

the Village Voice

Issue No 12, Volume 21

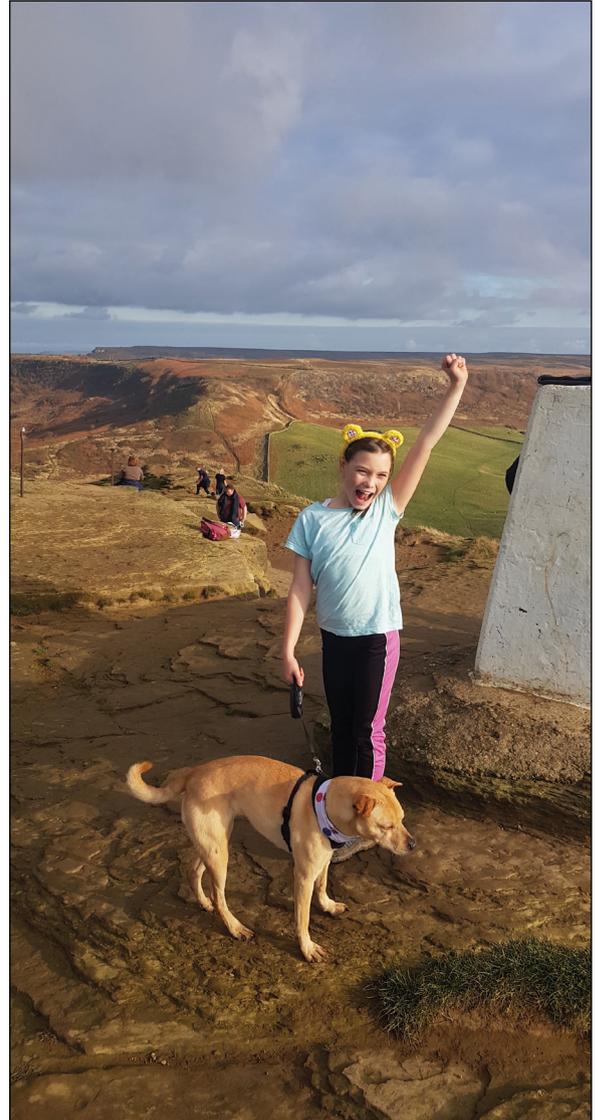
Lanchester, December 2021



Storm Arwen

Farmer Daniel Hopps and his trusty tractor Thunderbird Two are the toast of a large part of Lanchester after helping engineers to restore power.

(Full coverage on pages 3 & 5)



Amelie inspired for Children in Need

In October Amelie Scott-Smith, who lives in the village and is in Year 6 at the EP school, saw an episode of Countryfile about their Children in Need ramble. She was inspired to do her own sponsored ramble to raise money to help support young people with mental health issues. *(Full story on p2)*

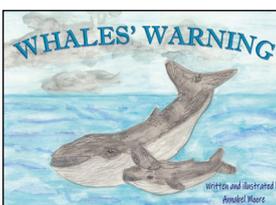


40th Anniversary of the end of the Falklands Campaign

(Full story on p7)



Christmas lights switch on *(story on p2)*



Whales' Warning, an illustrated book by Annabel Moore

Ten years old, and passionate about the environment. *(Full story on p4)*



Willow Burn's Light Up a Life service 2021 *(story on p6)*



Buskers' night at the Social Club *(Full story on p9)*



Amelie inspired for Children in Need

(continued from p1)

In October Amelie Scott-Smith, who lives in the village and is in Year 6 at the EP school, saw an episode of Countryfile about their Children in Need ramble. She was inspired to do her own sponsored ramble to raise money to help support young people with mental health issues. Amelie decided to walk up Roseberry Topping and she set up an online sponsorship site. On Sunday 14th November, Amelie and her dog, Panta, walked to the top of Roseberry Topping wearing Pudsey ears and a spotty bandana! She raised £200 in sponsorship.

She also decided to do a garden baking sale for the family's friends and neighbours. Amelie designed her own poster and, with the help of her friends, delivered leaflets to neighbours, and collected donations of tombola & raffle prizes. She also baked and decorated Pudsey cookies, which she sold for a small donation, with thanks to Ann in Quebec Tearooms. On Saturday 20th November she had a lovely afternoon with family, friends and neighbours popping into the garden for cakes and

hot drinks, and a turn on the raffle and tombola, which were run by Amelie and her friends. In total Amelie raised £450 for Children in Need! The family would like to thank everyone who sponsored her, donated prizes, bought tombola or raffle tickets, joined us for coffee & cake or helped with her events.

Amelie loves the Village Voice, and always scours it when it arrives for anyone she knows!



1. Pudsey biscuits
2. Cakes for sale in the garden
3. Amelie under the umbrella with her Nanna

Councillor Keith Harrison joins the group after the lights were switched on.



Christmas lights switch on *(continued from p1)*

On Saturday 27th November, families gathered on the Village Green for the annual Christmas Light Switch On, a much loved community event. The stormy wind had eased and the snow flittered down.

A great selection of recorded Christmas Carols were provided by Lanchester Brass Band and Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society. The Parish Council were delighted that Christine Monaghan and Frank Redfern had agreed to switch on the lights. Christine and Frank were editors of the Village Voice up until lockdown in March 2020. Between them they clocked up an amazing 27 years working on the Village Voice. We thank them for their work and commitment. The Village Voice is a greatly loved publication keeping everyone informed about Parish activities. It is wonderful to know that the Village Voice has now been re-launched.

Christine and Frank were accompanied in the switch on by Cuthbert and Sophie from Lanchester EP Primary School and Harry and Matthew from Lanchester RC Primary School.

The event was live streamed free for those who wanted to watch from home. The Parish Council would wish to thank Lanchester Partnership for organising this virtual element of the event.

Following a short speech from Councillor Keith Harrison (the Chair of Lanchester Parish Council), the countdown commenced and the lights were switched on to the delight of everyone there.

The Christmas lights will shine bright this year bringing joy and happiness to all. The lights will again be extended throughout January to bring cheer to people through the dark winter nights. We hope you all enjoy them.

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sally Laverick

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Storm Arwen

(continued from p1)

Farmer Daniel Hopps and his trusty tractor – Thunderbird Two – are the toast of a large part of Lanchester after helping engineers to restore power.

Whilst many homes in Lanchester were reconnected within about 12 hours, dozens of homes off Maiden Law Bank, as well as St Bede's School, were all without power from Friday November 26, when Storm Arwen blew in, until the following Wednesday. Pupils at St Bede's School missed lessons for four days from Monday November 29.

But the length of time without electricity would have been even longer if Daniel – whose New House farmhouse next to St Bede's was also plunged into darkness – had not intervened. The 33 year old explained: "I could see the Northern Powergrid engineers in a field called Monkey House a couple of fields away from here, towards Consett.

"They seemed to be struggling for mobility because the fields were so wet.

"They told me they feared it could be a few more days before they could restore power if they could not get their equipment to where they needed it to be. I offered them the use of my tractor, which I call Thunderbird Two, to help transport the gear.

"They quickly accepted my offer, and I had the tractor there at 9am on the Wednesday. I was able to transport the aerial platforms to where they needed to be to get the power restored."

One local resident was so grateful for Daniel's efforts that she sent him a chocolate cake.

But the modest farmer said: "I am delighted to have helped but it was for my benefit too. I was sick of being stuck in the dark and cold without



power like everybody else."

There was much criticism of Northern Powergrid's communications with promised reconnection times being repeatedly deferred. Eventually some hot food was supplied with a "Street Food" trailer in the Social Club car park on the Friday 3rd December and fish and chips at the

Lanchester Fish Bar on Saturday 4th December. The aftermath of Storm Arwen is still being felt in many rural parts of the North East.

Energy minister Kwasi Kwarteng met people affected by the lengthy post-storm outages and conceded it was, "totally unacceptable" they should be without power nine days after the storm. He called at St John's Chapel, in Weardale, and at Middleton-in-Teesdale, two of the County Durham communities affected by the prolonged power cuts.



Local children look at the fallen trees

Street food trailer in the Social Club car park



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Whales' Warning

This year perhaps more than any other, attention has been drawn to climate change. At the COP 26 Conference, the leaders of many countries gathered to seriously look at the level of destruction of our planet, and plan for a future which preserves it. As adults we are aware of what is happening to our environment, and are concerned about it, vowing that we will try to do things differently and work hard to improve our individual contribution to saving our planet. We know our schools in the village have made their

pupils aware of what is happening with climate change, and some have shown their own initiative in actively doing something to help save their environment which is very commendable.

One pupil at the E.P. school has taken this a step further by writing and illustrating her very own book and it is an amazing achievement. Annabel Moore (Dorothy and Dick Parry's granddaughter), who lives at Maiden Law, is only ten years old, but she is passionate about the environment. She wants to raise awareness of what is happening to our planet. Through writing this book she hopes more people will realise that some of their actions are harming the world around them, and they must take more responsibility for their actions.

In order to make her point more clearly, she has written a story about a humpback whale as it travels from the cold waters of Greenland in the north to the warm waters of the Caribbean. The story is fascinating, as well as being very informative, and the illustrations drawn by Annabel herself are excellent. She has even concluded the book with some very helpful hints on how the reader can help to save our world. The whole book is extremely attractive, informative, and written most intelligently and Annabel is to be congratulated on the very high standard and maturity of her work. It is a great achievement for a ten year old young girl. Annabel has a Facebook page called 'Annabel's Eco Mission' within which is a link to order the book via PayPal. Annabel asks for donations which will then be sent to 'Whale and Dolphin Conservation'.

I think the future looks very bright for Annabel, who has had this passionate interest for a long time and intends to continue her work for the environment. I am sure that in the future she will be producing more imaginative ideas and we wish her well in all her efforts. Congratulations Annabel on your great achievement.

Brenda Craddock.

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Coffee Morning for Kids Club Kampala

There was a coffee morning at the Methodist Church on Saturday 20th November in aid of Kids Club Kampala.

The children's charity works in Uganda, East Africa. Its mission is to support vulnerable kids in Uganda, providing for both their immediate needs and strengthening their futures through educating, feeding, protecting, and skilling.

There was a stall selling products made by women from the slums of Uganda which raised most of the £300 collected on the day.

Coffee mornings for a number of charities and organisations are now held every Saturday morning from 10-12 at the Methodist Church.



Miriam Kearney selling the products made by women from Uganda

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Arwen the wind blows...

Spending the best part of two years hunkering down as COVID-19 tore across the world, our home became something of a fortress – a refuge where we were safe from a virus wreaking havoc.

But what happened when our personal bunker was no longer a haven?

That's something we faced when Storm Arwen ripped out power lines across County Durham and cut off the essential electrical flow to our tiny community and thousands of others. Around 7pm on Friday November 26, our lights flickered then went out as rain lashed down and gales uprooted centuries-old trees and peeled roofs from houses and businesses.

We laughed at first, but after an hour or so the reality that we may not get our electricity back that evening started to set in. With the power departed, the light, the heat, our ability to cook, charge phones and laptops...but we appreciate that rural living, at Newbiggin Farm, does come with the odd inconvenience. However, we could not have anticipated that it would last for nine long, cold days.

Northern Powergrid at first said our power would be back on within hours, that then shifted to the following day. 24 hours later, we were being told it was imminent, but that soon became hours, then days...and on it went for one week and one day. Nine days of boiling water on our wood burner for a cuppa, travelling to our daughter's home for showers and hot food, filling flasks and charging phones to check daily unfulfilled deadlines posted by our energy provider.

Days spent yo-yoing home - keeping a fire burning, offering

meagre protection against the onset of sub-zero temperatures to further damage our home – and to family members for a wash and a warm.

Friends delivered camping stoves, checked on us and were even kind enough to fix a leak when a water pipe started to leak...their kindness was enormously welcome. The relief when the house blinked back into life was immense. Thankfully, we suffered relatively minor damage unlike some of our poor neighbours.

This week-long glimpse of hardship provided the tiniest insight into the plight faced by refugees or homeless people. Our experience was insignificant compared to what those poor people face, so we intend to use some of the compensation we're due to make a donation to the fight to prevent homelessness, and we urge anyone else who can afford it to do the same.

BH



Christmas with Lanchester Choral Society and Friends Lanchester Choral Society

Christmas with Lanchester Choral Society and Friends Lanchester Choral Society

is recording 'A Celebration of Christmas' on YouTube. We have always contributed to the village Christmas events and we wanted this year to be no different! Given the COVID restrictions and the difficulties with choirs singing to live audiences, we have gone for this approach and have invited guests to come and join us. We have Anna Foster, Elizabeth Woods, Paul Smith and Ian Gray who will entertain you with Christmas songs and readings along with all the well-loved carols from the choir. You can access our celebration by opening YouTube on your TV, laptop, tablet or phone any time from Tuesday 21st December and find the recording by searching under Lanchester Methodist Church. We hope you will join us and help the village celebrate the Christmas season even if in a slightly different way!

<https://www.lanchestermethodistchurch.org.uk>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC33YMulyxfuQ2e5VxJ2NJHQ/featured>

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Willow Burn's Light Up a Life Service 2021

On 5 December, Willow Burn Hospice welcomed friends from across Derwentside when it hosted its annual Light Up a Life service at All Saints

Parish Church in Lanchester.

For over 15 years, Willow Burn's Light Up a Life service has given local people the chance to remember loved ones in the run up to Christmas, whilst helping to support the vital work of the nursing and care team. The service was supported by all three of the villages churches, as well as Lanchester Young Singers, who were a very special addition to proceedings. At the end of the service, guests were invited to write a message to their loved ones on a Willow Burn bauble, which are now adorning Christmas Trees at the hospice.

This year's appeal raised over £7000, which will fund four days of care in the Helen McArdle In-Patient Wing, giving support to many patients, and their families, when they need it the most.

The team at Willow Burn would like to make special thanks to: Reverend Lesley Sutherland, Curate Stephen Martin and all at All Saints Parish Church, Helen McArdle CBE, Reverend Stuart Earl, Reverend Father Cornelius O'Connor, Lanchester Young Singers, Michael Quigley and Matthew Hill, dwmedia and all of the Willow Burn volunteers who helped on the day of the service.

Pictured Paul Jackson, Chairman, with the Christmas Tree at All Saints Parish Church, Lanchester

Willow Burn Tree of Remembrance

During the first week of December, shoppers at ASDA Stanley were invited to remember a loved one with a dedication bauble on the store's Christmas Tree, giving them an opportunity for comfort and reflection at the beginning of the festive period. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who helped throughout the week, raising over £400 for the hospice.

If you would like to host a Tree of Remembrance in your business or shop in December 2022, please contact Selina Mankin, Fundraiser, at: smankin@willowburnhospice.org.uk / 01207 529 224

Date for Diary

Chinese Banquet at The Pavilion in aid of Willow Burn
Monday 7 February at 6.30pm

The Pavillion, Iveston

Paul Jackson, Chairman of Willow Burn is once again hosting a Chinese Banquet at The Pavillion in February to raise money for the Hospice.

Tickets are just £35 each, grab them whilst you can and perfect for Christmas gifts. Tickets are available from Paul Jackson personally or Rachel Todd at Willow Burn: rtodd@willowburnhospice.org.uk



Paul Jackson, Chairman, volunteering at the Tree of Remembrance in ASDA Stanley

Charity reaches amazing milestone – 600 families supported.



Henry Dancer Days is a local charity set up in memory of Lanchester lad Henry Dancer, who died from cancer, aged 12.

Since its creation 600 families of kids with the same disease, Primary Bone Cancer, have been supported with grants to help with the financial hardship that comes with the diagnosis of childhood cancer.

Jane, Henry's Mum, said,

"I'm so grateful to everyone in Lanchester and beyond who have helped us to reach this incredible milestone. We are very fortunate to live in an area which gives so generously."

Henry Dancer Days started as a small charity helping children under treatment in the Great North Children's hospital. It now works in 32 hospital settings throughout the UK, delivering not only grants but also Storytelling and Pottery projects.



John Docherty remembered

Following the passing of John Docherty on 20th October, the family would like to thank those members of the community, and in particular the staff at the Black Bull, for all of their support and best wishes. A total of £910 has been raised for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation in memory of John.

Thanks again from the Docherty family.



Grave of Stewart Laing

40th Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign

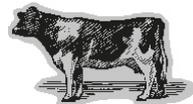
The 40th anniversary of the end of the ten weeks Falkland's Campaign takes place in June 2022. One of our own, Stewart Ian Laing, died two days before the end of the conflict at the battle of Mount Longdon. He has been laid to rest at Kitswell Road Cemetery, so we are looking to have some extra poppy displays around the village in November 2022. We hope to decorate the railings outside the Methodist Church, the war memorial gates at All Saints' Parish Church and have a display at All Saints' Roman Catholic Church.

The poppies this time will be made from the bottoms of 1 and 2 litre plastic pop bottles. The target is 2,500 plastic poppies, so we are asking people to keep these empty bottles. We want these displays to be a credit to all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Empty bottles can be handed in to "Hair by Claire" (above Lanchester Hardware) or Croft View Halls. If the halls are not open, please leave them in a bag outside the bottom double doors. We are only using the bottoms so you can cut around the bottom of these bottles if it is easier or leave them whole.

If anyone has any questions, please ring Eric on 07969 808958.



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Hello again Village Voice readers,

You may remember my name is Poppy, I am a black – with a tinge of grey – Patterdale Terrier and I enjoy sharing the walks I lead my Human on with your good selves.

This time I decided on a festive walk, on a route you will all be familiar with. At this time of year, it is fun to see which houses have lit up the night with decorations. It is always nice to see illuminations brightening

up the dark winter nights. We dogs find the long evenings as much of a challenge as well as you humans do.

Bearing in mind, this walk took place on the evening of December 1, when a lot of households had still to illuminate their homes and gardens. So, apologies to any I have missed out, but like all correspondents I have to adhere to Village Voice deadlines.

The first decorations I noticed, walking along Ford Road towards Station Road, was an attractively lit tree in a garden on the junction, near the path towards the railway walk.

Proceeding along Station Road to the village I looked into the pet shop – I always do – and was delighted by their Santa Paws display of Santa with his myriad of helpers.

Then it was time to cross the green, past the delightful tree and illuminations which are a credit to our village.

Our walk continued along the by-pass, then left past the EP school. I noticed a fetching illuminated display in a garden at the approach to Fenhall Park, while a couple of windows in Croft Court were also flashing in a festive fashion.

The Black Bull had an attractive light display at the front – I had to tug on my lead especially hard to prevent the Human from making a detour inside.

Instead, we went right along Newbiggen Lane, then right again and through the cut opposite the library into The Close. There was another fine display in The Close and others in Alderside Crescent. We turned left at the end of Alderside Crescent and along Mount Park Drive.

I particularly enjoyed the garden display on the junction of Mount Park Drive and Newbiggen Lane.

We then proceeded along Broadoak Drive, back onto Newbiggen Lane, then right along Lee Hill Court, through the cut onto The Garths and back onto Station Road.

I couldn't help noticing that the normal displays in Lee Hill Court were not evident, but I am sure that by the time this article is read they will be lit up and making the village even more attractive than it is already.

I will conclude by wishing my readers a Merry Christmas and a fruitful and healthy new year.

Boys' Brigade Christmas Party

The Washington Hollywood Bowling Alley was the venue for this year's Boys' Brigade Christmas Party. Twenty-three boys and five leaders all headed down on a cold December evening to enjoy a good night's bowling. Taking up four lanes, the boys quickly became accustomed to bowling in turn and with the right ball. A mid-way snack of burger or hot dog sausage with French fries and a cold drink went down nearly as well as the bowling. The scores were irrelevant as all the boys thoroughly enjoyed a great night, especially the senior lads who started the night with the side barriers up to stop the ball going down the gutter. We soon realised why they left them up when they put the barriers down and the gutter became very busy!

Photograph shows Lewis Henry enjoying the Boys' Brigade Christmas party.



Lockdown Calendar – continued

In the last edition we featured the lockdown calendar produced by Stephen Pattison. This had pictures which he had taken when out during lockdown. At that point he had raised over £900 for Willow Burn Hospice.

Since then sales continued and the eventual total was a fantastic £1,050 for the hospice. Stephen presented the giant cheque to Rachel Todd at the hospice. While he was there, he heard all about the ***“fantastic efforts by the volunteers and staff at the hospice”***.

Buskers' Night at the Social Club

On the 23rd December there will be two new local bands from the village playing at Lanchester Social Club. They are all local kids from the village and need local support. This is a buskers' night, and everyone plays for free. The bands are Red Night Riot and Feedback, but there are others who also come along. I'm sure they will be famous one day and put Lanchester on the map, like Prefab Sprout did for Langley Park! (*I had to look Prefab Sprout up – editor!*).

Bill Aunger



Feedback

I-r Max Densmore, Jamie Coxon, Ely Densmore and Thomas Leckenby

Red Night Riot

*I-r: Bill Aunger,
Jamie Coxon,
Kieran Aunger
& Max Densmore*



Merry Christmas with Lanchester WI!

Certain events during the year mark the passage of time for our WI, and the Faith Supper evening marks the beginning of the Christmas season for us. We met on December 6th and there was a lovely atmosphere of friendship and a feeling that finally, the worst of this pandemic might at last be over. After some social time, when we greeted friends, and exchanged cards, a raffle was held and Christmas 'Goodie Bags' were distributed to every member. We were reminded about the forthcoming 'Carols in Durham Cathedral' event, and also asked to start thinking about our 2022 Resolutions, which we will be considering in the spring.

Janis had baked an impressive cake and members were invited to guess its weight, with President Marie Murphy giving the exactly right estimate. We then shared a delicious Faith buffet before being joined by members of Lanchester

Male choir, who sang some familiar traditional carols, and were rewarded with some of our festive feast. It had been a lovely evening, sharing memories both happy and sad and looking forward to the future. It was especially good to see several new faces, we wish them a warm welcome to our group!

Lanchester WI wish all our friends a safe and happy Christmas, and a peaceful and friendly 2022.

Maisie Raine



new image

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Please Use Our Little Bus

Its main purpose was, and still is, to help people who might be a bit frail or elderly to go on living in their own homes and not to have to go into care. However it is there for everyone to use and the more people who use it the better.

It covers nearly all of the village and runs on every weekday. On Wednesdays only it also goes up to Lanchester Garden Centre.

In recent years the service has been operated by Stanley Travel and the regular bus driver has been a marvellous man, Luke Stone.

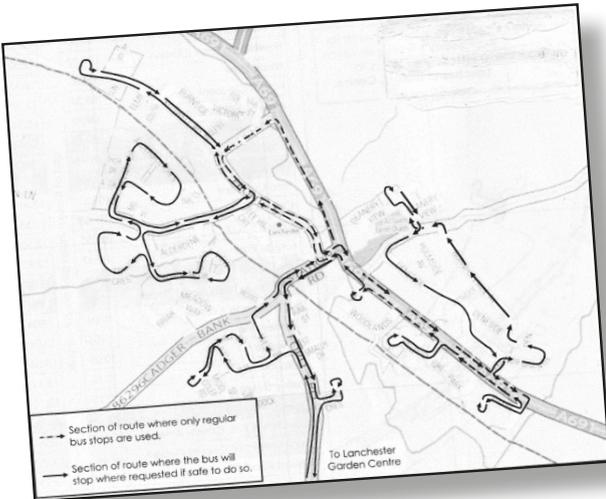
Since the advent of COVID the number of passengers has fallen, but Luke has used any time savings to fit in "errands" for his regular passengers and other house-bound village residents. For example he has been delivering from the food bank, doing shopping, getting out money, delivering prescriptions, etc.

By helping frail residents to stay out of care the service saves the Government far more than it costs to run, but the Government does not pay for it. We pay 3/4 of the cost and Durham County Council pays 1/4. It costs us £1,000 a month.

About £500 of that comes from big funders such as County Durham Foundation, about £250 of it from the regular passengers who make donations and about £250 from events such as coffee mornings, village groups such as the Methodist Church Wives, the Male Voice Choir, Mel and Olive's Lunches, Pam's Theatre Group, and individual bequests and donations. We are very grateful to all our supporters.

Mike Gladstone

The Lanchester Partnership



Bus driver
Luke Stone

The service was set up 20 years ago by the Lanchester Partnership. It was given a lot of help from the County Council after village residents went to County Hall to talk (politely of course) to County Councillors.



| Timetable | Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays only. (Excluding bank holidays) | | Wednesdays only | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Kitswell Road (Cemetery) Depart | 09:30 | 12:30 | 09:30 | 12:30 |
| Newbiggin Lane (Library) | 09:32 | 12:32 | 09:32 | 12:32 |
| Brook View | 09:35 | 12:35 | 09:35 | 12:35 |
| Foxhills Crescent | 09:37 | 12:37 | 09:37 | 12:37 |
| Alderside Crescent | 09:39 | 12:39 | 09:39 | 12:39 |
| Front Street (Vill. Green) Arrive | 09:43 | 12:43 | 09:43 | 12:43 |
| Front Street (Vill. Green) Depart | 09:45 | 12:45 | 09:45 | 12:45 |
| Lynwood House | 09:48 | 12:48 | 09:48 | 12:48 |
| Ford Crescent | 09:51 | 12:51 | 09:51 | 12:51 |
| Lanchester Garden Centre | | | 09:55 | 12:55 |
| Colepike Road | 09:53 | 12:53 | 09:58 | 12:58 |
| Station Road | 09:55 | 12:55 | 09:59 | 12:59 |
| Fenhall Park | 09:57 | 12:57 | 10:01 | 13:01 |
| Front Street (Vill. Green) Arrive | 09:59 | 12:59 | 10:03 | 13:03 |
| Front Street (Vill. Green) Depart | 10:01 | 13:01 | 10:04 | 13:04 |
| Burnhopeside Avenue | 10:04 | 13:04 | 10:07 | 13:07 |
| Deanery View | 10:06 | 13:06 | 10:09 | 13:09 |
| Deneside | 10:08 | 13:08 | 10:11 | 13:11 |
| Oakwood | 10:12 | 13:12 | 10:15 | 13:15 |
| Valley Grove | 10:15 | 13:15 | 10:18 | 13:18 |
| Lynwood House | 10:18 | 13:18 | 10:20 | 13:20 |
| Front Street (Vill. Green) Arrive | 10:20 | 13:20 | 10:22 | 13:22 |
| Front Street (Vill. Green) Depart | 10:22 | 13:22 | 10:23 | 13:23 |
| Kitswell Road (Cemetery) Arrive | 10:25 | 13:25 | 10:27 | 13:27 |



SPAR closed due to national cyber attack

The SPAR store in Lanchester closed on Sunday 5th December. There was a handwritten note on the door saying that it was closed due to "technical issues". It was subsequently confirmed by John Hall and Company, who provide wholesale and IT services to SPAR, that they had been subject to a ransomware attack. So, none of the IT systems were working, including the tills. At the time of going to press, John Hall and Company had not confirmed when they expected that stores would reopen. Their website was still unavailable.

Ladies who lunch

We were back up the Tyne Valley for our November outing, heading for the beautiful little village of Corbridge, which was all decked out for Christmas and looking quite lovely. Our destination was the Black Bull - a warm and welcoming hostelry in all weathers, but in November the roaring fires are something else.

It didn't take us long to get nicely settled by one of the fires, then on to perusing the menus. As well as the main menu they have weekly specials and a menu of "leisurely lunches for smaller appetites" at a set price.

We sampled: sea bass and seared scallops on a king prawn, white wine and pea risotto; signature hunter chicken: chicken, gammon steak with smoked bacon, onion rings, BBQ sauce and triple cooked chips; gammon steak, egg, grilled pineapple, triple cooked chips and peas; hand battered fish and chips, peas and tartare sauce; sea bass Florentine, baby potatoes, spinach, poached egg and smoky hollandaise sauce. Puddings were: Eton mess, salted caramel sundae, Bramley apple and blackberry crumble, ice cream and sorbet, and Bakewell tart.

There was also the option of having a mini pudding with coffee (any style) and the option chosen was mocha torte with a latte. An absolute delight to finish an excellent meal.

It was a really lovely mealtime occasion which we all enjoyed. Of course, in Corbridge the enjoyment doesn't finish with the end of the meal, there's retail therapy out there to be had. By the time we hit the shops it was dusk, so all the Christmas lights were twinkling and making Corbridge look quite magical. Fridays don't come much better- good food, good company, and good shopping - what more can a girl ask? We've got December to look forward to!

The Gourmet Girls



The Lunch Club

The lunch club started in 2018 but, unfortunately, it had to stop due to the COVID restrictions. The team running it is hoping to start it up again in the new year.

Its aim is to combat loneliness, so age is not important. The club meets once a month on the second Tuesday at Lynwood House. Transport is not provided, but Lynwood House is served by the village bus. Those having lunch pay £2 towards ingredients, with any surplus going into a savings account. They normally produce Christmas hampers with the money saved up.

The club gets donations from Greggs to go with the delicious home-made soup. They have bingo and a raffle each time and have had the school choir at Christmas.

Anyone who is interested in attending, whether you have been before or not, please contact: Jackie (07908 838452), Gillian (07702 811166) or Liz (07752 640409).

Bridge Club Dinner

Our club enjoyed a super meal in Crinnion's with superb service and atmosphere. As you can see, happy faces all round. We managed a few games of bridge afterwards in the community centre, as usual, to keep us all happy! Meetings are each Tuesday at 6.30pm with a duplicate session on Wednesday at 7.00pm. There is a warm welcome to any new people and those who might need refreshing!

Please get in touch.

Jan Vasey

janvasey@aol.com



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New deliverers needed!

We need at least four new deliverers for the Voice to keep the regular supply of the paper to all houses in Lanchester. Phone 01207 520291 if you would like to join the great band of brothers and sisters who are in this exclusive club and, remember, the sooner you join, the better your mental health will be. Thank you to new deliverers: Kath Bailey, Adrian and Lynn Hedley, Ian and Georgina Taylor (who cover Satley), and John and Bernadette Lowes who have stepped up from emergency to full-time deliverer, with a subsequent upgrade from 3rd class to first when they decide to take their round the world cruise (joke – see below). Give the deliverers a cheery wave when you see them pass by with their new uniforms flashing in the winter sunshine. A great big thank you to the old deliverers who volunteered to carry on and brave the terrible conditions that often beset us in the village and surround. Recent storms did not put us off except for yours truly who went down with a cough and cold. What a wimp! *Mike Stoddart*

Clarification

You may have read in your new Village Voice “Editors retire from Village Voice”, where the retiring editors were thanked for their many years of editing. It was jokingly said that, as a thank you for their years of dedication, they received a round the world cruise. Most people would have realised that this was a joke, but some people actually believed it and that the Village Voice, or Parish Council, have paid for it. In fact, Christine received a bouquet of flowers and Frank a bottle of wine. Sadly for them, there is no world cruise and the Parish Council have not squandered money.

Churches Together in Lanchester & Burnhope

CHRISTMAS EVE

24th December

6.00pm

Carols on Lanchester Green with Lanchester Band

*

All Saints Catholic Church Lanchester

Sunday 19th December

9.30am – Mass

4th Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday 24th December

7.00pm – Vigil Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday 25th December

9.30am – Mass

Sunday 26th December

9.30am – Mass The Holy Family

• Please note booking is necessary for all Masses – see website for details.

*

Lanchester Methodist Church

Sunday 19th December

9.45am – Carol Service with brass ensemble

CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday 24th December

4.30pm – 5.30pm – Come & Go as you wish Reflective Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday 25th December

10.00am – All Age Celebration

*

All Saints' Parish Church Lanchester

Sunday 19th December

10.30am – Sunday

Eucharist

6.00pm – Lessons and Carols

Monday 20th December

5.00pm – Christingle Service

CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday 24th December

11.00pm – Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday 25th December

10.00am – Festal Eucharist

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WHATS ON - December, and January

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be at 1.30pm on December 16th in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. Our speaker will be Geoff Hughes talking about 'Christmas celebrations around the world'.

The Lunch Club

The Lunch Club is hoping to restart in the new year. It aims to combat loneliness and welcomes people of any age who would like company. It is held on the second Tuesday of the month at Lynwood House. Anyone interested in attending please contact: **Jackie (07908 838452), Gillian (07702 811166) or Liz (07752 640409).**

The Lanchester Male Voice Choir

The Lanchester Male Voice Choir start rehearsals again in the new year on Monday 10th January 2022 from 7pm to 9pm in the Community Centre. New members welcome; **contact Peter on 07763386750.**

Lanchester Social Club

Busker's Night - 23 December
New Year's Day Party, We Love The 90's - 1st January from 1.00pm - Tickets on sale from the bar £6
 Followed by free Karaoke in the Bar Lounge from 5.00pm
Sophie Danielle - 15th January
Karaoke - 22nd January
Michele B - 29th January

Lanchester Wildlife Group

Lanchester Wildlife Group meet on the 2nd Tuesday evening of the month commencing at 7.30pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. We are currently also Zooming the meetings

for those that prefer to remain at home. Our first 2022 meeting on Tuesday 11th January will be both live in the CC and on Zoom (the Zoom link is emailed to our contacts list on the morning of the meeting; people can contact us to receive the link if not already on our contact list). For more information, please contact **lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com** or phone **Elaine Williams on 01207 520063.**

Durham Dramatic Society

Durham Dramatic Society presents "The 39 Steps" by Patrick Barlow from Jan 30th until Feb 5th 2022 at The City Theatre, Back Silver Street Durham, DH1 3RA. Tickets (£8.50) are available from The Gala box office Durham. This is the hilarious adaptation of this well known thriller which has toured the country to great acclaim. Come and see what we do with it!

The Friends of Longovicium

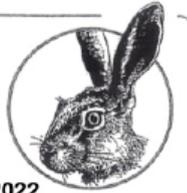
The Friends of Longovicium (members of the Lanchester Partnership) are taking a Christmas recess, so our next meeting will be in the upstairs Conference Room of the Community Centre at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th January 2022. We are currently investigating evidence for the Roman road of Dere Street in the Esh Winning area. If you have an interest in that, or the fort and civilian settlement in Lanchester, please come along. To join the Friends of Longovicium we ask for a donation of £15 p.a. which goes towards the hire of the room in the Community Centre, helps provide the cost of insurance

for members and goes towards publication of information, amongst other things. We hope that you will have enjoyed visiting our Facebook site and seeing the wonderful reconstruction pictures of the fort and civilian settlement, all based on actual geophysical surveys carried out by the Friends with Archaeological Services Durham University. There are more to come. Further details may be obtained by contacting **Rodney Hawkins, tel: 0191 4103472 or by email: hawkins_15@sky.com**

Lanchester WI

Our first WI meeting of the year will take place at 7.15pm on January 10th (not January 3rd as it's a bank holiday) in the Community Centre. Our speakers, Harry and Kath Gilbert, will talk about Iceland (the country!), we will hold a raffle, and Jean will offer our reading. We will enjoy a supper of various soups, served with stottie or French bread. Our competition will be a display of our Favourite Christmas Cards, so bring along any amusing, attractive card you might have received, or some card which means a lot to you personally. Guests are very welcome at this special time of the year, so come along and enjoy an evening of friendship and good company!

LANCHESTER WILDLIFE GROUP



Programme of Meetings 2022

All indoor meetings commence at 7.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre Small Hall.

| Date | Speaker | Title |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 11 January | Noel Jackson | Borneo – wildlife travels |
| 8 February | Dr Vivien Kent | The Incredible, Adaptable Fox |
| 8 March | Patrick Oulton, North Pennines AONB | Tees-Swale: naturally connected – landscape scale nature recovery |
| 12 April | Elliott Lea, Naturally Native (DWT) | Water Voles & their recovery |
| 10 May | Dorinda Kealoha, SeaScapes, Durham WT | SeaScapes (from Tyne to Tees): Intertidal Interactive |
| June | Field Trip | TBC |
| Sat 2 nd July | Field Trip – Joint with Weardale Wildlife Group | Water Voles & Peat Restoration near Langdon Beck |
| August | Field Trip | TBC |
| 13 September | Terry Coult | A Nature Reserve in the making:- Malton |
| 11 October | Kirsty Pollard, Naturally Native Project Manager, Durham Wildlife Trust | Newts of the North: DWT's work to help support great crested newts across the region |
| 8 November | Paul Davidson | Birding in Gateshead, Spring & Autumn migrants and a few surprises |
| 13 December | | AGM & Wildlife Quiz |

Contact us: email lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com or Phone E Williams 01207 520063

VETS CLOSED

Vets closed due to COVID outbreak
 Appointments were cancelled at Lanchester Vets at the start of this month due to a COVID outbreak.
 Ashfield Veterinary Services announced that from Monday December 6 all appointments would be cancelled for at least a week as six members of staff were ill.

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Lanchester Medical Centre: Lanchester Patient Participation Group *COVID-19 is still here*



Lanchester
Medical Centre

Since its first identification in December 2019, daily news reports results in COVID-19 being constantly in our thoughts. The coronavirus outbreak has been hard for us all, we have experienced the effects differently, have had to make changes in our lifestyle, and faced challenges. Levels of anxiety have ebbed and flowed.

So, what can we do to win this battle against COVID-19?

C is for caution. When someone with the virus breathes, speaks, coughs or sneezes, they release small droplets containing the virus. You can catch COVID-19 if you breathe in these droplets or touch surfaces covered with droplets that can live up to 72 hours on certain surfaces.

- Wear a clean close fitting face mask of three layers covering your nose and mouth when in shops and on public transport. If you have difficulty with a mask wear a face shield visor.
- Regularly wash your hands and use hand sanitiser
- Maintain social distance
- Meet friends outdoors or let fresh air in if you meet indoors

O is for observation. Do you have symptoms?

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch
- a new, continuous cough – 3 coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- If you have any of these symptoms, get a PCR test, stay at home until you get your result, even if the symptoms are mild.
- One in three people do not have symptoms but can still pass the virus on to others.

V is for virus don't be a victim.

- Are you vaccinated against COVID -19? Have you had your booster vaccination?
- Everyone 12 years and over can book a vaccination appointment.
- Are you registered with NHS Track and Trace? This system aims to control the spread of COVID-19 in England.

I is for isolation for the person who is confirmed as having coronavirus and for people in the same household.

- Living in the same household? You could be in the incubation period when it is possible to pass the virus onto others.
- If you are required to self-isolate, do not go to work, school, or into public areas and do not use public transport or taxis
- Track and Trace provide precise guidelines regarding isolation

D is for deadly; COVID-19 has left a trail of sadness and death. Maybe you will get away with it ignoring the guidelines, ignoring scientific medical advice to be vaccinated and to have a booster, maybe you won't. Be sensible, adhere to guidelines and don't put yourself or others at risk.

Omicron COVID-19 researchers are working at breakneck speed to learn about this new variant's transmissibility, severity, and response to vaccines

Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution (TAG-VE). The World Health Organisation (WHO).

New Playgroup in Lanchester

A new Playgroup has started operating every Friday morning from 9.30 until 11 am at Croft View Halls. Anyone interested should just pop along and speak to Zoe.

Children (and adults) enjoy making decorations for the Christmas tree in the hall.



Lanchester Flower Club

We are still trying very hard to keep going. We have now had meetings in August, September and October which have been so well supported. Our November meeting, on the 24th November, was a meal out at the Beamish Park Hotel. It was a pre-Christmas outing which was very well attended. 22 of us enjoyed good food and excellent service but most of all a lovely chatty social afternoon with friends.

Our next meeting is on 26th January 2022 in Lanchester Community Centre main hall at 2pm. Our speaker is Anthony Atkinson, his subject Mo Molam.

Everyone is welcome; come and join us.



If you need any further information please contact our Chairperson Helen Tomlinson 01207 503667 or Secretary Lestrine Kelly 01207 521494.



Thursday Club

We went out for our November meeting, all the way to Ravello's, a super spot for a pre-Christmas meal. Somewhere that everyone can get to, and everyone enjoys being there.

We all had a most enjoyable time - good food, convivial company, excellent service.

A good way to get Christmas started.

Red Cross Coffee Morning

Red Cross Lanchester held a coffee morning on Tuesday 30th November. We raised the amazing total of £400, with a raffle, pick a bag, and cake stall. I would like to thank the volunteers who are always willing to help when we have fundraising events, either helping on the day, baking, or giving items to make up the hampers for raffle prizes which are such a success. Thank you to our customers who support us with the events we hold - we couldn't do it without you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tracey Dobson

*Below, L to R:
Ann Carr,
Zinzi Wilson,
Bubby Sekhon
& Tracey Dobson*



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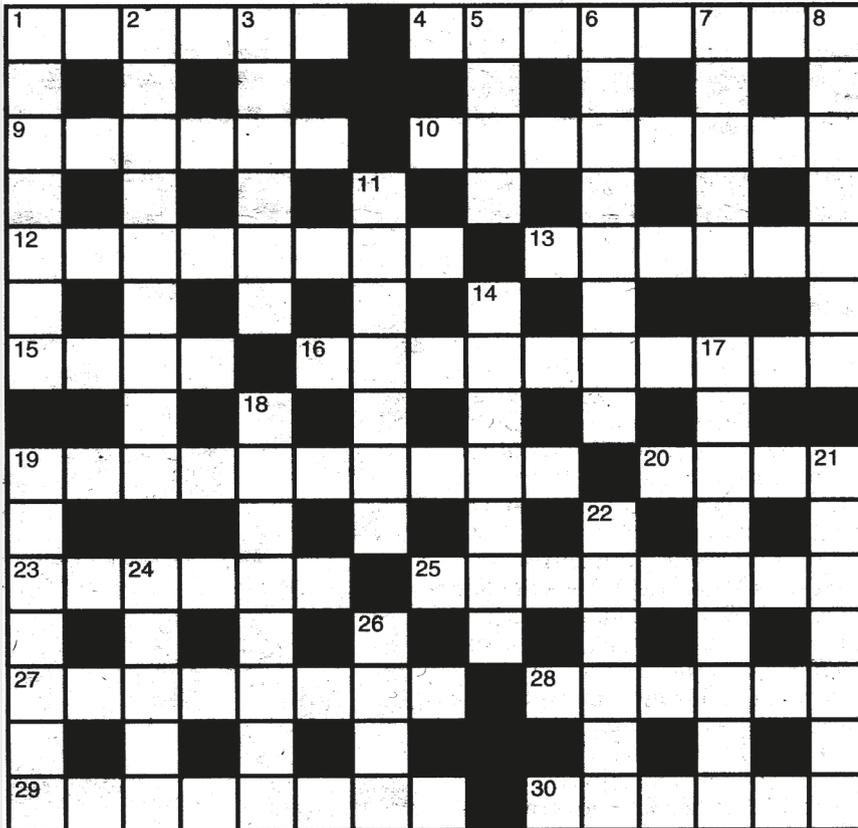
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Across

- 1 Irritable (6)
- 4 A pensive piece of piano music (8)
- 9 Indulge (6)
- 10 Groan! Maud is a person who enjoys eating (8)
- 12 Line game for a vassal (8)
- 13 Rot (6)
- 15 Make bankrupt (4)
- 16 Authoritative (10)
- 19 Better (10)
- 20 Egg-shaped (4)
- 23 Correct (6)
- 25 Crackles when crushed (8)
- 27 Realistic (8)
- 28 Interment (6)
- 29 Improving (8)
- 30 Glad rags (6)

Down

- 1 Heavy drinker (7)
- 2 Citrus fruit (9)
- 3 Took notice of (6)
- 5 Instrument (4)
- 6 Dye used in curry powder (8)
- 7 Respond (5)
- 8 Approve of (7)
- 11 Stand aside (4,3)
- 14 Regional variations of a language (7)
- 17 Abuse (9)
- 18 Position again (8)
- 19 Well-liked
- 21 Faithfulness (7)
- 22 Barrows (6)
- 24 Entrails found in craw of falcon (5)
- 26 Of similar nature (4)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw (by the deadline date on back page) to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



Lemon Syllabub

In the Middle Ages, the cream and wine confection we call a 'syllabub' was known as a 'flummery' or 'posset'. It's alleged that originally the cow was milked directly into a jug of wine to make a froth or foam. Wine or sherry can be used in our modern version, depending on the sweetness required, and the amount of lemon adjusted according to taste. This is quite an easy but delicious special dessert, lovely as part of a festive meal. A real homage to our ancient, traditional foods!

Serving 4-6

- Grated rind and juice of 1 lemon
- 125 ml/4 fl oz sweet white wine
- 2 tbsp brandy
- 55g/2 oz caster sugar
- 300 ml /half pint double cream
- Zest of 1 lemon to decorate

Sponge fingers or ratafia biscuits to serve with the dessert.

Place the rind and the juice of the lemon in a bowl together with the wine and brandy. Cover and leave to infuse for a few hours, or overnight.

Stir in the sugar until it has dissolved. Whip the cream in a large bowl using an electric mixer. When it starts to thicken, carefully pour in the liquid, a little at a time. until it is all mixed in. The mixture should be very thick and soft - don't overwhip it. Spoon into small glasses and chill for a few hours...this can be made a day ahead. Decorate with the lemon zest sprinkled on top. Sponge fingers or ratafia biscuits can be served with the dessert.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on

Tuesday 9 November 2021 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting and Planning Meeting 12 October – approved.

Police report – received.

Christmas Light Switch On 2021 - Christmas Light Switch On 2021- Councillors discussed the event at length. It was agreed that an event should take place on the Village Green to include the switch on only with recorded music and no other elements of the event. The event to be live streamed as happened last year.

Correspondence:

Churches Together Service of Remembering, Thanksgiving and Hope – Councillors were informed that due to adverse weather the service had been rearranged for Saturday 13 November at 10am on the Village Green. Councillors considered and approved a request from Churches Together for a donation of £100 towards the sound system for the event

North Pennines AONB Partnership – Annual Forum

Meeting – Richard Holden MP - a meeting had been arranged with Councillors for Friday 12 November at 4.30pm at the Community Centre.

Durham County Councillors

An update was received on several issues including the footpath on Durham Road, County Hall and Consett Swimming Pool.

Area Action Partnership (AAP) / Parish Councils Committee (PCC)

The next Parish Council Committee meeting will take place on Saturday 20 November at Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council Offices. The Police and Crime Commissioner will be attending. With regard to the Solar Planet walk

a meeting has been held with representatives from York University to gain information about their walk that was installed in 2000. Contact has been made with County Council officers. A meeting has been arranged with AAP officers to explore funding matters.

Traffic and Speed Concerns

Councillors considered the response received regarding speed surveys at Ford Road and on the A691.

Car Emissions – Stationary Vehicles

Councillors were provided with an update following recent correspondence with the County Council. The County Council consider that the current legislation to address idling vehicles requires an application to the Secretary of State.

A suggestion was made to put up banners on the railings of the two primary schools asking drivers of stationary vehicles to turn off their engines. It was agreed that the schools are asked to design and display a banner on the railings, the banners to be provided by the Parish Council.

Bus Stop Issues – Maiden Law Bank

Councillors discussed the bus stop location going up Maiden Law Bank which is not convenient for Willow Burn Hospice. In addition, the old bus stop opposite Ornsby Hill has been demolished but the debris is still lying there. It was agreed that the matter is progressed with Durham County Council.

CCTV – Park House Play Area

It was agreed to contact the Police and the County Council to explore CCTV provision.

Financial report - discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment – approved.



Brenda publishes two more books

Those of us who know Brenda well, know that she likes to be active and not being out and about in the community during lockdown, she needed something to do. She had already written two novels which have been previously recorded in the Village Voice and she used lockdown to write two more. "Eleanor's Secret" was published in January 2021 and the sequel to that "Eleanor's Secret Revealed" was published in September 2021.

Brenda was born and bred in Newcastle upon Tyne and all her books are set in that city in the Victorian era. Numerous people have enjoyed learning much more about the history of Newcastle upon Tyne, as well as enjoying the story content.

An added touch is that Brenda's younger daughter Stephanie, who now lives in London, but did attend Lanchester Primary School as a child, draws and designs the covers for all Brenda's books.

Copies of her books are available from Brenda herself or can be ordered from Waterstones or through Amazon.

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Durham Newcastle & Hexham Areas 

Advent Fair at All Saints Parish Church

The church looked very attractive when all the stalls had been put up for the Advent Fair to be held on Saturday, November 27th. The stalls were brimming over with lovely things to tempt the eye and purse! Stall holders left on Friday evening full of anticipation for the next day, when all the lovely things would be sold. In no way did they anticipate that the fair would have to be cancelled, but without electricity it was just not possible! Disappointed stall holders looked at their stalls in dismay. The fair cancelled just did not seem fair!! THEN Reverend Lesley came to the rescue when she allowed the stalls to stay until Sunday, when after a morning service at 8:00 am, the Advent Fair could open at 9:30 am.

Everyone was delighted and could hardly believe it when people began to stream into church. Business was brisk at all the stalls, of which there was quite a variety. The ever-popular men's bottle stall, Mothers' Union cake stall, Church Wives 'hook a bag', Gillian's Christmas tree stocking gifts for children, Tombola, Hazel's very popular ginger beer made by herself, Flower Ladies Christmas table centre decorations, Traidcraft, and Margaret and friends home crafts stall including aprons, pinafores, cosmetic bags, peg bags, shopping bags and much more. In addition, there was a big raffle with



Hook a bag stall at the Advent Fair

splendid prizes, the main one being a turkey. There was something for everyone and all in all it was a very happy occasion with plenty of smiles and friendly banter. On offer there was a welcome cup of tea or coffee with a mince pie if you wanted a rest from shopping, or a chat with friends. Despite all the difficulties of the previous day, the fair was deemed a great success and raised over £2000 for church funds. Let Shakespeare have the last word from one of his famous plays: *'All's Well that Ends Well'*.

Brenda Craddock.



Five Musketeers Sharpen up their Secateurs

Flower arrangers worked together to contribute to the All Saints Parish Church fair, which was held on Sunday 28th November. Three ladies from Lanchester Flower Club, and church flower arrangers from All Saints Parish Church and All Saints RC Church worked together to create 25 Christmas flower arrangements. They were sold on the morning of the fair. It went so well we were asked, "were we taking orders?" Unfortunately, none were available. Big thank you to Lestrine Kelly, Barbara Sproat, Marion Fenwick, Anne Stephenson and Andrea Stoddart on camera, and Freda Hunter who kindly supported the fair by doing two at home.



Community Centre News

Here is the latest news from your Community Centre.

Our Christmas Market was held on 13th November which was a great success. Although we had to change the layout to try to keep everyone safe, there was a really good turnout with lots of shopping being done to Christmas songs and carols.

Storm Arwen brought prolonged power cuts and challenges for some of the village. We were glad to be able to help during this difficult time by offering a warm refuge, tea, coffee and the use of microwaves for a hot meal. We were also able to help by offering charging facilities for phones and IT equipment to enable people to keep in touch with friends and family.

The Gym has new extended opening times. The new times are Monday to Friday 7am-9pm; Saturday and Sunday 9am-4pm. Why not come and see the great facilities on offer and all at only £19.50 per month, a really great way to keep fit and support your Community Centre? Contact the office for details about dates for inductions for gym membership.

We have lots of activities for all ages and interests. A few to highlight this month are Taekwondo, which is a popular activity for children over 4 years old; for anyone wanting to be creative, Zoe Patchwork can show you how to make beautiful unique items; and for any men out there who like to sing, Lanchester Male Voice Choir meet once a week and are always happy to have new members join them.

The office is staffed 9am-3pm Monday to Friday. If you have any enquiries about any of the activities or clubs available or you want to know more about our brilliant facilities, please get in touch on 01207 521275 or drop in and have a chat- it will be good to meet you!

To keep up to date with what's going on check out our Information Point; follow us on Facebook 'Lanchester Community Centre' or check out our new website: <https://lanchestercc.co.uk/>



Police Report

Hello, I'm PCSO 8722 Andrew Tonge. I cover Lanchester as well as Burnhope and the rural areas out of Consett Police Station. I joined the force towards the end of 2020 so have been getting to know the area during the beginning of this year. However, now things have started getting back to the new 'normal', I have enjoyed getting back out in the community more and hope I can start to get to know more people

within the areas that I cover.

My role as PCSO is varied, however one of these is to be a point of contact for people within the areas that I cover, so please get in touch if there is anything you think I may be able to assist with. I'm also looking to attend more community events, get into the local schools to speak with the children and get to know as many people as possible in the community. If there are any events taking place which you would like me to attend or you would like me to visit, please get in touch with me on the email address below.

We try to work closely with other agencies, such as the County Council, Parish Council, Neighbourhood Wardens, and housing providers, to name just a few, as we try to get to the very heart of our communities by tackling local issues, dealing with antisocial behaviour, engaging with different groups of people and building up key relationships with the people we serve. I hope to start meeting more of the community soon, so if you see myself or my colleagues out and about, please say hello.

You may have seen us at Lanchester schools; we are working with the schools and the council to try and improve the parking and congestion around the area. We are encouraging people to be considerate with where they park. Please follow the signage that is up and around the schools including: double yellow lines, school keep clear zones, white 'I' lines. Please avoid blocking driveways or junctions. This is to ensure the safety of the children, parents, staff and residents.

In recent weeks, we have seen an increase in thefts from vehicles in several areas. This appears to be random checks of vehicle doors to see if they are open or closed, with the people moving on if a vehicle is locked. So, this is just a reminder to lock your doors and keep valuables out of sight.

If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to get in touch via email, andrew.tonge@durham.police.uk or you can call 101, select option 1 and enter extension 208722. This is for general use and incidents shouldn't be reported this way. Please report any incidents via 101 (or the online report form) or 999 in an emergency.

PCSO Andrew Tonge

Lanchester All Saints' Church

Are you called to be our next Treasurer?

I write on an Ember Day - a day when the church prays for new vocations, whether they be lay or ordained. At present I'm praying for one particular vocation, that of Treasurer.

You see, we need a new Treasurer for All Saints, and the role of Treasurer is just as essential as the role of Vicar, Reader or Churchwarden. Even Jesus needed money to keep him on the road as he healed and preached the good news and called disciples to him, and if we are to flourish then we need our accounts in good order! The Treasurer is usually an officer of the PCC and serves on the Standing Committee - but doesn't have to, so don't be put off if you're reading this and don't come to church.

You can still be our Treasurer!

The main duties are:

- To ensure received income is recorded and banked
- To monitor all items of income and expenditure
- To pay and record all items of expenditure
- To keep proper books and records
- To prepare the annual accounts each year and submit all necessary information to the Independent Examiner/Auditor
- To assist the PCC in setting an annual budget
- To advise the PCC of the financial position against budget at each regular meeting of the PCC

To provide general financial information to the PCC.

- You'll also work closely with the Priest in Charge.

We use a software programme tailored to the church and can give training if needed. Producing the monthly account usually takes no more than three hours.

So if you love numbers, love Lanchester, love our iconic Parish church, and feel called to help out, please give me a call on 01207 529166!

Rev'd Lesley Sutherland, Priest in Charge



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VILLAGE VOICE NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 18th January 2022

The deadline for advertisers is Tuesday 17th January 2022

Lanchester EP School Winter Wonderland

This week sees the opening of our Winter Wonderland for the second year running. I truly believe that we must have the most enthusiastic and committed staff in the country! What started out last year with a simple idea in a senior leadership meeting of 'Wouldn't it be lovely to be able to do something special in our wood?' quickly turned into a rather ambitious project with our Teaching Assistants quickly taking control with some amazing ideas and suggestions!

The week was such a great success last year that we all decided we wanted to do the same again this year – only even better! So, the discussions and planning started and we are now in the middle of another wonderful week of magic for our children. All Saints' Primary School are joining us later in the week and we are also opening up the event to the public on two evenings too – with staff staying behind to help make it all a big success.

The children are met by The Grinch (aka Mr Knighton – Deputy Head) before heading into the Winter Wonderland on the E.P. Express, a mini locomotive. Once they arrive in the woodland, there is a campfire where they meet Mrs Claus (aka Mrs Davis – Head Teacher) and all make a s'more (toasted marshmallow sandwiched between two chocolate digestives), aided by some wonderfully enthusiastic staff.

Then they head to the E.P. Hot Choc Bar where they are greeted by more wonderful staff who serve them with hot chocolate and whipped cream. While they are getting warmed up by their hot chocolate, the Christmas Cracker (aka Mr Innes – Assistant Head Teacher) leads the singing of some Christmas songs with his guitar.

The final part of their visit is the most magical of them all – visiting Santa Claus in his grotto (aka Mr McLoughlin or Mr Taylor) who checks his list twice before presenting all the children with a handmade gift.

Seeing the children's faces is just so special – even the oldest children are never too old enough for the magic of Christmas!

Next week we will be transforming the woodland into a wonderful nativity scene and we will be singing carols around it. I always think it is important to send the children home with the real message of Christmas at the forefront of their minds.

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher
Lanchester E.P. Primary School

Staff and pupils enjoy Winter Wonderland together



Zoe in Stitches Patchwork and Quilting

Zoe in Stitches Patchwork and Quilting classes are now back in person at Lanchester Community Centre!

Since October 2019, Zoe has been teaching traditional and modern patchwork and quilting techniques on Monday mornings at the Community Centre.

From March 2020, when the group couldn't meet in person because of Coronavirus, Zoe was able to move her classes online using Zoom so that they could 'meet' virtually to support each other during those difficult times. Members continued working on the pieces they had started at the Centre and even started new projects, all in a supportive and friendly environment.

Projects that the members of the group have been making include traditional and Japanese style sampler bed quilts, play mats, bags, Bargello table runners and Christmas tree skirts.

For those that couldn't meet online, videos were made available so that they could carry on with their projects in their own time.

Since the lockdown restrictions have been lifted, the group is back at the Centre meeting in person once more and is welcoming new members. COVID secure measures are still in place.

Complete beginners are welcome, and all members learn at their own pace under Zoe's expert eye.

(examples of quilting projects, opposite)

Costs are £8 per class which is paid monthly and the class will be back at the Centre from 11th January 2022 from 10:00am – 12:00noon. Taster classes are available for new starters, ask Zoe for details.

To contact Zoe or for more information visit www.zoeinstitches.co.uk or find her on Facebook/Instagram @zoeinstitches.

Lanchester All Saints' Primary School

All of the children, staff and governors at All Saints' would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. It has been an eventful twelve months in school – filled with wonderful learning, experiences, friendships and celebrations. Earlier in the year, we were thrilled to find out that Government IQ had selected All Saints' as part of one hundred excellent schools nationally 2021- 2022 (for the full editorial, please take a quick look on our website). We always knew that we were special, but it was lovely to have someone external recognise our value! Looking back over the year, it is inevitable that the disruption and uncertainty caused by the pandemic has made some areas of school life a little more difficult than usual, but we have managed to overcome all challenges thrown our way – we want to give credit to our pupils who have responded with positivity and resilience to each hurdle. It has been great having all pupils in school for a full term this autumn – a full fifteen weeks without any major disruption!

The usual joy of Christmas has not been thwarted by Covid here; we have lots to look forward to. This week, our infant pupils performed a remarkable showing of Wriggly Nativity and our junior pupils produced a fantastic

outdoor carol concert. Listening to the children singing, spreading festive cheer, with their families watching, drinking hot chocolate, will remain with us as one of our best memories of the year. We are looking forward to a pantomime, parties, the Winter Wonderland (thanks to our lovely colleagues in Lanchester E.P.), carols around the tree and more.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our families who, instead of giving to school staff at Christmas, gave to local families in need instead; it is acts like this that make us a very distinctive family. To everyone in our local area, may God bless you and everyone that you love this Christmas and new year.

Frances Stephenson
Head Teacher
All Saints', Lanchester

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Report from Margery Flatts Allotments: some *dirty solutions to climate change*

Do you want to enrich your soil, improve your yields of flowers or vegetables, reduce your weeding and fix more carbon into your soil as well as increase biodiversity? How could this amazing feat come about? Several allotment holders at Margery Flatts Allotments are making changes that are doing just that!

A new allotment holder Michael Martin is trying the “no dig” method of gardening. He read that digging releases carbon into the atmosphere and brings weed seeds to the surface increasing the need to continually weed. He planted directly into the soil without breaking the soil up and then cropped without digging. This has reduced his weeding.

Christine Davies tries not to leave bare soil, but to always have a covering of compost or mulch such as straw or wood chippings. This has enriched her soil, improving crops and has increased the number of worms and useful insects.

Another allotment holder, Sarah Dance, uses the “nitrogen fixer” clover to form a blanket under her brassica plants. This feeds the plants as well as reducing her weeding.

John planted several “green manures”, including white mustard, buckwheat and the beautiful plant phacelia. These were planted in early autumn into bare soil and will be left over the winter providing soil protection and fixing carbon. They will be hoed onto the soil in early spring to make green mulch and feed valuable nutrients into the soil. The phacelia is also fantastic for butterflies and bees.

I think that challenging the ways that we are used to doing things with many small but important changes can gradually increase biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint. The soil is our life blood and if nurtured will greatly pay us back!

A good source of information about this increasingly popular method of gardening can be found in the book by Charles Dowding “No Dig Organic Home and Garden” or on his website or by accessing: www.permaculture.co.uk.

Paul Shepherd



Beautiful crumbly soil and green manure shown at Margery Flatts allotments

Trees for Lanchester!

In March 2021, the newly formed ‘Trees for Lanchester’ initiative planted 2000 native broadleaf trees off Newbiggen Lane over two weeks. 23 local people aged from 7 to 76 years old advised, planned and planted. We’re a group of Lanchester residents who want to do something positive to tackle climate change and dwindling bio-diversity.

In County Durham, tree cover is only 6% - less than half the UK average of 13% tree cover. This pales in comparison with an EU average of 35% cover. Doubling UK woodland could help absorb 10% of the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions annually and do wonders for our threatened wildlife. Trees are good for us in so many ways. As well as capturing carbon, they naturally feed the soil and make the land more resilient to erosion and flooding. They provide a home to insects that pollinate our crops and to the wildlife that we share the world with. Contact with the natural environment increases our quality of life, and helps us to be happier and healthier. We’re lucky to have members in the group with specialist



knowledge, ensuring the right tree is planted in the right place; but equally we have many members who were planting for the first time this year, and loving it! There is always someone on hand to show you what to do if unsure.

So, let’s plant more trees!

Tree planting seasons runs from November to March, and we already have several planting days scheduled for December, with more planned for the New Year. We’ve teamed up with local landowners such as the Austin family, to find land on which we can plant. We’ve also been lucky to have support from Durham Woodland Revival project.

If you would like to shake off the January blues, to take some positive action for our wildlife and to reduce climate change, get in touch with

us. No matter how little time you have, you can still make a difference – by joining us for just an hour of planting, you could help bring life to 10 or more new trees. ‘Trees for Lanchester’ is an initiative of the Lanchester Partnership Environment Group. You can contact us on: lanchestertrees@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

Cricket News

Post season there are always awards to give out and it was great for the club to have three to collect. At the Durham Cricket Board awards, at the Riverside, Chester Le Street, Anne McPhail picked up an 'Unsung Hero' award for her unstinting work at the club. Anne turns her hand to anything, never needing to be asked and just beavers away. She worked tirelessly at the serving hatch whilst restrictions were in place, greeting everyone with a lovely smile. A well deserved piece of recognition.

At the NEPL cricket awards held at the Hilton, Gateshead, 18 year old all-rounder Jack Slane, picked up the Division 3 player of the year award, which was presented to him by former England and Yorkshire cricketer, Ryan Sidebottom. In his first full season at second team level, Jack scored over 400 runs and took 33 wickets, earning him the award. At the same event, Andy McConnell's final act as a player

was to pick up the Banks Cup the third team won in September.

Those happy events brought to an end, a tumultuous 18 months, where grants kept the Club going when we couldn't trade or hold the Beer Festival in 2020. The past 8 months have been better as restrictions relaxed and we were able to trade and play cricket. It was also a pleasure, at the back end of August, to be able to hold a Beer Festival, albeit done in a different manner, which was the first major event that many people attended following all the restrictions.

It was brilliant to see people relax and enjoy themselves for the first time in a long time.

Looking forward, it is hoped to have a Christmas Karaoke disco on Friday 17th December and the club will be open at various times when football matches are being televised. Hope you all have a brilliant Christmas and a better year.

Andrew McConnell



**Stuart McPhail and
Andy McConnell**



Mark's kayak challenge

Mark Earnden is planning to kayak 100km from West Coast Scotland to East Coast Scotland to raise

awareness of Dementia UK. His journey starts on Loch Linnhe on the 8th of July and he is hoping to cover 20km on the water each day, camping each night (no luxury hotel!!). He is aiming to complete the journey in 5 days if all works out to plan.

"Dementia hides in the shadows, it is silent, but when it decides to identify its next victim, life will never be the same again for them, their friends or family. It is simply cruel. I have dedicated over a decade of my life to helping the care sector and I have been blessed to meet the most incredibly special people along the way. Dementia can be handled with dignity; I believe in miracles, and I am driven to raise awareness of this amazing charity that does so much to provide help and support to those who need it most."

Mark said that he has undertaken many crazy challenges in his life, but this will be the toughest.

"My motivation is clear, and I will not fail to reach my goal in raising awareness of Dementia. I am proud to live in the community of Lanchester, and I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to share my story with you all in our local Village Voice. I realise everyone has their own preferred and personal circumstances to support charities, so if you can donate that would be amazing, but I am also accepting good luck wishes and beers in Crinnion's after this has been smashed!!! **So all good!!**"

If you would like to donate, please visit Mark's Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mark-earnden-kayak-50challenge>.

Mark will keep a record of his trip and we hope to publish photographs of him completing his challenge next summer.

Too late for Bethlehem, a Christmas legend from Russia - Maisie Raine

Many years ago, Babushka lived alone in a dense Russian forest - alone except for a large number of animals she cared for. She had few neighbours, but she enjoyed her life, and never turned anyone from her door. One day, she was surprised to see three well-dressed strangers riding to her cottage, on the humped backs of peculiar beasts, the likes of which the old lady had never seen before. Being a kind and generous person, she offered the men food and drink and looked forward to hearing their story... She heard that the men were kings and scholars in their own land, far away. They could read the stars to discover what might be happening in the world, and had discovered that soon, the earth was going to see the birth of a wonderful baby, who would grow up to change the world forever.

Babushka listened to them, fascinated - how she would love to travel with the kings and see the wonderful child! She dared to ask her visitors if she could join them on their journey, and she was delighted when they said they would welcome her as a member of their party, ...but the journey must begin immediately, as the wonderful child would be born at any time. Could Babushka

be ready at once? Excited, Babushka nodded her head, then remembered all the tasks to be completed before she could leave. The house had to be swept and dusted, and the stables and sheds housing her animals must be cleaned. She must leave her garden tidy, and she needed to ask her neighbours to feed her animals. Hearing that the three kings were to leave right after their meal, Babushka promised that she would follow them as soon as she could.

She watched the three kings ride off, wishing she could be with them, then began all the chores which awaited her attention, until at last she was ready. As she loaded up her small horse, she frowned; she was now days behind her visitors, and she asked about them from everyone she met. All agreed that they had been heard to say they were on their way to a village called Bethlehem. Babushka sadly turned back; she was too far behind to ever find the kings. Sadly, she returned to her village. The news of the birth of the wonderful baby never reached her in her cottage in the forest, and for the rest of her life, she wondered about him and the man he grew into. Often at night as she fell asleep, she whispered the sad words.....

"Too late, too late for Bethlehem."



Mark Earnden is planning to kayak 100km from West Coast Scotland to East Coast Scotland to raise awareness of Dementia UK.
(Full report on p23)



Division 3 player of the year award
Cricket News
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Trees for Lanchester!
(Full report on p22)



Margery Flatts Allotments
some dirty solutions to climate change (Full report on p22)



Lanchester EP School Winter Wonderland
(Full report on p20)

SEASON'S GREETINGS
 from
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NEXT DEADLINE
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 The deadline for advertisers is **Monday 17th January 2022**

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