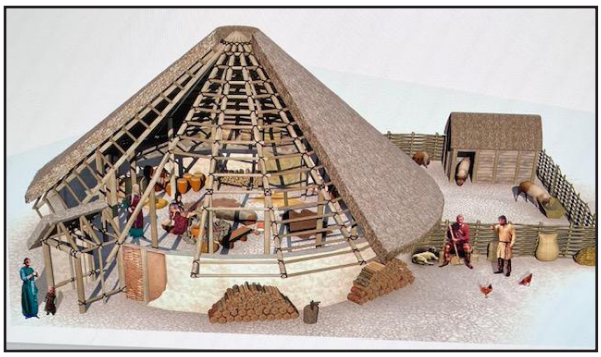

field too. We have yet to count all the money but will have raised over £2,000 which is simply staggering – and for two such good causes too.
We then had to return to school as we had a visit from 'Back Chat Brass' with Durham Brass Festival. Once again, they did not disappoint and we all enjoyed some topical football related music as well as other well-known songs which had the children (and adults) dancing in the playground. They really were superb!
Wednesday was also our beach trip for our Nursery children. All 2 and 3-year-olds enjoyed a super day out at Roker Beach where they thoroughly enjoyed playing in the sand, building sandcastles and paddling in the sea before enjoying an ice cream.
**Thursday afternoon** was the time for our traditional Year 6 Leavers' Service in All Saints' Church. As usual, the church was packed with our KS2 children and parents/carers. Tissues were at the ready for children, parents/carers and staff, as every single child in turn was celebrated and memories from staff shared. We presented our Rotary Club Citizenship to Freya and Jane Nattrass presented the Henry Dancer Award to Aiden. The Year 2 Rotary Club Citizenship Award was presented the following day to Kye as well. However, it was an afternoon to celebrate the uniqueness and talents of all children and to remember some of the special times over the course of their time with us.
We also said goodbye to Mrs Jadine Burke, who has been a class teacher with us for 12 years. She has taken early retirement and we wish her a long and very happy retirement.
**Friday morning** brought the highly-awaited Leavers' Assembly that is led by Year 6 and consists of a combination of pre-



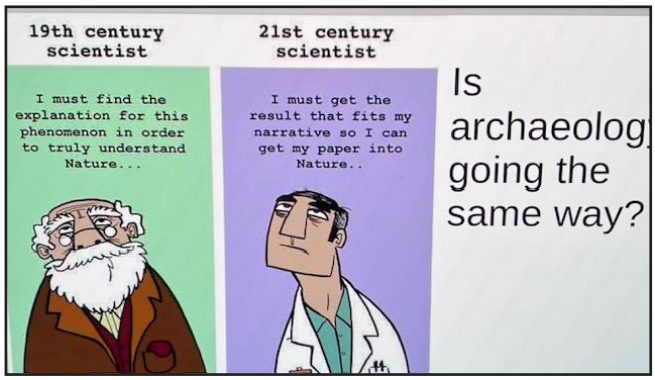
recorded videos (children posing as different staff members) and Year 6 leading it on the day. The theme of this assembly, which is now a bit of a tradition, is simply the children making fun of the staff – and they do this in style! This, combined with the Leavers' Video and First/Last Day at School photos makes for another emotional, but positive assembly – one which is enjoyed by children, parents/carers and staff alike.
**Friday afternoon** saw another tradition of the Ice Cream Vans magically arriving in school combined with a Tug of War competition for each year group. A lovely way to finish the school year for everyone.
Finally, our Year 6 children left for the final time through our wonderful balloon arch and guard of honour which again, has become a tradition. The final tears were shed as we proudly sent our Year 6 children on their way. [Cover photo]As one journey ends, another exciting one begins.
They have been a wonderful cohort of children throughout their time with us. They have faced many challenges in their personal lives, but come through as stronger, more resilient children. They have endured two challenging school years due to Covid but have still come out smiling. We will miss them all, but I am sure they will be back to say hello and to proudly show off their uniforms.
***Jane Davis***
***Head Teacher***

## Lanchester Local History Society July Meeting

We had a bumper turnout for Dr. David Shotten and his talk on 'The Lost Castles of Lanchester'. This was even on a Friday night with several other events happening in the village for folks to choose to attend. However, this was a Dave talk and he brings with him a crowd of folks interested in anything he has to say. No one was disappointed, but we must apologise to the young lad who came with his Mum and had to leave when Dave was telling us of one haunted place, dived into witchcraft and the talk momentarily morphed into one of his ghost hunt talks.






It's impossible for me to do justice to the content of the evening but suffice to say he opened by telling us there aren't any lost castles of the traditional structure like Durham or Lumley. Castle loosely describes a fortified or stockaded protected community around a primary structure, the dwelling of the head of that community. So, the 3 he started with were Longovicium, Langley Old Hall and Holmside Hall. The talk progressed to cover many years of conflict across the northern communities often linked with religion and the power of the church. We touched on Cuthbert and his banner, some geological artefacts and many manmade structures hidden in the countryside. As the talk closed, he reflected on the great risk to history and heritage through the march of time and construction through destruction of buildings and landscape to make way for the new.

***Marian Morrison*** Pictures are from the talk. Top slide is by Darin Smith from Friends of Longovicium Website.


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Durham County Council

## Latest CQC report rates Lanchester Medical Centre as "Requires Improvement"

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) reinspected the Medical Centre as planned following the previous inspection which had resulted in the practice being put into special measures.
The CQC assesses practices under five criteria: Safe, Effective, Caring, Responsive, and Well-led. It scored the criterion "effective" as "Good" with the remaining "Requires Improvement" leading to an overall assessment of "Requires Improvement".
CQC carried out this inspection to follow up on previous breaches of regulation. They had inspected the service in July 2025 and imposed conditions on the provider's registration at this location. This inspection was to check if improvements had been made. Dr Kalra did not provide any regulated activities from Lanchester Medical Centre between 12 August 2025 until January 2026. During this time, another provider was commissioned to provide the service on Dr Kalra's behalf. At the time of CQC inspection on 21 and 23 April 2026, Dr Kalra had only resumed sole control for a few weeks.
CQC found that "The service did not always listen to concerns about safety or fully investigate and learn from safety events and incidents. People were mostly protected and kept safe; however, the practice had not been able to mitigate risks arising from ineffective partnership working. We found some improvements had been made to the way the service worked with people to understand and manage risks."
Regarding complaints CQC also found that "People were mostly treated with kindness and compassion. However, the ineffective complaints process had led to patient distrust and a feeling that their views were not valued. Staff protected their privacy and dignity. They treated them as individuals and supported their preferences. The service did not always listen to and understand people's needs, views and wishes. The service did not adequately promote or support the wellbeing of their staff. The culture in the workplace remained stressful, staff morale was low and there was a lack of psychological safety … Complaint responses lacked evidence, clarity and learning and were not always provided in a timely manner … We found continued breaches of regulation in relation to receiving and acting upon complaints and good governance. The provider had made some improvements within these areas but had not yet achieved compliance. We have asked the provider for an action plan in response to the concerns found at this assessment."
"The practice had a vision and strategy, with a clear focus on improvement. However, this was not always shared and the culture within the service acted as a potential barrier to improvement and the embedding of any new processes and procedures. There was a perception from some of a lack of leadership within the practice and that the provider did not 'own' the previously identified failings. Some staff told us they did not feel valued, and there was little evidence some had been involved in change processes. The service had strengthened aspects of its governance, and the provider demonstrated more effective oversight of quality and safety. However, there were still some gaps in governance arrangements, and the provider did not always use information about safety and quality effectively."
The CQC concluded that "Since the last inspection, the practice had made improvements and is no longer in breach of safe care and treatment.
"This service was placed in Special Measures on 30 October 2025. The provider demonstrated improvements that have been made. ***The service is no longer rated as inadequate overall or in any of the key questions. Therefore, this service is no longer in Special Measures."***

### Comments on the report

The Village Voice has gathered various comments on the CQC report. ***These represent the views of the individuals, not the Village Voice.***

Following publication of the report the local MP, **Luke Akehurst**, commented in this edition of the Village Voice. "I welcome the scrutiny undertaken by the Care Quality Commission, and it is reassuring to see that their inspection has resulted in an initial upgrade in the centre's rating. But this is still not good enough and as the local Member of Parliament, I will continue to support residents in calling for faster and stronger improvements to the GP service they receive."

Our local councillor, **Alison Gray**, also commented in this edition. "I note the most recent report by the Care Quality Commission into Lanchester Medical Centre, with some concern. I do welcome the improvements seen regarding patient care but I am still uneasy at the stressful and toxic working culture cited. In addition, the patient satisfaction survey was very worrying. I will continue to work with the PPG [Patient Participation Group], to aim to bring sustained improvements and also increased choice."

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) was asked for comment and three members voiced their opinions:

"I found it extremely disappointing that the leader was still found to be unapproachable by staff and the culture still remains unsatisfactory. This fact alone will deter GPs from applying for salaried positions, which in turn impacts patients in that for the future they will be forced to accept locum GPs on a regular short term basis which severely reduces continuity of care."

"A retired consultant, who was a patient at Lanchester Medical Centre, was summarily excluded from the patient list for very spurious reasons; this then also stopped them from being an active member of the PPG. As a retired NHS Investigator, a patient and also an active member of the PPG, I found this a very disturbing and potentially dangerous development in the provision of patient/medical care."

"I'm deeply saddened by the CGC's handling of the latest evaluation. In light of previous findings that revealed multiple whistleblowers, it was critical for the inspectors to engage with all staff and thoroughly review their wellbeing. Failing to do so has fostered an environment where experienced staff felt unheard and ultimately driven to leave. Leaving patients out of the conversation is entirely unacceptable. Lanchester Medical Centre has demonstrated its quality at the top of NHS patient satisfaction rankings in County Durham as the number 1 in worst surgeries, yet this inspection process seems to ignore both the lived experiences of the staff and the voice of the patients."

***Keith Brown***

## Thursday Club

We have been entertained by Carol Dean who is a published author and researcher on one of her favourite topics. The topic was 'Lasting Impressions'. She talked about a variety of men who have made an impression on her. These were from the Egyptian times through to modern times and the question each time was whether they were hero or villain, entrepreneurs or chancers, pioneers or raiders. She focussed on the American Indian culture and how it is now understood to be a valid culture, all thanks to her smiling hero of course. The talk was well received, and the screen shots were easy to follow and fun and informative to supplement the narrative. Altogether a good afternoon's entertainment. Tea and a chat followed. No meeting in August.

***Jan Vasey***

## Meningitis B

### Getting free NHS meningococcal B (MenB) vaccinations

Some young adults aged between 17 and 25 years old can get free NHS MenB vaccinations this year.

They are recommended to help protect those at highest risk from MenB disease. MenB disease is a serious bacterial infection which can cause meningitis, blood poisoning, and sepsis. It progresses very quickly and can be fatal.

**Who is eligible?**

Free NHS MenB vaccinations will be available from 20th July 2026 if you were:

- Born between 1st September 2007 and 31st August 2008, or
- Born on or after 21st July 2001 and are starting university for the first time in autumn, or
- Born on or after 21st July 2001 and are starting some residential further education colleges for the first time in autumn 2026 as a residential student

When you go for your vaccinations, staff may ask which of these groups you are in. Please have your offer of a college or university place with you to show them.

**How to get your vaccinations**

Two doses of the MenB vaccine are necessary, at least 28 days apart.

- Book your 1st dose online at www.nhs.uk/book-menb, or
- Find a walk-in site at www.nhs.uk/menb-walk-in

You will be able to book your 2nd dose once you have had your 1st dose.

**Why the NHS is offering you MenB vaccinations**

MenB can cause meningitis, where the membranes surrounding the brain or spine become inflamed. This can lead to brain damage.

If MenB enters the blood, it can cause septicaemia (blood poisoning) which can damage the body's tissues and organs. It can also cause sepsis, a life-threatening reaction to an infection.

Some people carry MenB bacteria in their nose or throat without becoming ill. It can spread through close and regular contact such as sneezing, coughing, kissing or sharing food or drinks when people live or socialise closely together, including at universities. Vaccination is the most effective protection. Read more in your NHS App or at www.nhs.uk/meningitis.




Ref: NHS England » Getting free NHS meningococcal B (MenB) vaccinations

**Scan the QR Code to book your vaccination**

## The Northern Challenge



My husband John Binns decided to complete a 350 mile bike ride, namely 'The Northern Challenge', in memory of his late brother Ed, stating he wanted something positive to come out of a tragic situation.

Ed was only 54 when he unexpectedly passed away earlier this year so John, a keen cyclist, decided to do something in his honour whilst raising money for charity as well. His epic journey started in Lanchester where we live, travelling to Hull University where Ed's eldest son is currently studying. He continued his journey, travelling to Lancashire, visiting the farm they grew up on, their 91 year mother, Ed's widow and Runshaw College where Ed's youngest son is a student. The final leg of his journey saw him travelling back to County Durham.

John has set-up a Just Giving page with all donations going to Diabetes UK, a condition his late brother suffered from. If would like to donate please visit the website using the link below https://www.justgiving.com/page/northern-challenge-ride

John and his family are so touched by all the well wishes they have received for this epic challenge and thank everyone for their support.

***Sue Binns***






Above: Sue and John as he was setting off on Friday 31 July, Above left: at the end of Day 1 at Hull University, Above right:at the end of Day 2 with his nephews Josh and Sam and (cover) when he finally made it home at 10pm.

## Andrew's new walking initiative

My name is Andrew Kilburn. I have lived in Lanchester for many years, and I recently launched Peak Clarity Walks, a new wellbeing initiative based in County Durham.

We're told to be available 24/7. Peak Clarity Walks is built on a simple idea: your wellbeing deserves attention too. Every walk offers a regular relief valve from the pressures of modern life.

Every Sunday, we organise relaxed group walks across the North East, starting near Durham.

There is no agenda, no pressure and no expectation – just an opportunity to enjoy fresh air, good conversation and the mental clarity that comes from spending time outdoors.

We also host monthly health and wellbeing events, particularly for entrepreneurs and self-employed professionals, creating space to step back, reflect and reconnect.

As the community grows, our aim is simple: to encourage better wellbeing through walking, connection and time in nature. Anyone interested in joining a future walk or learning more is very welcome to get involved at peakclaritywalks.com



# WHAT'S ON - September onwards

**WI**
September meeting, Monday 7th – 'Daft as a Brush', cancer patient care.
Coffee Morning, Saturday 12th September, Methodist Church, 10am to 12 noon, please come along!
October meeting, Monday 5th - AGM.

**Paradiso Club**
Sunday 13th September 2026, HAMNET. 16th century England, young tutor and writer William Shakespeare meets Agnes and they fall in love. They have three children, two daughters - Susanna and Judith - and a son - Hamnet. Shakespeare's career as a playwright starts to take off but this tests his relationship with Agnes and his children. Then tragedy strikes. Starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal. Lanchester Community Centre. 7pm: refreshments/ raffle; 7.30pm: film starts. Members £5; non-Members £6. Annual membership fee £5. Organised by Lanchester Partnership.

**Lanchester Wildlife Group**
Knepp Rewilding Project. Lorraine Gibson. Lanchester Community Centre. Tuesday 9th September 7.30pm. Do come along and hear more about this fascinating project from Lorraine Gibson, a most entertaining speaker and ecologist who has a close association with what is probably the most successful rewilding project in Europe. All welcome. No charge.

**Lanchester Partnership Coffee Morning**
19th September at Lanchester Methodist Church. Join us to find out what we do, how you can get involved and give us your feedback on village life. There will be coffee, tea and biscuits plus a wonderful bake sale.

**Musical memories**
Join us for music from your favourite singers, refreshments and fun activities. 2nd September 2026 at 2pm, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group using the ability of music to improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email lanchesterdfc@gmail.com.

**Library**
*Library Book Clubs* are on the 4th Monday and 3rd Thursday monthly. Books are supplied by the library. If you would like to participate in either of these friendly and informal group chats, pop into the library and speak to the librarians.
*Thursday Book Club* will meet on 17th September from 4-5pm.This group will be reviewing 'The Unbroken Beauty of Rosalind Bone' by Alex McCarthy, a book which the Monday group rated mostly 7 in their July meeting.
*Monday Book Club* will meet on 28th September from 2.30-3.30 to discuss 'Magnificent Joe' by James Wheatley, 'A study of male friendship turned sour' (Financial Times).
*Pins and Needles* meet on 1st Thursday monthly. The next meeting is 3rd September from 10-11.30am. If you like knitting or crocheting, bring along wool, thread, needles and patterns and get friendly advice and support.
*Scrabble Group* meets 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1.30-3.30 pm. Build words and add points according to the letter tiles value.
*Rummikub Group* meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 1.30-3.30pm. A strategic, yet simple game with tiles that are constantly changing.
*Bridge Club* meets every Monday, 2.30-4pm (except 4th Monday). Learn to play Bridge with experienced, friendly and helpful players.
*Lego Club* meets every Saturday from 10-11.30.
*Toddler Time group* is on Tuesdays from 2.30-3.00 (term time only) and includes stories and nursery rhymes for your child/ren to enjoy.
*Children's crafts* are available every afternoon and Saturdays. A variety of craft ideas and materials are provided, so come along and enjoy some creative fun!
And remember, a book opens the doors to many different worlds, experiences and cultures. Come and explore new and exciting genres of books and join in the activities on offer. Your library is waiting for you to step inside.

**City Theatre**
"Murdered to Death" a comedy spoof by Peter Gordon at The City Theatre, Fowlers Yard, Durham DH1 3 RA from Sept 27th to Oct 3rd. When old friends meet for a weekend in a country manor, who will not be going home? Who dunnit? Will Inspector Pratt solve the case? Join us for a laughter filled mystery. Tickets from Durham Gala or wwwdurhamcitytheatre.co.uk and follow the link for tickets. Performances Sun and Sat 2.30pm, Mon-Fri 7.30 pm.Tickets £9.50. Concessions £8.50 Sun/ Mon//Tues.

**Local History Society**
We will be meeting on Friday September 4th initially for a quick AGM, before hearing from David Smith. His talk will be "A Brief History of the Lanchester Valley Railway Line". Then on October 2nd we will be hearing from Paul Heatherington all about The Revd Peter Cameron Rector of Ebchester 1891-1895. Paul always keeps us on our toes and will no doubt include something which encourages us to stay alert. He has in the past had us all trying to sing along, an interesting engagement. Please join us at the Community Centre where we meet in Room 3 nice and early for a 7.00 start having allowed time to negotiate the security system. All welcome and don't be put off by the AGM in September; it's usually a speedy affair.

**Lunch Club - cuppa and a chat**
The next lunch held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 8th September, 12pm start, all welcome.

**Thursday Club**
The next meeting will be on 17th September.

**Ballet Classes at Croft View Halls**
Adult Ballet on Mondays 8pm - 9pm
Silver Swans Adult Ballet (aimed at over 55s but all ages welcome) on Thursdays 9.30am - 10.30am
Contact Joyce, 07932 008400 or info@jjtds.com

**PPG "Let's Talk"**
Let's Talk. Open to all patients of Lanchester Medical Centre.
Last Friday of the month, 12pm - 2pm, Lanchester Cricket Club.

**Friends of Longovicium Group (Lanchester Roman Fort)**
Visitors and new members are always welcome at our meetings. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (excluding December), 7.30pm at Lanchester Community Centre. For further information about membership please contact: Rodney Hawkins Tel: 0191 4103472 - Email: hawkins_15@sky.com or Mrs M Williams Tel: 01207 520063. Follow us on **Facebook** (Friends of Longovicium). Please have a look at the group's website which is the culmination of decades of research and contains a wealth of information about Longovicium Roman Fort: https://longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com. Friends of Longovicium is part of the Lanchester Partnership.

**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. For more information ring Elaine 01207 520063. 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.

**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. Please note that it is no longer necessary to book on to the walk.

**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 fortnightly on a Wednesday at 10am. Walks are between 5-6 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 mwalters5346@gmail.com if you would like further information.

**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.

**Vintage Tractor Club**
Meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the Social Club.



## Poppy's walks

Good day readers, and after recent walks in Burnhope and Beamish I thought I had better return to home territory.
After all, it is the Lanchester Village Voice which employs me - payment in dog biscuits - to write about the walks I lead my Humans on.
As you will know I am Poppy, a Patterdale Terrier familiar to quite a few of you kind readers now, and this walk started at 1pm on the first Monday of the school holidays from the village green.
A regular walking group leaves from that spot every Monday at the same time, and all Humans are welcome to join. Well behaved dogs are also welcome, and occasionally they make an exception and allow me along too.
There were 16 Humans on this walk, but on this Monday I was the only dog.
We were led by a calmly authoritative gentleman called Paul and we soon filed along the by-pass then past the EP school fields.
Opposite Victoria Terrace we crossed the road and walked down a narrow lane onto the field beside the cricket nets. We continued walking along the cricket field then out at the far exit onto Kitswell Road.
We followed Kitswell Road past the cemetery then it fizzled out into a country lane. Occasionally we had to all squash on the side of the lane by the grass verge to allow vehicles to pass. One van driver looked distinctly unimpressed.
At one stage a black Alsatian cross wanted to join us, and I would have been happy to welcome her along, but she seemed to have mislaid her Humans. We heard frantic shouts of Bella in the distance and some of the walking group gently encouraged her to return in the direction from whence she had come.
We then came to a cattle grid with a gate beside it and we walked through the gate then past a group of houses and farm buildings known as Low Meadows.
We kept on walking on a path through a wood with a field containing horses on our left, before exiting the wood and turning right through a gate. Paul, our leader, was careful to make sure every gate was closed behind our group.
The gate led us into a field full of hay bales and, because there was no livestock in the field, I was let off my lead and allowed to explore a bit.
But I still had to keep up with the briskly walking humans - I didn't want to get lost like Bella - and we walked up an incline along two fields until we came to another gate.
This was opened and then shut behind us after we had all filed through, and we came to Hurbruck farm.
From there we joined the railway path and headed back to Lanchester.,
There were a few cyclists on the path and we had to stand aside to let them past, but it was downhill pretty much all the way back into Lanchester.
I think the walk would have been about four miles in total and took just over an hour and a half.
It was certainly worthwhile from my point of view and more importantly perhaps, it did the Humans who turned up a power of good.

## Lanchester Wildlife Group



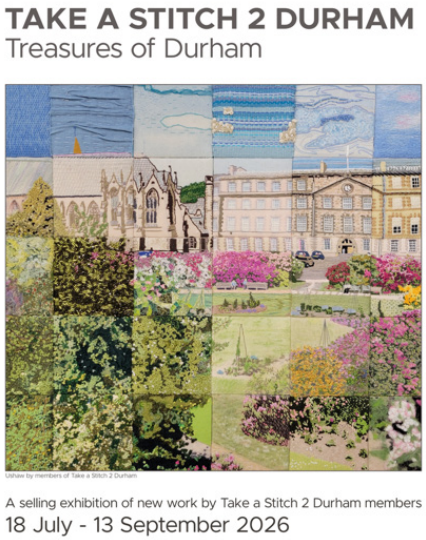
Knepp Rewilding Project. Lorraine Gibson.
Lanchester Community Centre, Tuesday 9th September 7.30pm.
Until 2001 Knepp Estate in West Sussex was run as a dairy farm but the owners decided to turn it back to nature. The project has been an astounding success, attracting the first Storks to breed in the UK for 450 years and the first breeding Large Tortoiseshell butterflies since the middle of the last century. It is the best place in the country to spot Purple Emperors and noted for its Nightingales.
Do come along and hear more about this fascinating project from Lorraine Gibson, a most entertaining speaker and ecologist who has a close association with what is probably the most successful rewilding project in Europe.
All welcome. No charge.

***Noel Jackson***

## Take a Stitch Exhibition

The Take a Stitch 2 Durham group meets monthly at the Community Centre. There is a variety of traditional and contemporary textile work in the exhibition, about 45 pieces. Well worth a visit. It is on until the 13th September at Ushaw Historic House.

***Jane Friesner***




## Correction

Apologies but the date for the **Christian Aid Christmas Concert** was incorrect in the last edition of the Village Voice. It is on Saturday 12th December. The concert will be given by the Argus singers.

***Judith Brown***



Fun, friendly, local screenings: give us a go and join us for our 2026/27 season of award winning films.
The Paradiso Club is an opportunity to socialise, make new friends and catch up on films you've missed, or would like to see again. It offers convenience, free parking and value for money.

Paradiso Club




We're a friendly group and all are welcome - come along with friends or on your own.
The 2026/27 season of the film club kicks off on 13th September with the award winning Hamnet, refreshments and a raffle.

**Lanchester Community Centre** 7pm: refreshments/raffle 7.30pm: film starts
Members £5; Non-Members £6 Annual membership fee £5 organised by Lanchester Partnership

**Cut out and keep our 2026/27 season programme below.**

**September 13th 2026 HAMNET (2025) Period drama**
In 16th century England, young tutor and writer William Shakespeare meets Agnes and they fall in love. They have three children, two daughters - Susanna and Judith - and a son - Hamnet. Shakespeare's career as a playwright starts to take off but this tests his relationship with Agnes and his children. Then tragedy strikes.
**Starring Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal**

**October 11th 2026 SONG SUNG BLUE (2025) Musical/Romance**
Lightning and Thunder, a Milwaukee husband and wife Neil Diamond tribute act, experience soaring success and devastating heartbreak in their musical journey together.
**Starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson**

**November 8th 2026 THE BEST OF MEN (2012) Biographical war drama**
Dr Ludwig Guttmann, a Jewish man, runs away from Nazi Germany during WWII. Once in the UK, he helps rehabilitate British troops with spinal wounds. He lays the basis for the Paralympic Games.
**Starring Eddie Marsden, George MacKay, Rob Brydon, Richard McCabe**

**December 6th 2026 IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1947)**
When a frustrated businessman, George Bailey, becomes suicidal, an angel from heaven, Clarence, is sent to him. To his change of heart, she shows him what life would have been without his existence.
"a beloved holiday classic, widely considered one of the greatest films ever made, known for its emotional depth, heartwarming storytelling, and powerful message about the value of every life"
**Starring James Stewart Donna Reed Henry Travers**

**10th January 2027 CONCLAVE (2024) Thriller/Mystery**
When Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with leading the selection of a new Pope, he finds himself in a web of conspiracy and intrigue that could shake the very foundations of the Catholic Church.
**Starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, Isabella Rossellini**

**February 14th 2027 HAMPSTEAD (2017) Romantic comedy**
An American widow finds unexpected love with a man living wild on Hampstead Heath when they take on the developers who want to destroy his home.
**Starring Diane Keaton, Brendon Gleeson, Lesley Manville, Jason Watkins**

**14 March 2027 ANATOMY OF A FALL (2023) Thriller/Crime (French & English)**
For the past year, Sandra, a German writer, her French husband Samuel, and their eleven-year-old son Daniel have lived a secluded life in a remote town in the French Alps. When Samuel is found dead in the snow below their chalet, the police question whether he committed suicide or was killed. **Starring Sandra Huller**

**11th April 2027 MARIA (2024) Music biography**
**Starring Angelina Jolie**

**9th May 2027 MR BURTON (2025) Biography drama**
Wild schoolboy and son of an alcoholic miner, Rich Jenkins is mentored by teacher Philip Burton to transform into Richard Burton - Wales's greatest star.
**Starring Toby Jones, Lesley Manville, Harry Lawtey**

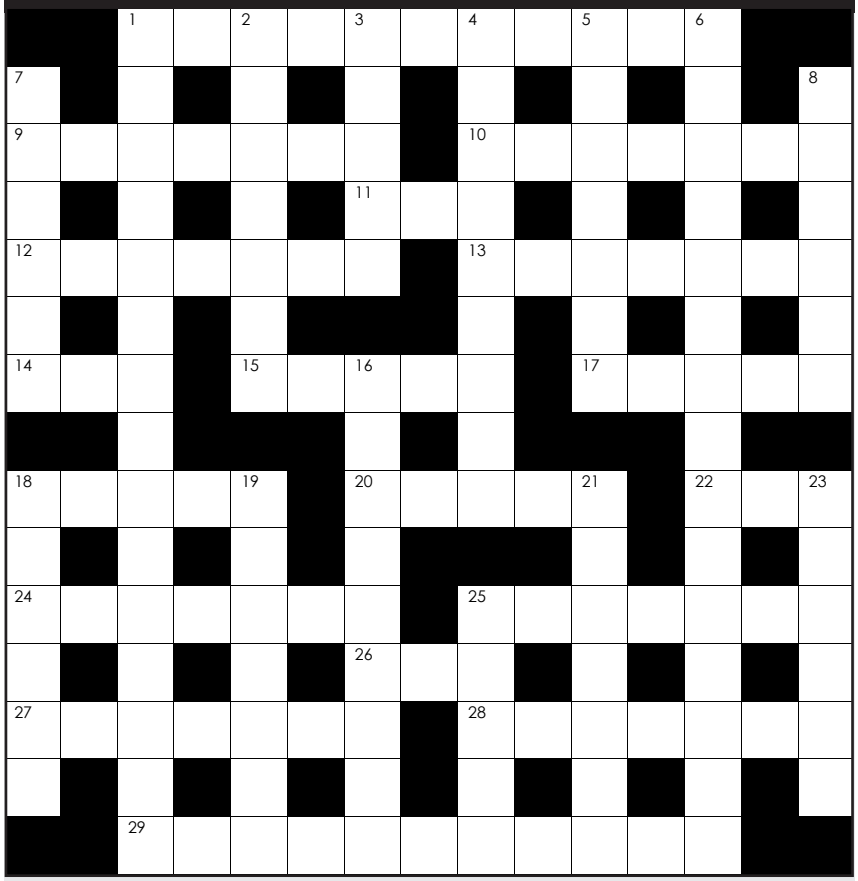
**13th June 2027 THE BALLAD OF WALLIS ISLAND (2025) Quirky comedy drama**
Old tensions resurface when former bandmates who were former lovers reunite for a private show at the island home of an eccentric millionaire.
Starring Carey Mulligan, Tom Basden, Tim Key

## Social Club Open Meeting
## Help shape the future of the club

Lanchester Social Club invite you to an open meeting - members and non members welcome.
The meeting at the Club is entitled "Lanchester Social Club Needs You! Let's shape its future together."
Our local social club is the heart of our village, and we want to make it better than ever. To do that, we need your ideas, your energy and your support.
Whether you want to suggest new event ideas, offer a helping hand or just share what you'd love to see happening, we want to hear from you.

Please join us for an open community meeting: **TUESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER, 2026 at 7.15 pm,** Lanchester Social Club, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester.
Planning a celebration? Look no further than our Function Room located right in the heart of the village, our versatile space is perfect for any occasion. Spacious and well-kept room, friendly, welcoming village atmosphere and great drinks at competitive prices.
Get in touch:
Internet - Lanchestersocialclub.co.uk
Facebook - Lanchester Social Club
Phone - 01207 520475

# CROSSWORD 222



## Clues

**Across**

1. Basic type of radio (4'1,7)
9. Archaic greeting of welcome and admiration (3,4)
10. Phrase usually used to refer to 'this evening' (7)
11. Homer's cry of frustration (3)
12. Type of explosive device (7)
13. To give someone the right to do something (7)
14. Consume (3)
15. Pictogram used to express a feeling (5)
17. When goldfinches get together they delight and fascinate (5)
18. Pin used to fasten metal plates (5)
20. Forgeries (5)
22. Badly lit (3)
24. Own up (7)
25. One who moves with heavy steps (7)
26. Sound made by a dove (3)
27. Former Central European kingdom (7)
28. Of the highest status or power (7)
29. Pompous or affected (11)

**Down**

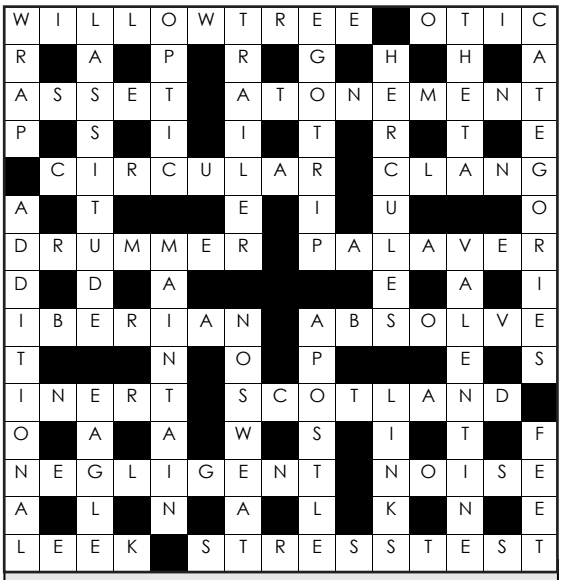
1. Like 7, 17 and 23 (10,5)
2. Type of fruity bun (7)
3. Oscar, Irish writer and wit (5)
4. In good form, like Saturday's football results used to be (2,3,4)
5. Relating to motion (7)
6. Dextrality (5-10)
7. A horde of geese on the ground (6)
8. Small river (6)
16. Deliberately make something confusing or unclear (9)
18. Meal creation guide (6)
19. Betrayal of one's country (7)
21. Sign of the zodiac (7)
23. A bunch of crows commit a terrible crime(6)
25. To lay down as the basis of an argument (5)

Name:_____

Address: _____

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Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by **Tuesday 1st September 2026** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



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**Solution crossword 221**
There were 17 entries this month of which 15 were correct. The winner, drawn out of the hat was: Helen Hedley


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## Boys' Brigade

We ended our summer term with our presentations night and then Company Section Camp at Broomley Grange. All boys received their badges for the work they had done during the year and in addition five boys, Louis, Thomas, Joshua, Dylan and Toby received the President's Badge and two boys Arnaud and Shane their King's Badge. The five President's badge boys will now start work towards attaining the King's Badge. It was a lovely evening with parents and grandparents in attendance as well as two previous Company captains Mr Dixon and Mr Martin. We thank them all for their support throughout the year.

This was closely followed by our Company Section camp held at the beautiful Broomley Grange. Friday afternoon saw Mr Hume and his group of helpers arrive to erect the tents and gazebos before the boys arrived at around 7pm. Having been allocated their tent they then "unpacked". This was followed by games on the field and exploring the new climbing activities that had just been completed at Broomley Grange that week. Everyone was impressed by them and cannot wait to try them out on another visit. They were so new that the activity leaders had not completed their own instruction guidelines.

Saturday arrived with some having achieved little sleep due to being serenaded (I think that is what they said) by a cow bellowing in the adjoining field. Breakfast eaten, dishes washed and it was time for our activity sessions. We started with the assault course, then the tunnels, changed into shorts or trunks and finished with the water slide. A hectic 2 hours or more of being outside and having fun. A lovely barbecue lunch followed then the dirty dishes being washed and dried before we carried out some work at Broomley Grange.

We cleared gutters of leaves etc., cleaned the porch area and painted the games room. This large room had a pattern on the ceiling that meant we couldn't use a roller effectively and had to use a brush. This meant it was a long job which the boys carried out very well and all the work was very much appreciated by Broomley Grange Trustees. After tea we had our usual campfire where we toasted marshmallows before it was time for bed after an exhilarating day.

Sunday was the day to dismantle the camp, pack backpacks, take the tents down, eat any food that was left and then to make sure that the camping field was clear of any rubbish.

Parents collected the boys after a wonderful weekend of good weather and fun as well as completing some arduous tasks.

For the majority of boys that was a wonderful end of term until we recommence in September but for six boys it is now planning and preparing for a 24-25 mile 3 day expedition for DofE Bronze and Silver.

***Eric Hepplewhite***











Top left: marshmallows on the camp fire; top right: dining out!; bottom left: fun on the waterslide; above centre: decorating Broomley Grange and bottom right: six boys practising for their 24-25 mile expedition.

## WI News

At our meeting on Monday 6 July we welcomed 35 members and 4 visitors. After hearing about all of our upcoming events and visits we were entertained by Esh Gospel Choir who sang a variety of beautiful and uplifting songs.

Our new County Chairman, Lesley Jerred, also joined us for the evening. Lesley was interested to hear from members about what their thoughts were about the WI and what they would like to have in relation to County events and visits.

The evening ended with a cuppa and catch up with friends.

Then on Monday 20 July thirteen of our members went along to Redhills Durham Miners Hall for a visit. A beautiful Grade II listed headquarters building of the Durham Miners' Association. Our lovely tour guide, Graham, was very informative and interesting and gave us the history of the building and some of the very interesting characters that have been involved in it. A lovely afternoon!

On Saturday 12 September we will be hosting a coffee morning at the Methodist Church, 10am to 12 noon, please come along and enjoy some delicious refreshments.

If you are looking for something new to do please come along and join us, you will be very welcome. Visitors can come along and join us for £4 per visit, you can visit for three times before deciding whether to join us. Check out our Facebook page; Lanchester WI, or email lanchesterwi@talktalk.net for further details. We look forward to seeing you!

***Marie Murphy***



## Bridge School creates new biodiverse spaces

The Bridge School in Lanchester won a grant for £5,000 from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) to transform unused spaces into wonderful biodiverse areas.

One area was previously an unused concreted area, and this was covered with high raised bed planters, filled with tons of soil. This was then planted up with native wildflowers, herbs and long flowering perennials which provides a reliable food source for bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects. The first photograph shows how attractive it looks now, and it



will clearly develop as it matures.

The second area (photo below) was a piece of neglected grassland which has been transformed into a bog garden. One of the two ponds has been filled; all the plants for the bog garden were purchased from Lanchester Garden Centre. This is designed to provide a microhabitat which mimics natural woodland edges. It is hoped that, in time, this will be inhabited by insects, amphibians and birds. It will be used as an outdoor learning hub where pupils can observe species behaviour, collect data for curriculum projects and develop practical conservation skills.



The grant application was put together by Nick Rowland Jones and Victoria Driver; various staff members and pupils were involved in the work. It looks great – take a look.

***Keith Brown***


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## All Saints' Catholic Church Lanchester Centenary Celebrations - Flower Festival

Our Flower Festival was a great success with lots of visitors and a great deal of wonderful feedback. The idea was to tell a story showing all the different services and events in our Church. Marriages, baptisms, 1st Communion, funerals, masses, liturgy, volunteers, photos of all the priests and deacons who have served on our altar over the 100 years and of course our social family.

The different artefacts and flowers were placed around the church to tell the story. A big thank you to everyone who attended - it was so lovely seeing and chatting to so many people.

The Sunday evening Gospel Choir and Harp Ensemble was also enjoyed by many. On the Monday our lovely school children came to see the flower festival one class at a time. I just want to say how wonderful it was that the children were so polite and asked some lovely questions; it certainly made me smile.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it such a success. A real team effort.

A big thank you to Andrew from Country Basket for supplying and delivering all the flowers. He was so patient with the lady who kept changing her mind!!!

A booklet has been compiled and printed **OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH 1926 – 2026, Architecture and Furnishing over 100 years**. This will be on sale at all the events. The booklet cost is £4.

**Centenary Events For The Diary**

Saturday September 12th, 6pm, Concert: Consett Citizens Choir
September TBA Laying the foundation stone of the Centenary Cross
Sunday 27th September, 4pm, Talk at Teatime: 'Our Beautiful Church'

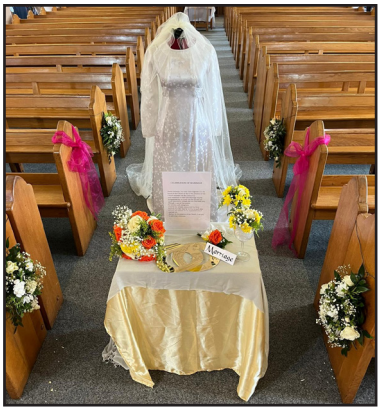
***Lestrine Kelly***













# What's Happening at Lanchester Methodist Church

**Eco Stall**

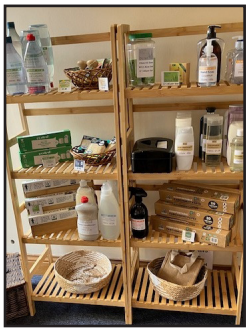
Building on the success of achieving the **Bronze Eco Church Award**, the church has introduced an **Eco Stall** at the entrance to the church. It is another practical way of encouraging us all to care for God›s creation through the choices we make every day.

The Eco Stall is available whenever the church is open. Please come in and have a look.

We stock a range of environmentally friendly products sourced from companies that are committed to ethical trading. This means the people who make these goods are treated fairly, receive a fair wage, work reasonable hours, and are not subjected to child labour.

Wherever possible, the products are made using renewable energy, recycled or recyclable materials, and are free from plastic, bleach and other environmentally harmful chemicals.



Everything is sold **at cost price;** the Eco Stall is a **non-profit initiative**. By choosing these products, you can make more sustainable everyday choices while supporting ethical and environmentally responsible businesses.

Whether you're replacing a household essential or trying something new, every small change helps us care for our planet and support fairer trading practices around the world. Come in and see.

**The Chapel That Started It All**

In **1819**, a little Methodist chapel was erected facing Lanchester's Village Green. Built to serve the growing Methodist community, it provided a permanent place of worship at a time when Methodism was spreading rapidly across County Durham. Inspired by the teachings of John Wesley, people were drawn to its straightforward preaching, heartfelt hymn singing and strong sense of fellowship. The new chapel gave local Methodists a place to gather for worship, prayer and Bible study.

Like many early Methodist chapels, the building was simple and practical rather than grand. Worship was led by travelling Wesleyan ministers serving the circuit, together with dedicated local preachers who often walked long distances between villages to conduct services. Their commitment ensured that even small rural communities such as Lanchester enjoyed regular worship and pastoral care.



The congregation continued to grow throughout the middle of the nineteenth century. By the 1860s it had become clear that the original chapel was no longer large enough to meet the needs of the flourishing society. In **1868**, a much larger Methodist chapel was opened nearby. That building, now known as Lanchester Methodist Church, has continued to serve the village for more than 150 years.

Although worship moved to the new chapel, the 1819 building did not disappear. Instead, it found new purposes within the community. Over the years it became a blacksmith's smithy, later a joiner's store, and eventually a private home.

The story of the 1819 chapel is about far more than bricks and mortar. It tells of ordinary villagers whose faith inspired them to establish a place of worship that would shape the spiritual life of Lanchester for generations. From those modest beginnings grew a thriving church that continues to serve the community through worship, friendship, children's and family work, pastoral care and outreach.

More than two centuries after the first chapel opened its doors, the little building no longer echoes with hymn singing, yet its walls still tell the story of the faith, vision and determination of those early Methodists. Their commitment laid the foundations for a Christian witness that has continued in Lanchester for over 200 years and remains an important part of village life today.

# New Minister for the Methodist Church

Rev'd Rick Ormrod will be the new Minister at Lanchester Methodist Church from 1st September, following the retirement of Rev'd Stuart Earl who served there as Minister for many years.



Rick was born in Blackpool and did his training for ministry at St John's college in Durham and is very happy to be returning to the Durham area. He has previously served as a Minister in Otley near Leeds and Oswaldtwistle, then as Circuit Superintendent in Burnley in East Lancashire.

Like his predecessor, Rick prefers to lead a modern and informal style of worship and looks forward to continuing to welcome to Lanchester Methodist Church all who want to come.

Rick is very much looking forward to starting his work with the folk at Lanchester Methodist Church and serving them and the wider Lanchester community. He moved to the village in July and has already been made to feel welcome by some of the warm and friendly villagers he has had conversations with.

In addition to serving as the church Minister in Lanchester, Rick will also be Circuit Superintendent of the North West Durham Methodist Circuit.

If you see Rick walking round the village in the next few weeks, please say hello as he is looking forward to getting to better know the community and its people.

# Mustard Seed Project

The Lanchester Methodist Church **Mustard Seed Microscope Project**, led by Kath Jones, Roy Quinlan and Ian Reeve launches this coming September. Supported by ECLAS (Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science), the project will use macrophotography and microscopes to inspire curiosity about the living things around us. The first events are planned for the week beginning **September 21st** at Lanchester EP Primary School, Boys' Brigade and KoGs. The best images captured by these groups will be displayed in **Lanchester Library** during the week commencing **November 2nd 2026**.

The Mustard Seed Microscope Project
Lanchester Methodist Church

Contact KoGs Kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk and Boys Brigade to find out about membership and their autumn programme of activities. (info@lanchestermethodistchurch.org.uk)

***Kath Jones***



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## Wild Notes

The summer is drawing to a close, and the months of longer nights and frosty mornings grow ever closer. However, late summer is also a great time to seize the chance to enjoy warmer evenings and brighter days. As the seasons change, the flora and fauna follow suit, with hangovers from summer merging with nature's preparations for the colder month to provide a blend of colours and a reminder to take a moment to reconnect with the fleeting beauty of nature and escape the trappings and stresses of everyday life.

A short drive up to upland areas like Hedleyhope Fell and the moors towards Stanhope will be rewarded with an arresting fanfare of purple as the heather blossoms, transforming the landscape into a blazing carpet of bursting violets, magentas and indigos. Catch the last cries of the curlews before they return to the coast among this last fanfare of life and admire the chuckle of the Red Grouse and hum of the bees as the life of summer travels to the uplands as a last stop before it heads south across the equator.

Closer to home, wildflowers like knapweed (thistle-like, purple flowers), yarrow (flat-topped clusters of white flowers) and devil's-bit scabious (rounded, pincushion-esque, blue-lilac flowers) serve as vital food sources for late-season pollinators and add splashes of summer colour to early autumn meadows, riverbanks and grasslands.

Other species, however, hint at the coming winter months; swallows, house martins and swifts start to vanish from our skies by late summer as they start to migrate south. Rowan trees fill with bright red clusters of berries, elderberries ripen to a deep purple-black, hawthorn berries begin to appear and blackberries ripen- all preparations for winter as mammals and birds stock up on food, helping disperse the seeds throughout the autumn and winter months, so they can lie in cold, moist soil to undergo a process called 'cold stratification' before they germinate in spring. A walk along the railway line provides the opportunity to see these berries and the wide variety of species drawn to them.

This time of year is also a vital period for hibernators like the much loved hedgehog. As winter draws closer, these species need to put on as much body mass as possible to survive the winter months and therefore will take full advantage of the last food supplies of summer, constantly foraging. This is a task, however, made increasingly difficult to perform as artificial lawns devoid of insect and plant life grow more common, and fences and roads block access between gardens restricting access to vital sources of food and forcing species to waste time navigating a maze of shut-off gardens rather than getting the food they need. 'Hedgehog highways' - little gaps under fences to allow species to pass through- and a bit of wildlife-friendly gardening could be invaluable to the species we rarely see, snuffling their way through our gardens at night. So as summer seems to slip out of reach, take time to watch and appreciate the world around you change as well, and remember the species to whom the colder, darker days are a fight for survival, not just an inconvenience.

***From our Junior Wildlife Correspondent***





Photos by Ian Appleby of nature in the late summer.
Top left: Roe Doe; top right: red grouse; below left: stag at Raby Castle: and right: geese in a stubble field.





## Moths and Spoons in the Orchard!

### Moth Trap and Survey

On Friday evening of 10th July, Terry, a retired environmentalist and lifelong naturalist, set up a moth trap. The following morning, we had over 30 adults and children attending the trap opening. It was amazing to see the huge variety of moths caught in the trap. They were carefully removed and placed into specimen pots for everyone to see





the vivid colours and markings on the moths' wings.

The moths were then released into the orchard to continue adding to the variety of wildlife who make their homes in the Orchard.

**Spoon Carving**



We ran our first ever spoon carving event on Saturday 4th July. [Photo right and the cover]. Seven people attended the event and were shown how to carve a greenwood spoon using handheld woodworking tools. Many thanks to Chris and Simon for organising and leading the event. Everyone really enjoyed themselves, learnt some traditional skills and had their own unique spoon to take home!

**Apple Juicing**

On Saturday 10th October in the afternoon, you can bring your own apple crop to be juiced. To book a place please email the orchard on lanchesterorchard@outlook.com

**Coffee Morning at Lanchester Methodist Church Saturday 3rd October from 10.00 am**

If you'd like to find out more about the Community Orchard, then why not drop into the coffee morning to chat to our members.

***Eleanor Johnson***, www.lanchesterorchard.org

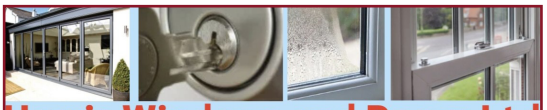
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## The Methodist Tapestries are coming to Lanchester

The Methodist Tapestries are a collection of 102 embroideries which depict stories about "The People Called Methodists" and feature local, regional, national and international stories.
There will be an exhibition of 30 of the panels in **Lanchester Methodist church on Saturday 19th September 10 am – 4 pm.**
The Methodist Tapestries project launched in 2019 when the Weardale museum purchased the adjacent High House chapel, in Ireshopeburn. The chapel is currently undergoing restoration, but when the museum reopens, this will be the permanent home of the tapestries.
David Heatherington, one of the founders of the Museum and its Emeritus Curator, designed the panels. The museum trustees met with the Durham branch of the Embroiderers' Guild (now known as Take a Stitch 2 Durham) and several members of the group decided that they would take on the designs and bring them to life. They also introduced the trustees to Tracy A Franklin, an RSN tutor and Head Broderer at Durham Cathedral. Tracy kindly agreed to become the Technical Advisor for the project.
The early panels are based around the story of High House Chapel, but the later panels have a broad range of themes: from important events, places, people and activities in the Methodist story, both in the UK and across the world.
The stories include: the fire at the Epworth rectory from which John Wesley was rescued, Mow Cop, the site of the first Methodist camp meeting in the UK; a meeting between John Wesley and the celebrated dandy Beau Nash, youth work with Boy's Brigade, the work of the Methodist church in the abolition of slavery, and overseas mission work.


Tapestries in progress






Four of the tapestries







Stitchers have been recruited from not only Take a Stitch 2 Durham, who meet in Lanchester, but across the UK and even the USA. Approximately 60 panels are now completed and 42 are in progress.
If you are unable to come along to the exhibition on 19th September, please follow the Facebook and Instagram pages for details of other panels, and future exhibitions.

***Sarah Hailwood***

## Cricket Round up

A tough month for the **first team** saw them slip from top spot to fourth but at least they finished the month with a win over Sacriston. Before the win, they lost to the two teams who passed them, Tynemouth and Whitburn and drew with Philadelphia. Tynemouth had chased down 259 thanks to Durham player Will Rhodes making a ton. Whitburn was low scoring, the home side eventually winning by 3 wickets. At Philly, an understrength team hung in for a draw after Jordan Grosert had taken 4-34. Callum Barnes took 6-64 against Sacriston to set up the win, Charlie Mustard making an unbeaten 66 to see the team home.
They have had success in Cups, still in three. In the Tyneside Charity Bowl, they beat Ryton by 37 runs following an unbeaten 93 from Charlie Mustard. Ashington await in the Final. They face Ryton next week in the Eric Topham semi-final. Still waiting to face Hetton Lyons in the Hedworth Williamson after crushing Crook in the month.
The **seconds** are unable to finish teams off at the minute, with three draws in their four matches. Against Shotley, they scored 320-5 with Charlie McPhail and Glen Harrison missing out on tons making 98 and 95 respectively. Charlie also made 82 against Seaham Harbour when the run chase was thwarted by rain. They were thumped by Philadelphia despite 4-25 from Tom Deaville. Despite the best efforts of the bowlers, they just couldn't winkle out the final Sacriston wicket. Sam Small had scored 83 and John McGilvray 75.
The **thirds** beat Shotley but then lost to Hetton Lyons. In a low scoring game, Ben Ryanor was the pick of the bowlers v Shotley taking 3-20. At Hetton Lyons, chasing 219, they fell 6 runs short despite Sam Small making 93.

**Women's and Junior Round up**

The only women's game in the month was a 3 run defeat at the hands of Sacriston. Charlotte Hird top scored with 31 and Amanda Raynor, Amy Green and Claire Garside all scored double figures. Sacriston were good at protecting their wickets, so despite scoring fewer runs, they were the victors.
The **17s** lost to both Ryton and Cramlington but we field an under 15 side against them. Nathan Watson scored a fifty against Cramlington and despite being 14, Charlie Gray scored 23.
The **15s** sit in second place in their League going into the final game, having won all three matches in the month. They beat Ryton B, Blaydon and Annfield Plain. Alfie Armstrong made a 50 v Ryton with Jack Brooks getting 36. Jack then made 50 against Blaydon while Jake Simpson made his personal highest score of 42. Charlie Armin took 3 wickets for one run. Alfie and Nathan then made fifties against the Plain.
The **13s** beat Blaydon but lost with one ball to go against second placed Consett. With only Champions Whickham to play, the highest they can finish will be a very creditable third place. Ollie Wainwright made a retiring 30 against Blaydon while George Tilley took 3-7. Against second placed Consett, Ollie retired again and was joined by Tommy Rolfe who also retired in a total of 113-2. In a thrilling match it took Consett until the penultimate ball to secure the win after Lyla Garside took two late wickets.
The **under 13 girls** in their first season, finished eighth following two defeats to Durham and Champions Eppleton.
The **under 11 girls** finished ninth but finished the season on a high with a win at South Shields. The under 11s currently sit second but the two teams behind them have a game in hand. They have won their most recent games against Blaydon and Consett having lost to leaders Whickham.

***Andrew McConnell***




All Saints' Open Day: Nursery & Reception

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
9.30 - 11AM

- Applications welcome from all families
- Nurturing and inclusive class sizes
- Experienced staff
- Extensive school grounds
- Wrap around care: morning & evening





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## Alien bird?



Mark Atkinson, who lives in Ford Road, Lanchester, sent the photo of this parakeet. It had been coming to his bird feeder for some time. Mark had heard a few theories about how they ended up in the wild in Europe: Jimi Hendrix released a pair in Carnaby Street; released after filming Dr Doolittle; released from the set of African Queen! We checked with Noel Jackson, local wildlife expert, who said they were probably urban myths, but multiple pet escapes is the accepted reason. "It takes more than an isolated pair to get the genetic diversity to set up a successful expanding population."

Noel continued "We usually call them ring-necked parakeets. They originally came from North Africa through to India but escaped pets have bred successfully spread across Europe. They are very successful in urban environments and can survive low winter temperatures. They are already quite a common garden bird in London and are spreading very rapidly indeed. There is a colony on South Tyneside and it's only a matter of time before we can expect to see a flock feeding on bird-feeders in Lanchester.

"Ring-necked Parakeets nest in holes in trees, and this is a concern as they compete successfully with rare native species such as Noctule bats."

Thank you Mark for sending the photo in.

## St Bede's Catholic Secondary School and Sixth Form Centre

As we reach the end of another successful school year, August gives us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many achievements, memorable experiences, and special moments that have taken place across our school community.



We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their hard work, resilience, and enthusiasm throughout the year. From classroom learning and educational visits to sporting events, performances, and fundraising activities, our children have continued to demonstrate the values that make our school such a special place.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to parents, carers, governors, and members of the wider community for their continued support. The partnership between home, school, and village plays a vital role in helping our children thrive, and we are grateful for the encouragement and kindness shown throughout the year.

As families begin to enjoy the summer holidays, we hope everyone has the opportunity to relax, spend time together, and make lasting memories. Whether travelling further afield or enjoying the many attractions closer to home, we wish all our pupils a safe and happy break.




A special mention goes to our Year 11 and 13 pupils as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey. We thank them for their contribution to school life and wish them every success and happiness in their new adventures. They leave with our very best wishes, and we look forward to hearing about their future achievements.

While the school site may be quieter during August, plans are already underway for the new academic year. **We are also delighted to invite prospective pupils and their families to our Year 5 and Year 6 Open Evening on Wednesday 23 September 2026, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to tour the school, meet staff and students, and discover all that our school has to offer.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back in September, ready for new learning opportunities, exciting experiences, and another year of growth and success.

From everyone at the school, thank you for your continued support. We wish all residents of our village a wonderful August and a relaxing summer.

Have a safe, happy, and enjoyable summer holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone in September.

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





YEAR 5 & 6 OPEN EVENING

We are proud to welcome you to our Year 5 and Year 6 Open Evening on Wednesday 23rd September 5.30pm - 7.30pm





"Pupils are safe, happy and cared for at this nurturing school"
Ofsted March 2026

01207 520424
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stbedeslanchester.bwcet.com

St Bede's Catholic School & Sixth Form College
Serving Families in North West Durham

# Lanchester Bowling Club

## Derby Delight

The main highlight in July (apart from the extremely sunny weather) was the Wednesday afternoon derby game between the A and B teams. This was the third time this match had been played and the previous two had been won by the B team. This time, however, the A team showed their superiority by winning two of the rinks and the overall aggregate to take a six points to two victory.

Another highlight was the annual friendly between Lanchester and Washington Glebe. This year it was our turn to host the match and on a hot Sunday afternoon, thirty eight players faced each other on six rinks. After a hard fought match, Lanchester ran out overall victors, taking the small trophy the match is played for.

Although the match is enjoyable, the highlight is the post match tea. Yet again the ladies of the club did themselves proud, so thank you to Sally Laverick, Patricia Jose and, especially, Ann Lee for providing the food and setting up the tables. Many thanks to the numerous people who helped out before the match and to clear up afterwards.

A raffle, with the proceeds going to Willow Burn, was also held. We have another home friendly in August and the money raised at that raffle will be added to what has already been raised before being donated.

One of the changes we have made to the club competitions this year is to play the first rounds of the pairs on one day. So on a pleasant Saturday at the beginning of July, twenty people played matches down to the competition semis. The pairs who won through were: Ron Irwin and Mike Stoddart; Jennifer Howey and Adrian Evans; Sally Laverick and Paul Monaghan; Denise Vickery and Tony Warren.

During the American Civil War Abraham Lincoln is misquoted as saying about one of his generals that he had managed "to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory." Unfortunately this quote could well be applied to Lanchester's teams at the moment. So often this season we have been ahead on rinks and in matches, only to lose out in the end.

A good example of this was when the Monday team played away to View Lane on a bumpy, grassless pitch. With two ends to go we were winning on three rinks, losing on one and winning on aggregate; this would have given us an 8-2 win. By the end of the game, however, we had won on one rink and lost on three, thus losing 8-2!

Having said that, we have had some good wins recently with the Wednesday A team beating top of the table and previously undefeated Mainsforth 6-2 to maintain their push for promotion. The B, the Tuesday and the Wednesday evening teams remain bottom of their respective leagues, but there have been signs of improvement. Our Saturday and Monday teams still sit mid table.



Club doubles

As the song says: the only way is up.

***Bob Cuthbertson***

Below: Friendly Lanchester vs Washington Glebe



# Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club

July brought another spell of glorious weather, providing perfect conditions for tennis on our beautiful grass courts. While the prolonged sunshine has left the courts looking a little drier than usual, they continue to provide an excellent playing surface, with members making the most of another fantastic month of tennis.

Off the court, one of the highlights of the month was our annual Strawberry Tea. Whilst the world's best were battling it out on Centre Court for the Wimbledon Ladies' Final, there was plenty of tennis magic happening a little closer to home here in Lanchester. Members enjoyed an afternoon of friendly tennis, laughter and great company, followed by delicious strawberries, cream scones and, of course, a refreshing glass of Pimm's. A huge thank you to everyone who came along and helped make it another memorable club event.

The club has also continued its Northumberland & Durham League fixtures. Our Men's team completed their inaugural season in the league with a home match against Stocksfield, securing another impressive 7–5 victory. Finishing the season with three wins and just two defeats is a tremendous achievement for the team's first campaign, and everyone involved should be immensely proud. The standard of tennis has been excellent throughout, and the players are already looking forward to next season, which can't come soon enough!

If you are interested in joining the club or taking part in our Monday evening coaching sessions, we'd be delighted to welcome you. Please contact us at lanchestertennis@gmail.com or visit our website for more information: https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/lanchesterlawntennisclub

We look forward to another busy month of tennis and seeing many more people enjoying our wonderful village club.

***Barbara Ridley***



The strawberries and (below) enjoying the strawberry tea.



**Deadlines and contact information**

Articles, letters and photos by Friday 22nd August to lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk
Adverts by Friday 22nd August to lanchestervvadverts@gmail.com or phone Paul 07957 871106 (advertising only)
By post: The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

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