

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 21

Lanchester, March 2020

For contact information, see page 2

## STILL OPEN - SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES



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*We apologise to other local businesses who have not been featured on this page due to lack of space.*

## CORONAVIRUS

**Are you self-isolating? Do you need help? Please see page 3.**

## VINTAGE POSTCARD RETURNS TO LANCHESTER



At a recent postcard fair, Rodney Hawkins of the Friends of Longovicium bought a postcard entitled 'View from the Roman Walls, Lancashire'. Taken from close by the remains of the Roman fort, the view looks down Cadger Bank towards the village. According to the

postmark it was posted in Lancashire on 19th May 1938 to a Mrs C Wren, The Square, Chyandour, Penzance by one F Bryant who, according to the text, was stopping at Jubilee House, Maiden Law, Lancashire. The text reads: "Having a good time, staying here for a week. Hope Betty is still working hard, weather not too bad. Kind regards, F Bryant." Rodney is interested in finding out more about Mrs Wren and F Bryant. Does anybody today know of them, or where

Jubilee House is or was? One thing that is highly unusual about the card is that after years of searching this is the only postcard found which has anything to do with the Roman fort of Longovicium, even though it doesn't actually show it in this view. Unless somebody out there knows differently! Please email Rodney on hawkins\_15@sky.com or telephone 0191 4103472 if you have any information.  
*Rodney Hawkins  
Friends of Longovicium*

## How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise, email: voiceadverts@gmail.com or telephone Lynda on 07851 775297. Please do not use this number for matters relating to content.

General and news enquiries, email: lancchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line).

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### Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for last month was 11. The draw was made by Vera from Durham Deafened Support.

## A MAN OF THE TIMES

Readers of The Times (a daily newspaper generally considered to be inferior to The Village Voice) may have taken a start when they looked at the centre spread on Thursday 12th March. There a picture of our own Jed Peaden, the owner of Lancashire and Langley Park Hardware stores. Following the Conservative victory at the last general election, The Times has discovered the Durham North West constituency. On a

feature on the 'Red Wall' northern constituencies, it sent a journalist to ask local people's opinions on the budget. Jed, pictured with a smile and two hammers, expressed his concerns about business rates and coronavirus (Jed has always been ahead of the curve). Let's hope his and other local businesses survive this dreadful time. With a bit of luck maybe people will have a bit more time to do some DIY.



*Jed Peaden*

## JOE PURDOM'S WORLD CHALLENGE RACE NIGHT

I would like to thank everyone who attended and supported my Race Night in February, at Lancashire Cricket Club. The event was to raise funds for my World Challenge to Nepal in 2021. We raised £640 from the night and also from kind donations made. I would like to say a big thanks to friends and the following local businesses who donated a prize for the raffle: Crinnions, Deano's, Belissimo,

Lancashire Garden Centre, Lancashire Hardware, Lancashire News, Talking Heads, Lancashire Pharmacy, Hanley & Sons and June Taylor. I would also like to thank Lancashire Cricket Club for use of the venue and all the staff who helped on the night. If anyone would like to make a donation for my World Challenge please go to [www.gofundme/joepurdorm](http://www.gofundme/joepurdorm)  
Many thanks  
*Joe Purdom*

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) HELP AND ADVICE

**Hello! If you are self-isolating, we can help.**

**The Lanchester Partnership and Churches Together can be contacted by calling  
07925 130310**

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19, or need support during this time then please call - the number is manned from 8am until 8pm daily. Texts will be answered but there could be a delay - please call if an urgent response is needed.

We can help with:

1. Picking up shopping or prescriptions
2. A friendly phone call and someone to talk to
3. Getting urgent supplies to you

We are not medically trained and we do not replace professional medical advice. If you have medical concerns then you need to follow guidelines and seek professional medical advice.

Deliveries will be left on your doorstep.

Please note that a call or text will result in your contact information being passed to a volunteer to enable a response. Your details will be retained securely during the project by The Lanchester Partnership and Churches Together, for the purpose of delivering the project, but will be deleted once the project comes to a close.

Offers of help in delivering the service can be made on this number also but if you use social media then joining the Facebook group 'Lanchester Partnership and Churches Together COVID-19 support' is the most central contact point and will be updated regularly. We will also be utilising 'WhatsApp' to communicate quickly with volunteers.



**Lanchester Medical Centre**

*Lanchester Patient Participation Group*

Covid-19 causes a viral pneumonia, so the main symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. As with many infections, its effects are most severe in the elderly and those with other illnesses.

It is likely to spread through droplets in the air we breathe out, which go further when we cough or sneeze. This is why it is important to carry tissues and dispose of them once used. If you don't have a tissue handy, then cough

into your sleeve rather than your hand.

The other important way viruses spread is from touching surfaces, such as door handles, or other people who may be affected. This is why it is important to wash your hands more frequently and do a thorough job - it should take about 20 seconds (long enough to sing Happy Birthday twice). Washing your hands when you get home should become as normal as taking off your shoes. Soap and water is best, hand gel is useful as a backup when you're out and about.

Shaking hands and other physical contact with people outside your family should be avoided. It is unlikely that we can stop the virus spreading

to our area, but, if we can get it to spread more slowly, we can minimize the risk of health services being overwhelmed, and we may be able to delay the peak until summer, when we are generally more resilient.

If you think you may be affected, or you are worried about recent travel, follow the advice available on the NHS website or via 111. Anybody who is affected will be told to stay at home for 2 weeks, even if they feel well enough to go out. Please respect this and also look out for friends and neighbours who may need help with errands while they are self-isolating.

Let us not panic but neither let us be complacent.

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## 'WELCOMING LANCHESTER' LONELINESS UPDATE

The latest coverage of the Covid-19 situation got me thinking. The government's key message encouraging individuals, where appropriate, to 'self isolate' focused upon the word 'isolation' - a key challenge for many with loneliness issues. It also makes us focus on and question the ways in which we all go about our everyday lives and often take lots of things for granted. Things are likely to continue to change in the coming weeks as we get to grips with Covid-19 as a country, region and local community.

Direction is coming from government.

Communication and coordination are highlighted in their messages. Re-assurance and confidence are important.

The real differences for us will be how we 'act local' within our community, actively support one another and how well we do this. Perhaps the need for real neighbourliness is greater now than it's

been in a long time. We can all take practical steps to help and support each other by having conversations - with family, friends, colleagues, and especially our neighbours. We will then all be better prepared to act and do things which we need to do to meet the various challenges faced by our community.

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# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

## Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th March 2020

**Highways Issues** - A resident attended the meeting to talk about the speed of traffic around the village and the concerns of safety for pedestrians and motorists. The resident referred in particular to concerns around Ford Road and Cadger Bank but stated that all routes into the village gave concern. The resident suggested that the speed limit on roads leading to the village be reduced to 20mph or that there be improved signage, repeater signs and new electronic warning signs on entrance roads. The Parish Council discussed this matter. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council had discussed these concerns on several occasions and undertaken site visits with County Council

officers to explore possible measures to address the problems. It was agreed that this matter should be included for discussion at an upcoming site meeting with the County Council. It was also agreed to ask the Community Speedwatch Team to attend Ford Road and Cadger Bank at peak rush hour times to monitor speed. Members discussed the recent icy conditions in Lanchester. In particular the ice on the road and pavement on Newbiggen Lane was discussed. It appears that water is seeping across the pavement and road which causes dangerous conditions when icy. The source of the water is not clear. It was agreed that the information including photos be sent to

Northumbrian Water Ltd who will investigate the matter.  
**Northumbrian Water Ltd - Sewer System** - An Officer from Northumbrian Water Ltd attended the meeting and presented an update report which gave details of a proposed scheme to address flooding problems along Ford Road. It was confirmed that Northumbrian Water Ltd would provide a quarterly report which would include details of timescale and priority for this proposed scheme.  
**Police report** - received. The general content of the Police reports was discussed. It was agreed to ask the Police to provide an annual report detailing the results of investigations.  
**Correspondence**  
**\* The Pensions Regulator - Automatic Enrolment Duties** - the Parish Council has completed a re-declaration of compliance with The Pensions Regulator.  
**\* Durham County Council - consultation on Selective Licensing for Private Landlords** - agreed that the Parish Council supports the proposals.  
**\* Consett and District Royal British Legion - donation of Remembrance Bench** - Members were informed that the Consett and

District Royal British Legion are offering to donate a Remembrance bench to the Parish. It was agreed that the offer of a Remembrance bench is accepted and that the bench is located near to the War Memorial on the Village Green.  
**\* Durham County Council - land at Deneside** - Members considered the information received from the County Council regarding the sale of land at Deneside for residential use. The Parish Council has no objection to the sale.  
**\* Clerk & Councils Direct - March Newsletter** - received.  
**Parish Councils Committee** - A site meeting has been undertaken with a County Council officer to discuss a project in Lanchester which would include planting of native bulbs and plugs along the Village Green. The County Council will cost up the project for consideration by the Parish Council. Members were informed that our County Councillors are working on a proposed scheme to address the footpath problems between

Lanchester Medical Centre and the King's Head.  
**Neighbourhood Plan** - The Neighbourhood Plan Submission consultation concluded on 17th February. An examiner has been appointed by the County Council who commenced work on the examination of the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan on 2nd March.  
**Risk Assessment Schedule** - approved.  
**Internal Audit Arrangements** - approved.  
**Schools - Distribution of Newsletters** - agreed that a donation of £100 is given to the two Primary schools.  
**Grants/Donations** - The following donations were agreed:  
 1. Lanchester & Burnhope Parochial Church Council - Clock Maintenance - £300.  
 2. All Saints' Parish Centre - £250.  
 3. 1st Lanchester Guiding - £100.  
 4. Natures Edge CIC - £100.  
 The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 14th April 2020 at Lynwood House at 7.15 pm.

## PATCHWORK AND QUILTING CLASSES

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# WALK FOR HEALTH

As I write the government has advised everyone against non-essential contact and many if not all village activities have been suspended. Those with flu-like symptoms must self-isolate, but others can go out for reasons of exercise while staying 2 metres from others. This means do not

stop and talk, even if it appears rude.

We are fortunate that here in Lanchester we have some excellent walks both on our doorstep and nearby. Solo walking or with someone you live with will not put you at greater risk of catching the virus and will keep you fit and

help with mental well-being. If walking alone be sure to tell someone where you are going. Use hand sanitiser after touching gates and stiles.

There are 6 well signed walks from the village that can be found on the Parish Council website. Look for Publications, then Heritage Walks Leaflets.

A little further afield you could buy a book for example '100 walks in County Durham'.

Tourist offices such as the Dales Centre in Stanhope (check they are still open) also have leaflets of local walks. There are walks to download from the internet for example [www.thisisdurham.com](http://www.thisisdurham.com).

My wife and I have had over 100 local walks published in Country Walking magazine. You can find most of them at [www.livefortheoutdoors.com/countrywalking](http://www.livefortheoutdoors.com/countrywalking). The best maps for local walking are OS Explorer 307 and OL31. Get outdoors, stay fit, keep your spirits up.

*Paul Monaghan*

## POPPY'S PATHS

Hello Village Voice readers



My name is Poppy, I am a four and a bit year old Patterdale Terrier and I intend to tell you about various walks you can take your Humans on in the area.

I believe my predecessor Brock used to fulfil this role. Unfortunately I never met him but I understand he was something of a 'character', whatever that means. I am far more ladylike.

This time I am going to tell you about a walk in Witton Gilbert, just five miles from Lanchester. Fortunately I am quite comfortable in the back of my Human's car, so can travel there in style on my bed in the back of his Fiesta.

We park in a layby on the road leading to the village church, then walk along to the church where we turn right down a path towards a river. On the right is a field containing three strange looking creatures which the Human called Alpacas.

They seem friendly enough but as they are quite a lot bigger than me I don't cross into their field to introduce myself.

We walk down to a footbridge which crosses the river - I often stop to chase sticks in the river - then alongside a ploughed field and up to the Lanchester Valley railway path. We cross the path and continue past some converted barn buildings which are now expensive looking houses.

The footpath is clearly marked and there is a rather large dog in one of the houses who sometimes makes a fuss behind his wooden garden fence. Since the fence is in between us I give him as good as he gives back!

From there we continue alongside another field within sight of a village

called Bearpark, past a cricket field then back down a track with woods on both sides which are fun to explore.

At the bottom we come across the railway path again, so we turn left and walk back along it to the spot from where we had earlier crossed it. I am often kept on my lead along the railway path because my Human discourages me from chasing cycles, the spoilsport!

From there it is right down to the river, across the same footbridge we used to cross the river before, then back up the hill past the Alpacas again. This time I often have a wander into the churchyard to chase any rabbits which may lurk there.

We return to the car after an invigorating stroll which lasts just under 90 minutes.

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# Dear Village....

The views expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the newspaper, the editor or persons working for the newspaper. The editor retains the right to cut or amend any letter published. Letters must contain your name, address and telephone no, all of which may be withheld at your request.

Dear Village Voice  
I am writing to alert residents of our lovely village about incidents of anti-social behaviour which myself, some of my neighbours and, I believe, other residents, have been subjected to, both recently and during last year.  
This concerns eggs being thrown at our windows in the evenings. The police have been informed, but I believe it is our duty as parents, teachers and neighbours to convey to young people that this sort of behaviour is not acceptable.  
PARENTS! Do you know what your children are up to if they're out in the evening?  
Have you had eggs mysteriously disappearing from your

kitchen? Remember your child is your responsibility.  
TEACHERS! Could this matter be discussed in Assemblies/Tutor groups, either by yourselves or Community Police Officers, and children made aware that police are involved?  
SHOP ASSISTANTS! Have you noticed youths buying eggs? Are you prepared to challenge them and refuse to sell?  
This village is a pleasant, safe place to live. Let's keep it that way. Some people who have been targeted are elderly, and it's upsetting! Don't let any young people you know be responsible for this sort of anti-social behaviour.  
*Name and address withheld on request*

## LANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP QUIZ

A quiz held by the Lanchester Partnership - including a pie and pea supper - raised £448.85. Participants paid £5 to enter the quiz on the evening of Saturday, March 7th in the village Social Club.

There was a mixture of picture round, current affairs, general knowledge and music - which was TV theme tunes.  
Money raised will be used towards funding the Lanchester Fun Run.

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## COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS



Due to the outbreak of Coronavirus obviously our main concern at the moment is the safety of our staff, volunteers and users of the Centre. We want everyone to enjoy their activities at the Centre but our priority is for everyone to be safe and well and we will, of course, be following all advice given by

Government and Health Officials to help to prevent the spread of the virus. At the time of writing the advice is that we can still socialise and attend meetings. We would ask anyone coming to the Centre to wash their hands thoroughly at home before they leave, wash again when they arrive at the Centre and again before you leave - lots of soap and hot water will be available for this. Think about your 'personal space' when socialising, perhaps avoid shaking hands and hugging friends for a while. If we all work together now to look after

each other we will get through this very challenging time. The gym refurbishment is ongoing and the facility is still open for use by members to keep fit and active. Gym inductions will continue to be offered to anyone who would like to join the gym.  
To keep up to date with what's going on, check out our Information Point; follow us on Facebook 'Lanchester Community Centre'; Instagram #lanchester\_community\_centre; check out the website - lanchestercommunity.wix.com/lanchester.

## CRICKET CLUB COFFEE MORNING



A money raising Coffee Morning by Lanchester Cricket Club members was organised at the Methodist Church on Saturday 7th March. After expenses £135 was raised, thanks to the generous support of those who attended. The photo features refreshment workers - left to right: Stephen McPhail, Anne McPhail and Neil Graham.

Ron and Maralyn O'Keefe are pleased to welcome you to

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# PANCAKE PARTY

Something exciting happened at All Saints' Parish Church on Tuesday February 25th. It was Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

It is perhaps better known as Pancake Day because, in days gone by, people used up ingredients with a view to fasting during Lent. Eggs, flour and milk were put in a pan to make a cake and the name

pancake became synonymous with the beginning of Lent.

Reverend Lesley initiated the special Pancake Party in the Chapter House and a great time was had by all. Susan, Eileen and Brenda had between them made over 50 pancakes at home and heated them at church to very successfully. There was a very attractive array of toppings from which the children could

choose, namely melted chocolate, golden syrup, maple syrup, caramel spread, sprinkles, marshmallows, nutella, sugar and ice cream. The children did not want to miss out on any filling and some pancakes were piled high with a wide variety of them. There was not a morsel of pancake left at the end of the afternoon.

The event was very well attended, the youngest being a baby boy of 4

weeks called Fahren, the son of Hannah and Stuart and great grandson of Diane and Brian Oram. Juno, Fahren's brother was also there to enjoy the fun and sample the pancakes. Just to look at the children's faces was proof that they were thoroughly enjoying the party, especially when those faces revealed the

filling they had chosen. Mums and Dads and family members enjoyed the party too making it a very successful family event. Donations were given generously and we thank everyone who contributed in this way. Are we repeating the event next year? A resounding YES!

*Brenda Craddock*



*It's a full house!*



*Susan, Eileen and Lesley enjoying the party.*

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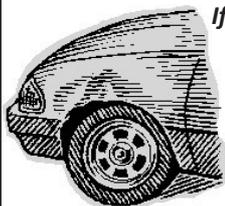
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# WORLD BOOK DAY WITH ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL

Every year schools all over the country celebrate World Book Day when pupils are allowed to come to school in costumes based on the characters in their favourite books. Each year, their clothes show more imagination and a really great

involvement with their favourite literature, and this year was no exception, when Broccoli Boy met unicorns, dragons and Teddy Bears. New characters made their appearance, with some of the March sisters in their Victorian finery

sitting with several Where's Wally? tributes. The Grand Parade included several members of staff in imaginative costumes, and everyone had a great time, a perfect appreciation of the books they enjoyed!  
Maisie Raine



Year 4 really enjoyed World Book Day and their costumes were fabulous!



Sherlock Holmes carries out an investigation during the Grand Parade at All Saints' School.

## A BRIEF TASTE OF WINTER - 24th February



At least someone has found a meal!  
Thanks to Ian Taylor for this photo.



Sledging on Pace Egg Bank. Great fun for all the family.



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## MUSICAL MEMORIES IN MARCH

The theme of our latest Musical Memories session was 'Spring' and although the weather was changeable, many people braved the seasonal weather and enjoyed meeting their friends for a chat, music and activities. We started off with tea and biscuits, and then we shared our usual 'Hello' song as an introduction. We illustrated some spring flowers, and joined in some songs connected with the season. Our 'silly games' were as popular as ever, and we all enjoyed remembering some of the

lovely popular songs and singers of the past. Our last song was the Floral Dance, with everyone dancing and waving

Union Jack flags as a patriotic welcome to Spring! Another lovely session to remember.

*Maisie Raine*



Dancing to 'The Floral Dance' as a patriotic welcome to spring!

## OUT AND ABOUT in Long Gone Lanchester

For anyone with a curiosity about past times, finding a source describing how people in Lanchester lived at the turn of the century is a fascinating read. A booklet, written probably in the 1950s and printed by Lanchester WI, records memories of local people who recalled the time before the First World War, a time very different to our own, when a modern world was about to begin.

Extremes of weather occurred in the late 1890s. On Christmas Day 1893, primroses were seen. The following year, there was a great gale in March, the worst for 60 years, and in May, there was a severe frost with ice a quarter of

an inch thick. In 1895, there was deep snow and a hard frost in February and March. Grouse were seen on house tops, and hares and partridges came to feed at houses. All water for drinking was drawn from wells, and there were three or four in the village. Water was used very carefully, and when piped water was first introduced, a number of people considered this 'unhealthy' and still carried their water from the well. Water for domestic use was usually collected in rain barrels, and though dark in colour, was very soft and good for washing. it was deemed to be especially good for washing the face and hair.

Housework must have been much more arduous after the First World War. 'Posing' was an important part of wash day, when clothes were beaten with a heavy stick with a rounded bottom. Many clothes needed blue or starch, and almost all needed ironing. Flat irons or box irons were used, and heated in a clear fire. Mending and darning had to be done, often by hand, though there were sewing machines in some families. The men's socks and the boys' stockings were made at home, and tating was used for edging handkerchiefs and to make collars for ladies' dresses.

'Good Old Days' maybe, but a lot of hard work!

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# MALE VOICE PATRONS' EVENING



Some of the Male Voice Choir.

It is always a pleasure to attend the Patrons' evening of the Lanchester Male Voice Choir, this year held on Saturday March 7th. The conductor of the choir is now Peter Bridgewater and he had prepared the choir very capably to sing nine songs, which included the lovely lyrics 'I Dreamed a Dream', 'The Wind Beneath My Wings' and 'To Where You Are'. There were other more light hearted songs such as 'Lil Liza Jane', 'The Hippopotamus Song' and 'Bill Grogan's Goat'. It

was a varied programme which was enjoyed by everyone.

A new item this year was a duo performed by Noreen Bridgewater on the piano and Richard Woods playing violin. Needless to say it was a very accomplished performance, by two very gifted musicians.

A very nice supper was served followed by the drawing of a raffle and a quiz of general knowledge for which we broke into groups. It really tested the participants and the winning team must be

congratulated for their high score. Everyone learnt a great deal that night and vowed to improve their general knowledge.

Once again, the choir had provided a very enjoyable evening for the Patrons who were thanked for their attendance by Peter Bridgewater. We wish all the men with their new conductor Peter Bridgewater every success in the future. Thank you Male Voice Choir. Long may you continue.

Brenda Craddock



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# THURSDAY CLUB

Our February meeting saw a change in the programme. Our original speaker had to cancel the day before the meeting and we could not thank Linda King enough for stepping in at the last minute. Her talk 'Pedagogues, Perps, Prostitutes and Piles' was a mad look at the wacky things the

Victorians got up to. From nasty teachers, daft criminals, naughty ladies, eye watering cures for afflictions and the 'Phantom Peas Pudding Thrower'. Some tragic and others quite amusing. The afternoon concluded with refreshments and a jolly good chat. All in all a very enjoyable afternoon.



Linda King stepped in at the last minute with her talk on 'Pedagogues, Perps, Prostitutes and Piles.'

## HIS-STORY VERSUS HER-STORY

The History Society welcomed Anthony Atkinson and some new faces for a talk on Mary Eleanor Bowes of Gibside (1749-1800) in March. Anthony discussed Mary's family tree, background and the fact she became the 'greatest Heiress of the North' and probably of Europe at the time, inheriting 43,000 acres of land, £21,000 per annum in rents and £150,000! She was educated in the Classics,

Latin, Greek and the Sciences and was an intelligent female botanist of her age. One of her treasures in the Bowes Museum is her stunning botanical cabinet. She was responsible for employing plant hunters to collect specimens for her unique plant collection at Gibside. Mary's first marriage to John Lyon, Earl of Strathmore, on her 18th birthday (this is where

the Bowes Lyon name was created) produced five children. Anthony identified her trousseau which included £20,000, six dresses worth £3,000 and a stomacher worth £10,000 and diamonds! But this marriage only lasted nine years and John died in 1776. At this time her fortunes changed, and apparently she led a life of debauchery for nine months and gained her independence. Would the same be said of a man? Unfortunately she met Andrew Robinson Stoney, who after a brief

flirtation and a devious incident where Mary married him; she fell into the hands of a psychopath! Women before the twentieth century had few rights and were mere chattels of their husbands. She suffered physical and mental abuse and neglect. A picture of her shows a fragile, ill and nervous woman. She was isolated from society, her reputation was ruined by scandal, her supposed 'confession' and the James Gilray cartoon portrayal of her as this 'Injured Countess'.

Thankfully she was saved by a servant who helped her to escape her imprisonment by Stoney. She fought and succeeded in becoming the first woman to file and win a divorce and Stoney was imprisoned in a Debtors' Prison. An excellent biography of her life can be found in Wedlock by Wendy Moore if you want to find out more. Sadly you could not have predicted the life she led and I wonder if she had had a mentor and champion, then her life could have been so different.

## MOTHERS' UNION

At our March meeting, Richard Pears gave a talk and Powerpoint presentation on 'Follies and Funny

Folk'. This was enjoyed by all, and we could relate to 'follies' nearer home (Penshaw Monument).

## LADIES WHO LUNCH

Last time out and quite possibly last time out for the foreseeable future, we went up to The Stables at Beamish, a very welcoming establishment with lovely accommodating staff. We were booked in fortunately, it was extremely busy. Even so, service was quick and efficient. They have an à la carte and a really good value set menu of 2 courses for £11.95/3 courses for £13.95. We settled ourselves in and decided to have for starters: Chicken

liver parfait with accompaniments and Twice baked cheese soufflé on a bed of salad. Mains were Grilled salmon medallions, crushed new potatoes with a prawn Nicoise dressing and seasonal veg, Mince and dumplings with veg and mash and Steak and ale pie served with veg and potatoes. For puds we had Sticky toffee with butterscotch sauce and vanilla pod ice cream, Chocolate fudge cake served with warm chocolate sauce and

Chantilly cream, Cherry and Amaretto crème brûlée with biscotti, Spiced rice pud topped with mulled berry compote and Beamaboker Glory - a selection of ice cream, marshmallows, maltesers, choc sauce, fresh berries and wafers - big enough to bring a smile to any age face! It was all most enjoyable - a very pleasant lunch time treat which we sincerely hope we'll be enjoying again soon - in the not too distant future. **The Gourmet Girls**



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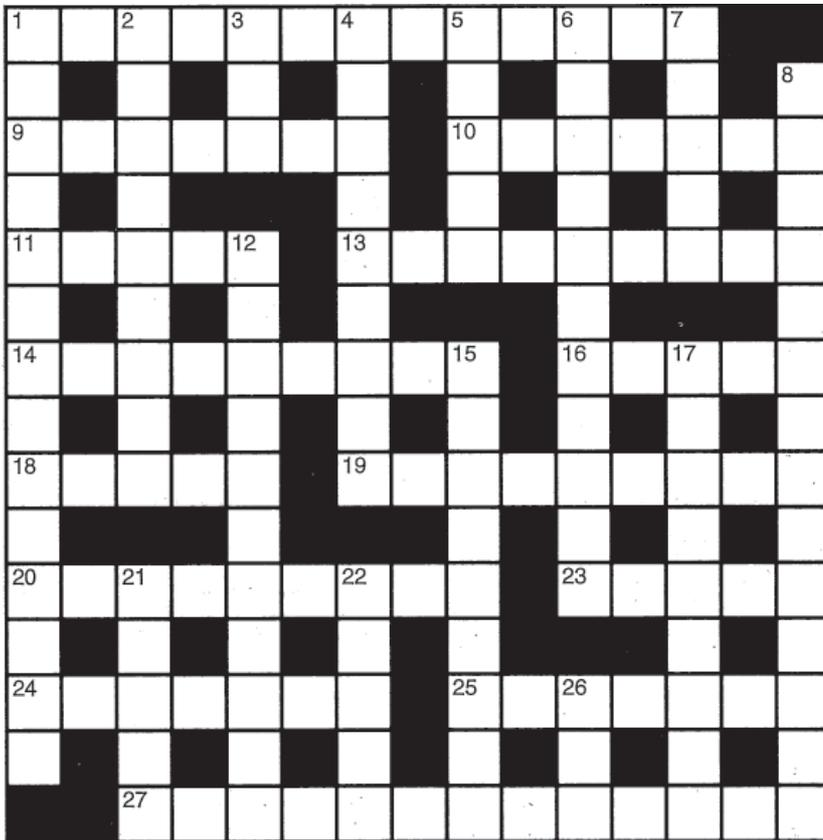
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# CROSSWORD 167



## ACROSS

1. Shake hands with a crowd (5,3,5)
9. Intellectual (7)
10. Zodiac sign (7)
11. Exposé (5)
13. Love Island etc. (7,1,1)
14. I'm blessed and hide feelings (9)
16. Lowest point (5)
18. Approach furtively (5)
19. Rambles (9)
20. Crude (9)
23. Lustre (5)
24. RAC head given to pretence (7)
25. Make amends for (7)
27. Hidden store of valuables (8,5)

## DOWN

1. Absolutely delighted (7,2,5)
2. Absorbed by dog's sneer (9)
3. Office of a bishop (3)
4. Capital of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh (9)
5. Madagascan civets sofas! (5)
6. Unfeeling (11)
7. Drop-out (5)
8. Disingenuous (3,4,7)
12. Easy (5,2,4)
15. Came closer, inch by inch (5,4)
17. Criminal road speed (9)
21. Respond (5)
22. Requirements (5)
26. Dog, rat, snake etc. (3)

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 166

### ACROSS

1. tap washers
6. dirk
10. gingham
11. concise
12. tweeting
14. tithes
16. chance one's luck
18. marching orders
20. guards
21. at a disco
23. Eritrea
24. cripple
26. sink
27. well heeled

### DOWN

1. tights
- 2,25. pen-pal
3. a shot in the dark
4. human being
5. rice
7. Irish Guards
8. keepsake
9. unbiased advice
13. exhortation
15. unpoetical
17. smugness
19. dog end
22. cake
25. See 2 down

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your entries (by deadline date on back page) to The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

## CROSSWORD 166

There were 21 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Kathleen Bell who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

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## SUDOKU

There is just one simple rule in Sudoku. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

					<b>2</b>			<b>9</b>
			<b>1</b>			<b>4</b>		<b>6</b>
		<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>6</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>					<b>7</b>	
			<b>7</b>			<b>9</b>		<b>1</b>
			<b>6</b>				<b>2</b>	
			<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>			<b>5</b>	
					<b>5</b>			<b>8</b>
<b>6</b>						<b>4</b>		<b>7</b>

## LANCHESTER WI

President Marie Murphy opened the meeting, giving details of Eileen Curnow's funeral arrangements and paying tribute to her long association with the WI. She drew attention to future events including craft sessions, our Coffee Morning in April, visit to the Stencil House, Stocksfield Hall, and possible theatre visits. Our Summer Outing will take place on July 8th, details to follow. Marie reminded everyone that future events will always be displayed on the Information Table during meetings, and the Lanchester WI website always prints news and information for members.

Then Dorothy Beadling gave a fascinating insight into many of the sayings that occur in our speech and have their roots far in the past. Who would have guessed that June became a traditional month for weddings because most people had their annual bath in May! This month's competition was for an item knitted by you and winners were Anne Grosvenor, Jean Dougherty and Janis Suddes. Raffle winners were Janice Mahon, Tracey Dobson and Jan Vasey.

Lynn Lamport was our speaker and she described some '18th Century Lives and Scandals'. Her interest in

the topic began when she discovered a paper fan, showing all the people who subscribed to a box at the Italian Opera House in 1795. She described the London Gin shops, where customers could get 'drunk for 1 penny', and conditions in the notorious Debtors' Prison. It was fascinating to learn about some of the members of top society, their lives and scandals! Lynn has appeared on Antiques Road Show and Dickinson's Real Deal. We enjoyed her talk greatly and Lynn was sincerely thanked by Ann Carr. Then it was time for chat, tea and biscuits.

## SATLEY WI

President Linda welcomed 11 members to our latest meeting. After reading through our newsletter and correspondence, members were reminded about our theatre trip, our post Christmas meal, our mini group meeting and our entry for the flower festival. Our speaker was Peter Weighill who amused us with stories about his time serving as a firefighter in

the north east. He was once called to free a young child from his potty training seat which was stuck on his head. We were also reminded to check our fire alarms and to replace their batteries on a regular basis. He was thanked by Sarah and the raffle was won by Ann. Our competition for a Valentine themed gift box was won by Sarah, second was Linda and third was

Joan. Our competition for a firefighter joke was won by Avril, second was Joan and third was Jean. We then enjoyed refreshments supplied by Avril and Ann. As everyone else in the country we are watching the news for updates about the Coronavirus and do not know what will happen over the next few months. Please take care and follow the advice given.

## LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB Annual General Meeting

The 47th AGM was held in Lanchester Community Centre on Wednesday 26th February 2020. The yearly membership fee will increase to £25 per annum, visitors £5 admission. We have not increased our annual subscription for 3 years, but as Area and National have increased the affiliation fees we pay to them, the committee agreed maybe it was necessary to do so this year. The Committee members all agreed to stand for a further year. It was a short meeting but we are all looking forward to a good 2020 with some good demonstrators and an outing in May to

Lakeside Garden Centre Harperley. Gary, one of the owners, will give us a talk on his competing in the Royal Society Show, with a nice cream tea to follow. Our Summer Outing will be to Howick Hall Gardens near Alnwick in July. After the business part of the meeting was concluded, Anthony Atkinson from Whickham gave an excellent talk and slide show on 'Top 100 Geordies'. It was very interesting with some quite surprising winners to the 100 top Geordies. We all had a lovely afternoon finishing with tea and biscuits and chat.



Members attending our AGM.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Steaks with Peppercorn Sauce and Potato Wedges

A delicious meal, perfect for an evening when it's still quite cool. You need ...  
Olive oil 3 tbsp  
Potatoes 2, peeled and cut into wedges  
Onion 1 small, peeled and finely chopped  
Garlic, 1 clove, peeled and finely chopped  
Black peppercorns, 2 tsp, lightly crushed  
Beef stock, 150 ml  
Double cream 150 ml pot  
Beef rump steaks 2  
Mixed salad to serve

#### METHOD

1) Preheat oven to 200C/180 Fan/Gas 6. Pour 2 tablespoons oil into a roasting tin and place in oven to heat.  
2) Meanwhile, put potatoes in a pan of water, bring to the boil and simmer for 2 minutes. Drain and shake in the pan to roughen edges.  
3) Place the potatoes in the hot oil and return to oven for 45-50 minutes, turning half way through.  
4) To make sauce, heat 2 teaspoons oil in a frying

pan and fry onion and garlic for about 5 minutes until softened.  
5) Stir in peppercorns and 4 tablespoons of stock and simmer until it's almost evaporated. Add remaining stock and cream and bring to the boil. Simmer until reduced and thickened.  
6) Heat a frying pan until hot, brush steaks with oil and cook according to taste.  
7) Serve steaks with sauce, potatoes and salad.

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# WHAT'S ON?

*At the time of going to print the Village Voice has not been made aware that any of the following events have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus situation, apart from the ones specified, but we would advise that you check with the various organisations before attending any events.*

## Thursday Club

On 16th April at 1.30 pm in Hall 1 (Main Hall), we will welcome David Balls who will tell us all about Maling Ware. Visitors and new members always welcome.

## Satley WI

If our next meeting takes place it will be on April 6th in Satley Parish Hall at 7.15 pm. The committee is asked to come for 6.30. Linda is arranging a Murder Mystery Night.

## Mother's Union

Our next meeting on April 8th is a Scripture Market. Choose a bible reading and bring something that relates to it and can be auctioned at the end. If this meeting has to be cancelled you will be informed. *Audrey Newton*

## Community Centre

### Lace Making

Mondays 10am - 12 noon  
Fridays 7pm - 9pm

### Tap Dancing

Thursdays 11am - 12 noon

### Scottish Dancing

Fridays 7.30pm - 9.30pm

## Flower Club

The next meeting will be on Wednesday April 22nd at 2.00pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre with Marion Hinchley, whose theme is 'Everything comes in Twos'.

## Easter Monday Egg Bowling

The usual egg dyeing in the traditional way, organised by Lanchester Wildlife Group. Meet on April 13th at 10 am behind the Green School and bring a raw egg.

## Wildlife Group

Our next indoor meeting on 14th April has been cancelled. **However, members who wish to can meet in the Community Centre car park for a 'wildlife wander'.**

## Junior/Family Wildlife Group

On Sunday 26th April meet in Community Centre car park at 9.30 am for visit to Upper Derwent Valley.

## Library Book Club

On Monday April 27th at 2.30 to 3.30 pm, the group will be discussing 'The House on Bellevue Gardens' by Rachel Hore. Set in London, Number 11 is a place of peace, sanctuary and of secrets. If you have read this book come along and share your review of this book. We look forward to seeing you then.

## Thursday Book Club

On Thursday April 16th from 5.30-6.30 pm, the group will be reviewing 'The Tribute Bride' by Theresa Tomlinson. The Monday group enjoyed this unusual novel set in Anglo Saxon Northumbria. If you would like to join this book group, pop into the library and pick up your copy.

## Toddle Time

Every Thursday 2-3pm for babies and under 5s. Come along and enjoy songs and rhymes with other young families.

## Chatterbooks

Will be held on Monday April 13th from 3.45-4.30. Children aged 5-11 years old have the opportunity to read and take part in activities relating to the book of the month. Please contact Zena or another librarian at the library for a place for your child, or contact 03000269514.

## Children's Easter Craft Session

Saturday 18th April from 10.30-11.30 am. Easter chickens, lambs, hats, baskets and other items will be made - sounds like fun. If your child likes craft, book a place, tickets £1 at the Lanchester Library.

## Family History

Next session Monday 20th April (3rd Monday of each month) Lanchester Library, between 2.30 and 5.30. Contact library to book.

# THE EVENTS LISTED BELOW HAVE DEFINITELY BEEN CANCELLED

## PPG Meeting

The next Patient Participation Group meeting due on Wednesday 1st April at the Medical Centre is cancelled.

## Jez Lowe Concert Cancelled

Sadly, due to the current situation, in the interest of public safety, the concert can no longer go ahead. Can I thank all who bought tickets and traders who offered raffle prizes.

I will refund all ticket money on production of tickets ASAP. Please contact me on 01207 529286. Thank you, Ian

## Cuppa and Company

The next meeting due to take place on 14th April at Lynwood House has been cancelled.

## Cuppa and Chat

Further meetings have been cancelled until after half term in October.

## Paradiso Social Club

The next Social which was due to be held on Sunday 19th April at the Community Centre has been cancelled.

## Family Ceilidh Cancelled

At a social and fundraising meeting of the Lanchester All Saints and Burnhope Churches it was decided to cancel their annual Family Ceilidh in the Social Club on Saturday 25th April due to the Coronavirus situation.

## Lanchester WI

The next meeting which had been arranged for April 6th has been cancelled.

## Sunday Bridge

The next Sunday Bridge event has been cancelled because of the Coronavirus situation.

## Musical Memories

The next meeting planned for April 1st has been cancelled.

## Red Cross

The coffee morning due to be held on April 2nd has been postponed.

## Lanchester Local History Society

The History Society meeting that was due to take place on Friday April 3rd at Lanchester Community Centre has been cancelled.

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# CRICKET, ALL STARS, DYNAMOS NEWS

It was good to see Phil Mellons from Durham Cricket Board at the EP school recently doing an All Stars roadshow. As a result, bookings for All Stars have started to pick up. We hope that you will start to book your 9-11 year olds on to the Dynamos course soon as well. On the cricket front, by the time you read this article, the season may be

about to start. Obviously, it will be Coronavirus dependent and the decision will be made nationally or at a league level if it doesn't start on time. The club has signed a South African, Coenraad Nel to play this summer. He is a 23 year old, right hand batsman who also bowls off spin. He has played in this country before and is a

qualified coach. Along with the other signings, he should put us in a good place to compete well in the new league. The first team will be away at Blaydon in their first ever Premier League match on April 18th, whilst the seconds will be at home to the same club. The third team will start the following weekend and they visit Philadelphia in

their opening game and a long trip to Ashington the week after. The junior fixtures have yet to be published. Thanks to having Coenie, the club will host cricket days throughout the summer, where he will coach groups of children from 10am-3pm Tues-Thurs for £15 per child per day. Aquaid who are a key sponsor of the Beer

Festival will have their logo displayed on the junior section shirts and we are very grateful for their support. We're all hoping that the local level of cricket will remain unaffected by the coronavirus, especially with it being an outdoor activity involving small numbers of players and spectators, but we shall have to wait and see.

## BEER FESTIVAL

The committee continues to plan for the Beer Festival, although clearly matters may be taken out of our hands. It would be great to be able to stage the event at a time when people are feeling

disheartened, but the risks have to be weighed carefully before a final decision is made. We have the support of the likes of Aquaid as main sponsor, Milburngate as a key event sponsor

and Sanderson Wetherall as the programme sponsor. Many local companies have agreed to sponsor a beer but there is always room for more. We've never quite managed to

cover everything, so if you are interested, contact the club via email, lanchestercc@outlook.com. A beer/cider costs £150 to sponsor but you do get over half of that back

with tickets and tokens over the three days of the event. It is a worrying time for all and we want everyone to stay safe. A decision will be announced when the time is appropriate.

## STEVEN'S SUMMARY



*Knitsley at last!*

I've dreamed about cycling around the world since I was 16. I made the leap when I was 23 to make my dream a reality. The hardest part was beginning and planning. The challenges I faced were experiences and part of the adventure; if it was easy would it have been worth doing? My answer is: NO. When I'm on the bike I become my best and strongest self ... finding that passion in something and belief in oneself is

something I only truly found out during my trip. I now need to translate the teachings and mental strength I gained to my daily life. Once you find your groove, your position, your passion, your goal to achieve, the universe will move! It certainly did for me. My thanks to all who welcomed me home on 29th February - it was a very special day and again thanks to all who have donated to Mind. *Steven White*

## WELCOME HOME STEVEN

Lanchester gave Steven White a welcome home far warmer than the weather when he returned home after a round-the-world cycle ride lasting eleven months.

On April 1st 2019, Steven left West Drive on two wheels on a journey that would take him across Europe to Istanbul. He then flew to Mumbai and cycled to Shanghai, caught a boat to Japan for one of his favourite sections of the ride before flying to Australia. He crossed into New Zealand before flying to San Francisco and cycling across the USA to Miami then crossed to Morocco for the final stretch back through Europe. Throughout the 22,000 mile journey Steven, 24, rode solo and unsupported until the last day, Saturday, February 29th.

At Malton he was met by a procession of cyclists who accompanied him along the old railway track to Knitsley Mill Farm Shop, where he was greeted by ringing bells

from around 30 supporters, including his proud parents Christine and David, and MP Richard Holden. A reporter and camera crew from Tyne Tees were also on hand to record the

occasion. Steven, known as Chalkie, raised more than £10,500 for the charity Mind and sent regular despatches from his travels to the Village Voice. *Neil McKay*  
**Pictures on back page.**

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# A FITTING WELCOME HOME FOR STEVEN



*A large group of cyclists gather at Malton, ready to accompany Steven on the last short stretch of his epic journey.*



*Riding along the Valley Walk.*



*Crossing the finishing line at Knitsley.*



*Two of the many children Steven greeted, brought to the celebration finish at Knitsley Farm Shop.*



*Steven being interviewed by local TV news alongside his mother, Christine. **Story, page 15.***

## NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 14th April.  
The deadline for **adverts** is Friday 10th April.

The Village Voice Page 16

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