















KoGs

Well….

What a year we have had! We can honestly say we have had a blast from our usual Monday sessions to our Seahouses residential, sausage making workshop and farm tour at Knitsley Farm Shop, our 2 fundraisers - 10 in 10 (10 events in 10 hours) and Super-Tea-Rouper our ABBA themed afternoon tea, our summer rodeo themed party complete with line dancing lessons from the wonderful Agnes and of course as always our private hired ice cream truck!

We finished our year off in true KoGs form with our annual Christmas film and PJ night – This year's film was Disney's "Home Alone" and with a MEGA KoGs Christmas party the week before which, as always included a full Christmas dinner, party games with prizes, disco and everyone receiving their gifts – a personalised KoGs scarf or for our newest members personalised water bottles!

We have so much happening at KoGs in 2026! So, if you're looking to get in on our action, come and join us!

We are hitting the road again in May and heading back to Seahouses with more of our members for a jam-packed long weekend full of fun, laughs and memory making – we can't wait!

We also have lots of guests coming to help with our sessions this next term starting with Jane Nattress from Henry Dancer Days to come and talk about Henry's time with us at KoGs, his story and of course the amazing work that she carries out with the charity Henry Dancer Days. Speaking of Henry Dancer Days, our very own Pete is taking on his first ever Great North Run in September 2026 to help raise money and awareness for Henry Dancer Days!

Other guest speakers and workshop runners will include people from Prison Me No Way! Service to speak about drugs, anti-social behaviour, knife crime and gangs. Lucy Brooks – a swim instructor and lifeguard coming to do some water safety training with us, and Joy Wingfield will be coming to lead this year's Mothers' Day Craft workshop – just to name a few!

We will also be holding a coffee morning on 14th March complete with a mini KoGs Shopping experience – more information coming soon!

We have recently received a few donations from people who wish to stay anonymous – THANK YOU so much you know who you are! It really makes a huge difference to our group and we truly appreciate it!

Please be sure to follow our Facebook page to keep up to date with all of our adventures! www.facebook.com/kidsofgodlanchester

We do have room for a few more so it's still not too late to join us!

KoGs (Kids of God) is a Christian based youth group that meets in the Methodist Church on Monday evenings. We offer a range of activities including: 2 course meals, games, messy games, day trips, evening trips, residential weekend trips, crafts, drama, cell sessions and much much more!

We start at 5pm to 7.30pm, Mondays during school terms. Ages 8 – 18 years.

The cost of the sessions is £3 per person but your first week is free! (All activities and your weekly meal are included)

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

On behalf of all our members and leaders, we wish you all a Happy New Year!

Laura, Pete + the KoGs Leaders.









Clockwise from top left
Snowball scramble
Christmas meal
Suranne and Laura (Cole)
Opening their presents x 2
Christmas meal





Musical Memories Christmas Party

What a wonderful afternoon! Musical Memories celebrated its Christmas party on 3rd December. Guests were welcomed with mulled wine and settled in to catch up with old friends. There were activities and a Christmas quiz. Then it was time for Christmas songs, a lovely, seasonal Christmas tea, and Christmas carols. Everyone left with a gift and a smile on their faces.
We interviewed the volunteers to find out more.

What is "Musical Memories"?
It's a fun and friendly music group which meets once a month for 90 minutes and is run by a group of local volunteers. There is time to socialise with refreshments as well as music-related activities available such as bingo, a quiz, a word search or crafts. This is followed by a music session that includes opportunities for singing, percussion playing and movement …. or just listening.

Why do people join the group? Do you have to be a good singer?
Not at all, but everyone who attends enjoys music and good company. Music is recognised for its ability to keep the brain active and improve wellbeing and mood. Group members and volunteers comment on how they leave with a smile on their faces: "I watched people today, their eyes lit up with pleasure. I feel like a happy person when I see happy people around me," said one of our volunteers.

Is the group just for people affected by dementia?
Definitely not - that's a misconception. Music is good for everyone so it's for anyone who enjoys music and meeting likeminded people. Having said that, at Musical Memories we recognise that neurodivergence and dementia are important aspects of human diversity and we have members who are living with autism and dementia. Some people come on their own, while others come with family members, friends or companions.

So how can people join?
For more information contact Helen at lanchesterdfc@gmail.com. Or just come along, you don't need to book. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm at Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. Our next session is on 4th February with a Valentine theme.

Helen McCree

A letter from someone who was at the party

I would like to send a massive thank you to Helen and all helpers for such a wonderful Christmas Party. The food, the company and the atmosphere were perfect. I am sure everyone enjoyed a special Musical Memories afternoon. We ended our party singing some traditional carols - a reminder of the meaning of Christmas.
Pat Bell











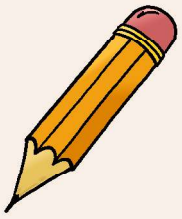




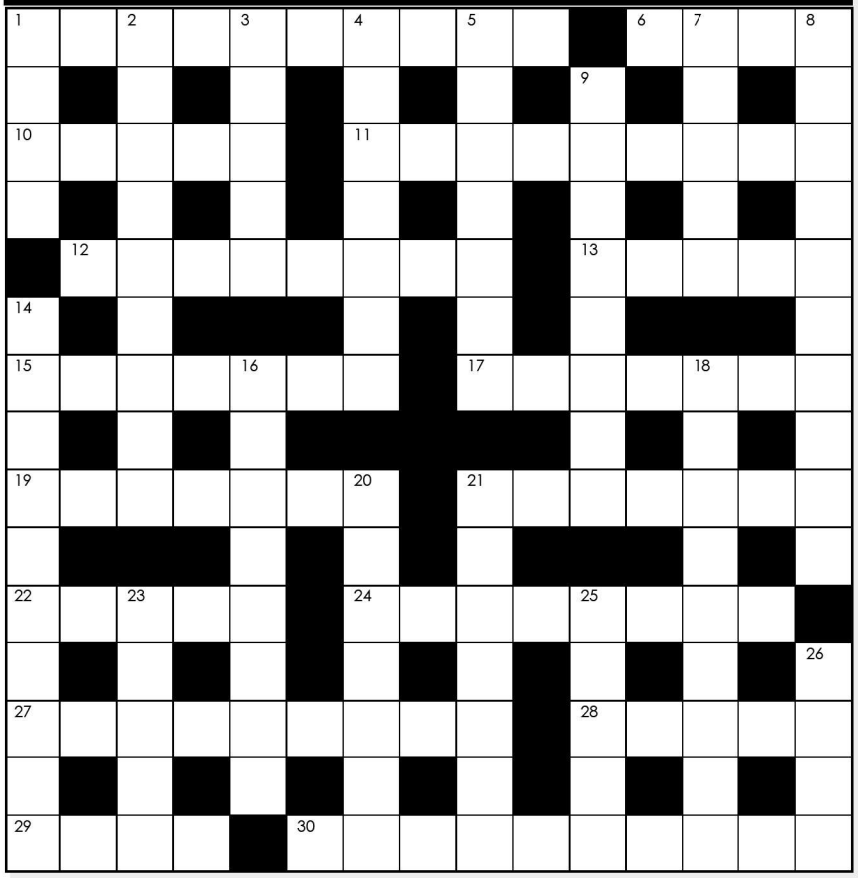
Dear Village

John Toomer, mobile greengrocer

After 45 years, December 24th 2025 was my final delivery.
Following an apprenticeship at Caterpillar, I entered the greengrocery trade and promptly found this was not only a job but a way of life (with no paid holidays).
Over the years trends have changed, and retail is totally different now, but fundamentally I have found that look after a customer and they will support you. It has been my privilege to meet so many loyal friends/customers during that time.
Since announcing retirement, I wish to say how overwhelmed Pauline and I have been by the kindness which has been shown to us. A sincere thank you to all of you.
John Toomer
NB John will be continuing the milk deliveries (Editor - phew!)



CROSSWORD 215



Clues

Across

1. Fond of company (10)
6. Remnant of a ticket or pencil (4)
10. Codswallop (5)
11. Laziness (9)
12. Without material existence (8)
13. HIJKLMNO (5)
15. Foolish chatter (7)
17. Church tower (7)
19. Napolean's birthplace (7)
21. The state of being away (7)
22. Clear and easy to understand (5)
24. Male singing voice between tenor and bass (8)
27. He has bread and cheese for his lunch (9)
28. Packing case (5)
29. Opposite of west (4)
30. Home to Snowball, Napoleon and Boxer (6,4)

Down

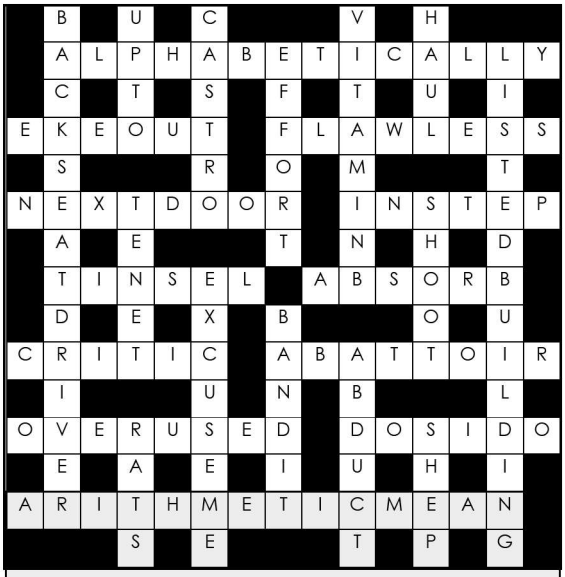
1. Entry and exit point (4)
2. Real name of author of 30 across (4,5)
3. Highly proficient (5)
4. To copy or mimic (7)
5. Software fixes and improve ments (7)
7. Belief or doctrine (5)
8. Looking exhausted (6-4)
9. Perfect (8)
14. The destruction described in the Book of Revelation (10)
16. The years following retire ment (5,3)
18. Headland (9)
20. Egg white (7)
21. A word like Radar or Laser (7)
23. They are 'murder' when they get to-gether (5)
25. Sum (5)

Name:_____

Address: _____

_____

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by **Friday 6th February 2026** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



Solution Crossword 214

Apologies for last month's grid, the bottom line was missed off! However, everyone seemed to rise to the challenge. There were 17 entries of which 13 were correct. The winner drawn out of the hat was Dan Rutter.

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Festive Tractors

This Boxing Day, tractors, drivers and enthusiasts filled Suddes' farm on Newbiggen Lane to mark the beginning of Lanchester's Boxing Day tractor run.
A colourful line of tractors stood ready at the Lanchester farm before setting off, each decorated in full Christmas style. Tinsel shimmered, candy canes hung on mufflers, and several tractors were adorned with festive lights. One unique tractor- my personal favourite- featured a miniature Santa Claus perched on the grill.
Before the run began, Malcolm Scott was awarded The Tom Stoker Memorial Cup - a trophy decorated with a small metal tractor, acknowledging his standout blue vehicle as the star of the festive season.
The award marked a special moment for Malcolm, who has spent a lifetime riding tractors and has been a member of the local club for 12 years. Malcolm was delighted to be recognised with his first tractor-related win. He said:
"This is my only win with the tractors, it's brilliant." Before praising the club as a way for tractor enthusiasts and drivers to connect with each other:
"It's great, a really nice space … very welcoming".
Tony Suddes and John Cherryman organised a 30-mile scenic drive around County Durham, stretching from Cornsay Colliery to Annfield Plain, and everywhere in between, with a short break at the Causey tearooms before beginning their trek home.
Along the way, the line of tractors wound through villages and countryside lanes, offering a brilliant display of rural pride and spreading Christmas cheer to spectators along the route.
The Boxing Day tractor run is on its way to becoming a popular fixture in Lanchester's calendar, blending festive fun with a shared passion for farming vehicles and bringing our rural communities together during the holiday period.

Kenzie Harrison

Who also took the photos including the cover photo



Malcolm Scott with his tractor and trophy



Candy cane tractor



The leading tractor





Lanchester awoke to an amazing red sky on December 11th. Liana Newstead took the photograph on the left. She and her husband deliver the Village Voice on Deneside.
The picture on the right was taken by Paul Deaville, who lives in Ashdown Grove. Apologies as space constraints mean we can't print them any larger!



Poppy's walks

Good day readers and a Happy New Year.
By now I would imagine most of you will be looking for some fresh air and exercise after the festive celebrations. So I am more than happy to tell you about a walk I led my two Humans on starting from the car park at Blackhill and Consett Park.
There is ample room for parking there and you reach the car park by turning off Durham Road before the Cricketers pub, then left along Laburnum Avenue for a short way before turning left again into Manse Street. Once parked it is a short stroll into the park itself.
As you will know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale Terrier who shares with you the walks I lead my Humans on. From the centre of the park near the bandstand we walked down to the exit and crossed the road before walking down St Aidan's Street. At the end of St Aidan's Street, we turned right along a footpath surrounded by greenery until we reached Durham Road which we crossed at the traffic lights. I was instructed to wait until the green figure showed.
We then walked along Queen's Road with the cemetery on our right until we came to a footpath/cycle track which is known as the Derwent Walk. I enjoyed walking along here because it is a former railway line once used by half a million passengers a year - a signpost later told me that fact - but more importantly it has steep leafy embankments to explore at my leisure.
After a fairly short while along Derwent Walk we came to a turn to our left opposite two red dog bins and we followed that path into a housing estate. These are fairly new houses and we walked down a short road until we faced Shotley Bridge Hospital in front of us. We turned right and kept the hospital on our left and the houses on our right. Eventually we crossed a narrow gorge and walked a short way along a street called The Elms until we came to another main road.
We crossed that and turned right uphill along a pavement until we left the road at a place called Summerhill. This turned out to be the old Shotley Bridge railway station, the platform is still there and that was where I read the sign about the number of passengers who once used the railway.
We turned right here and headed back along the Derwent Walk back in the direction of Consett, where I again found lots of interesting sights and smells at the foot of the embankment on my right. We passed the two dog bins where we turned off towards the hospital and kept walking until we saw a flight of steps on our left.
I decided to walk down them, and the Humans had little choice but to follow. This took us into another housing estate called The Links. Apparently, the street names come from Scottish golf courses. I always think golf is a good walk spoiled, but of course that would have to be my point of view. At the foot of the steps, we turned right, then after a short while turned left up another flight of steps which took us onto Links Road. From there it was easy enough to get back onto Queens Road and retrace our footsteps back to the car park.
Two items of housekeeping to mention on this walk. Doggie bins were plentiful, as I think I mentioned, and there were no stiles to cross. There were, however, quite a few cyclists who passed us on the way.
The walk took one and a half hours, and I would thoroughly recommend it.

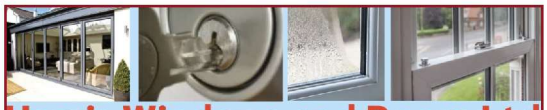
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Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

By the time you read this, we will be almost at the end of the first month of 2026. Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all have a healthy, happy and peaceful year – best wishes to everyone!

2025 finished with a burst of activity in our school. What a month we had! Our youngest children were treated to a great performance of 'The Littlest Elf' which they all enjoyed. Meanwhile, our oldest children enjoyed their annual trip to Newcastle where they saw Fenwick's Window, enjoyed a meal in Zizzi's before laughing their way through Aladdin at the Theatre Royal. We also held our Christmas Fair and took almost £2,000 in just over an hour. We had two wonderful Christmas-themed Stay and Play sessions in our 2-year-olds room as well as two very sweet nativities with our 3-year-olds. They were very enthusiastic and lively – just loving being on stage in 'the big hall!'.

This was followed by two wonderful nativities with our KS1 children who sang, spoke and acted with such confidence. We then were treated to two great performances from Year 6 whose different personalities and talents were certainly on display. We were so grateful to Lanchester Methodist Church for allowing us to perform there. Kath, as usual, was a huge help and support and it just makes it so much more special being in a church.



Nursery Nativity

Finally, on the last day of term, Year 3, 4 & 5 sent us off with the real meaning of Christmas secure in our hearts with super Christingle and Carol Services. Year 3 made their own Christingles and carried them with such great concentration around the church (see front cover). Once again, we thank Revd Lesley and All Saints' Church for allowing us to take over the church for the morning!

As school finished on the final day of the school year, we were very fortunate to have a visit from Santa Claus who was driven around the village by Mrs Davis in her open roofed car! This has become a real tradition now and it is just wonderful to see the faces of the children as we pass them by. Santa did mention that he thinks the biggest smiles come from the adults though!



Our children were thrilled to learn that Hanley's window won the award for being the best dressed Christmas window in the village. Thank you all so much for your support. Wendy handed over the prize money, and the School Council took no time at all in deciding that it should be split between our two charities we are supporting this year – Henry Dancer Days and Willow Burn Hospice.

Now we turn our thoughts to 2026 and what is to come. In the middle of January, we have a group of 12 children and adults flying out to Delhi, India to visit our partner school. We also have a group of 8 children and adults going to London to the Bett Show and enjoying some sightseeing in London. We look forward to this year and all the success and achievements it will bring for so many of our children.

On Thursday 19th February, we will be holding a Coffee Afternoon and Art Gallery for the local community at the school. This will take place from 2pm. The Art Gallery is being displayed in conjunction with Lanchester Art Club and will be a display of artwork from our children. All work will be based around our Christian values of Love, Hope, Trust, Joy and Kindness. There will also be some work from Lanchester Art Club displayed too. Please come and join us for this very special event. Thank you.

Mrs J Davis
Head Teacher



Year 6 Nativity

School Parking

Police are encouraging parents and other observers to report motorists parking illegally or inconsiderately outside a Lanchester school by videoing them.

A notice from Durham Constabulary on the front gate of the EP School headlined School Park Safe says: "Take video evidence and upload here. Let's do something about it."

The police say they are working in partnership with local schools.

The EP school has a flexible drop-off for all children and encourages parents to use nearby car parks. But inconsiderate parking has long been a concern for local residents, pedestrians and other motorists during school drop off and pick up periods.

Neil McKay

All Saints' Catholic Primary School

All Saints' Village Playgroup – A Wonderful Start and Exciting Sessions Ahead!

Last term, we were thrilled to launch our new playgroup at All Saints', and it has already been a fantastic success! Families from across the community have joined us, creating a warm and welcoming space where children can play, learn and make new friends while parents and grandparents connect and share experiences.

The first three sessions were a real highlight. Our fireworks-themed session was full of colour and creativity, with children enjoying vibrant crafts and sensory play. The messy play morning was a joyful opportunity for little ones to explore textures and express themselves freely. Finally, our Christmas celebration was truly magical, bringing families together for festive crafts, songs and a special visit to see Santa in his grotto.

The playgroup is open to all families, regardless of faith or geographical location and offers fun, themed activities designed to encourage creativity and social interaction. They are led by our experienced Early Years team.

We are delighted to announce our upcoming sessions:

- Valentine's Day – Thursday 12th February, 9.15 – 10.15
- World Book Day – Tuesday 3rd March, 9.15 – 10.15
- Easter – Tuesday 24th March, 9.15 – 10.15

To make the sessions even more enjoyable, there are hot drinks available for adults and snacks for the children so everyone can relax for an hour. It has been wonderful to see the positive impact of these sessions so far and the feedback we've received has been glowing. There's nothing to pay and no need to prebook. We look forward to welcoming you and your little ones in the new year!

Frances Stephenson, Head Teacher




Messy play



Fireworks

Wildlife notes





Each winter brings many visitors to our shores as they escape the freezing temperatures of the far north. Redwing and Fieldfare fill our hedgerows, Bramblings and Waxwings brighten bare branches and increased numbers of Hen Harriers glide over the North Sea to boost our numbers. And a trip to any winter wetland (Rainton Meadows, Low Barns, Salthome, various sites around Druridge Bay, etc) will reveal wildfowl.

Thousands of ducks, geese and swans make the journey from breeding grounds in Scandinavia or the Arctic to winter in our wetlands, gathering in areas where food is plenty and protection can be found from sheer numbers. Look out for surface ducks such as the small, delicate teal with its glossy green eye stripe, whistling wigeon identified by its reddish-brown head punctuated by its orange 'smudge' and its two white wing patches visible in flight, elegant pintail- observe the males' neat brown head and pristine white breast, a stark contrast to the drabber, brown female, and the shoveler- distinguishable with its huge beak and dark green head.

Diving ducks include the gorgeous Goldeneye- its yellow eye especially striking in contrast with the brown head and grey plumage of females, and when combined with the pure white plumage and glossy green head of the males creating a truly resplendent bird to watch. Look out for redheaded pochard and now rare smew, although the latter- once a reasonably regular winter wetland bird- has dramatically declined, making a sighting of the immaculate white plumage and delicate black markings of the male and subtler red/grey tones of the female a rare and precious moment. With this vast array of ducks, not to forget the large number of geese and swans, visiting a wetland can be a wonderful experience, and well worth spending a couple of hours to do on a crisp winter's day.

From our wildlife family









Photos l-r above Male teal, Goldeneyes, Male Pintail, Shoveler by our junior wildlife correspondent
Top right Wax Wing, centre right Red Wing (photos by Ian Appleby)

Lanchester Wildlife Group February Meeting

Duncan Hutt - Rothbury Estate, England's biggest nature reserve.

Tuesday 10th February 7.30pm, Lanchester Community Centre, All welcome. No charge.

Duncan Hutt is the Director of Conservation for Northumberland Wildlife Trust. He has masterminded the purchase of the Rothbury Estate. The 3800 hectares (just under 15 square miles) of moorland, upland farmland and wooded valleys are all to be managed sustainably to the benefit of wildlife and the people who live there.


Merlin - Britain's smallest falcon.

The estate includes the picturesque Simonside Hills, home to wild goats thought to have descended from animals kept by the monks on Lindisfarne. It is home to nationally important populations of curlews and other waders as well as Merlin, Britain's smallest falcon. The steep-sided streams which run off the moorlands are lined with ancient oak woods that are home to Pied Flycatchers and Redstarts. They are still a place where the squirrels you see are Red rather than Grey.

In addition to the existing wildlife, it is hoped that extinct native animals, such as Beaver, Pine Marten and perhaps even Bison could be reintroduced to restore and maintain the upland habitats in a natural way. Duncan Hutt will be explaining why the Rothbury estate is so important today and how it is going to be even better in the future for both wildlife and the people who live and work in North Northumberland.

Noel Jackson

Willow Burn

Kick start the New Year: Volunteer and Support Your Local Hospice!

As the new year starts, many people look for ways to get involved in their community. Volunteering with Willow Burn Hospice in Lanchester is a practical way to make a meaningful contribution from the very beginning of the year.

Two volunteering opportunities are available right here in the village at the Willows Café at Willow Burn Hospice and Willow Burn Boutique on Croft View. Both play an important role in raising vital funds to support end of life and palliative care for patients and families across our area.

The Willows Café is a much-loved community space, enjoyed not only by hospice visitors but also by local residents who come for good food and friendly faces. Café volunteers help with serving, clearing tables and creating a warm, relaxed atmosphere where everyone feels welcome. Volunteering opportunities are available on Tuesdays.



Over at Willow Burn Boutique, shop volunteers assist customers, sort donations and help keep the shop looking inviting. It's a sociable role, perfect for those who enjoy meeting people and being part of a team. The Boutique team are also looking for a Duty Volunteer to open the shop on Mondays, perfect for someone, or a couple of people, with retail experience or who would like to gain experience for a future career.

Volunteering doesn't require special skills, just a little time and a willingness to help. This New Year, why not try something new, meet new people and make a positive difference right on your doorstep?

Find out more at: www.willowburnhospice.org.uk/volunteer or contact Rachel Quince at: 01207 529 224 / rquince@willowburnhospice.org.uk

Rachel Quince



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Openreach bringing Full Fibre broadband to Lanchester

You may have noticed trenches being dug and cable being fed through manholes. There is an element of déjà vu about it as, not too long ago, Virgin Media dug up the footpaths and roads to install fibre broadband in Lanchester.

The Village Voice contacted Openreach for an update on what they are doing. The rest of this article is based on their response. Openreach is different from Virgin Media as they do not offer broadband themselves to the consumer but provide the broadband network for retail providers such as BT, SKY, TalkTalk, Vodafone and Zen.

They have started work to build a new broadband network for Lanchester – "giving residents and businesses access to some of the fastest, most reliable broadband anywhere in Europe". The once-in-a-generation, full fibre broadband upgrade will let thousands of local people connect multiple devices at gigabit-capable speeds and help businesses trade online and compete for decades to come.

Engineers have started work in Lanchester and the build is expected to reach the majority of local homes and businesses. More than 1,000 properties in the area have already got access to Full Fibre – and engineers will be reaching more in 2026. Fibre technology provides more reliable, resilient and future-proof connectivity, with fewer faults; more predictable, consistent speeds; and enough capacity to easily meet growing data demands.

It boosts every online experience, from seamless streaming and gaming for households to smooth video calls, banking and customer interactions for businesses, with much less buffering or slowdown at busy times.

Local people can visit openreach.co.uk/ultrafastfullfibre to register for updates and, as the build progresses, check their addresses to see when services are available from their chosen provider.

Kasam Hussain, Partnership Director for the North and Midlands, said: "We're bringing full fibre broadband to Lanchester and letting local people know what to expect.

"This is a major infrastructure upgrade, so there will be more engineering teams, equipment and vans around town, and we're working hard to keep disruption to a minimum.

"Wherever possible, we'll use our existing network of ducts and poles to avoid roadworks, new street furniture and disturbance. But there may be places where we need to install new poles, underground ducts and fibre cables because it's the only way to make sure households get included in the upgrade.

"Openreach is committed to building the best full fibre network, and doing it sustainably is crucial for our business, the communities we serve, and the environment we all share. As part of our 'Let's Reach Zero' strategy, we aim to lower our carbon emissions, use less and waste less material, and protect nature wherever we operate."



You can find out more about the benefits of an upgrade to Full Fibre broadband on the Openreach website.

So, when completed this will provide plenty of competition for Virgin Media who have had a virtual monopoly on full fibre broadband in the village.

Keith Brown

Photograph is a stock photo of fibre cable being fed through ducts

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Community Flood Resilience

From the Environment Agency

Flooding is a growing concern, with an estimated 6.3 million properties (homes and businesses) in England in areas currently at risk of flooding from one or a combination of sources including river, coastal and surface water flooding.

In order to boost community and personal flood resilience, there are some key preparedness measures we can take. Please find some useful information below.

Flood Resilience Drop in Session. 19/2/26 at Lynwood House, Lanchester.

If you'd like further information about flood resilience measures you can take or if you'd be interested in volunteering to be a Flood Warden, Jamie Flood Resilience Community Engagement Officer will be holding a drop in session on Thursday 19 February 2026 1.30pm-2.30pm at Lynwood House if you would like to pop along.

Key information:

Do you know your flood risk?

Many people are unaware of their flood risk. You can find out your flood risk online or by calling Floodline 0345 988 1188

https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk

Sign up for free flood warnings

Check to see if you can receive free flood warnings for flooding from rivers, the sea or groundwater depending on your area. You can receive texts, emails or telephone calls to give you valuable time to prepare.

https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

Floodline: 0345 988 1188

Know what to do before, during and after a flood. Having a plan can save you valuable time. You can create a personal or business flood plan and be aware of key actions to take:

https://www.gov.uk/help-during-flood

Does your insurance cover you for flooding?

Flood Re is a joint industry and government initiative which can make the flood cover part of your household insurance more affordable. Check your eligibility:

https://www.floodre.co.uk

Report flood issues:

Flooding concerns need to be reported to the relevant authority so that action can be taken:

https://www.gov.uk/report-flood-cause

Volunteer opportunities – be part of a local flood group!

Did you know there's an active flood group in your area! Would you like to volunteer to know what to do before, during and after a flood and help your local community? Please get in touch with the Flood Resilience Community Engagement team!

Email: engagement_northeast@environment-agency.gov.uk

Environment Agency

Lanchester Bowling Club

Near the end of November, the members of the Bowling Club start to look forward to, not just Christmas, but their Presentation Night! This year's event was held on the 4th December at Ravello's and an enjoyable evening was had by all of the members, their partners and friends. Mike Stoddart (Chairman) said a few words about the Club Competitions and also thanked Stuart Lee (Secretary) and John Halsey (Treasurer) for organising the event, with special mention to Ann Lee for her wonderful handmade gifts.

Joe Newton (Vice Chairman) presented the trophies. Congratulations went to Adrian Evans, presented with the Club Championship and 3 Woods trophy, Andy Travis presented with the Pairs (with John Vickery) and 2 Woods trophies, Richard Hall presented with the Handicap and Challenge trophies and Paul McGrath presented with the Most Improved Player Trophy.

It is with great sadness that we learned, at the end of November, the loss of two of our members, Richard Goodfellow and John Sanderson. Richard joined our Club in August 2021 after spending a number of years living in France, before, finally, moving to Consett. He was a very active playing member until his illness. John Sanderson joined the club in April 2022, moving into the Lanchester village from being in Portugal for many years. He was well known throughout the village, being involved at the Lanchester Social Club for many years. He enjoyed playing outdoor and indoor bowls, playing both games on a regular basis.

We send our deepest condolences to their families at this difficult time.

Richard Hall



Adrian Evans, Paul McGrath, Richard Hall, Andy Travis



Audrey Newton and Joe Newton (Vice Chair)



Mike Stoddart (Chair) standing, congratulating Winners Paul McGrath and Andy Travis with Marian McGrath and Pauline Travis

Lanchester Parish Council

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

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 11th November – approved

Police Reports

Members were updated on the recent PACT report for November

Durham County Councillor

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

Solar Farm at Burnhope may go to appeal

Lanchester Medical Centre – ongoing concerns, another meeting is being held in early January. AG writing a letter on behalf of the Parish Council with our concerns

Drone has been funded by 5 County Councillors

Meeting with Maxine Stubbs regarding the concerns with traffic near Station Road

A 'Keep Clear' sign has been requested in the car park behind the Spar

Fly tipping on Peth Bank is still a problem. Malcolm Whittaker the Neighbourhood Warden to be informed of the issue

Neighbourhood Plan Review

The Clerk informed the Council of the information received from Chartered Town Planner on reviewing our Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors asked Clerk to seek advice from other Parish Councils who have a Neighbourhood Plan and from CDALC

Christmas Light Switch on Event 2025

The event was another success. Hanleys won the £200 prize for the best Christmas window. Councillors decided next year's event will be held on 28th November

Animal Wood Carvings

Clerk to organise a site visit with Tom from T W Fiddes Sculpture and Councillors in the New Year

Buskers and Friends for Willow Burn Project

A request was received for the Parish Council to donate to the Buskers and Friends project to raise money for Willow Burn. Councillors asked if the request could be brought to the March meeting when all other donation requests will be considered. Some members agreed to make a personal donation to the cause

Grass Cutting Contract

The Clerk to go out to tender for the 2026 contract. The Clerk to also obtain a quote for the hanging baskets

Lanchester Medical Centre

Members discussed the ongoing concerns at the Medical Centre. AG to write a letter on behalf of the Parish Council

Planning Enforcement – Front Street

Members were informed of concerns a resident had regarding building works taking place on Lanchester Front Street – AG to contact Durham County Council to receive more information

Solar Planet Trail Project

Members were updated on the project

Deadlines and contact information

Articles, letters and photos by Monday 2nd February to lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk

Adverts by Monday 2nd February 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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