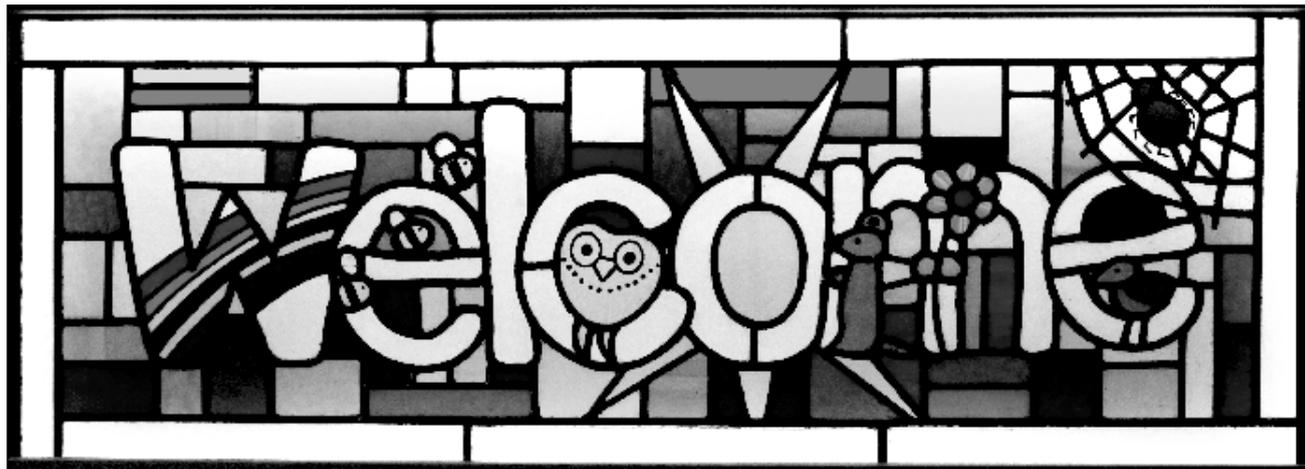


the Village Voice

Issue No 11, Volume 21

Lanchester, November 2021



Stained glass commission by local artist (p2)

Remembering & Remembrance services (p7, p8 and p10)



The Orchard Group

It is that time again 'the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'.
(Full story on p6)



The Lanchester Partnership Fun Run

Marshalls and team of organisers of the Lanchester Partnership Fun Run.
(Full story on p3)



Welcome to Reverend Stephen Martin

Reverend Stephen Martin was ordained Deacon in Durham Cathedral on July 4th and has been working since then as curate with Reverend Lesley Sutherland. (continued on p2)



Lockdown Calendar

Stephen Pattison decided to take some pictures of Lanchester and the surrounding areas while he was out walking and running during lockdown. (continued on p2)



Graduation success

Beth Winter, former pupil of St Bede's School Lanchester, graduated with a degree in Interior Design from Northumbria University. Her graduation ceremony in September was a year late because of Covid (hence the delight!). Beth is now employed in a prominent design company in Newcastle.

Pumpkin Party at Lanchester

Methodist Church (full story on page 3)





Welcome to Reverend Stephen Martin

(continued from p1)

Reverend Lesley is priest in charge of three churches: Lanchester All Saints Parish

Church, St. John's Burnhope, and St.

Thomas' Harelaw. As you can imagine this involves a great deal of work and the assistance of a curate will be invaluable.

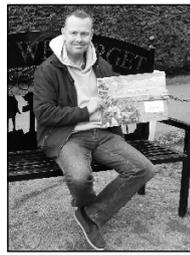
Reverend Lesley came as priest in charge in October 2019, just before Lockdown in March 2020. She did sterling work throughout the succeeding months setting up innovative ways of keeping in touch with her congregations and caring for their spiritual wellbeing. Her worship services and meetings by Zoom were always meticulously prepared and meaningful.

Reverend Stephen was born and raised in Sherburn village, attending Sherburn Primary and Belmont Comprehensive schools. On leaving school he had various jobs all of which indicated his interest and care of people, culminating in him working in the funeral service. He worked his way up to Funeral Director, a post he held for fifteen years working with several different companies in the Durham area.

In 2014 he attended Lindisfarne College of Theology to train as a Reader in the Anglican church and in 2017 was licensed to two churches in Durham. In 2019 having been selected to train for ordained ministry he attended Lindisfarne College again to study for a degree. Stephen is very happy in his new role as curate. He is very much a family man and is married to Mandy. They have three delightful daughters, Grace 10, Niamh 8 and Erin 6, not forgetting the extended family of Deano the Lurcher, three mice and 13 hens!

Stephen considers it a privilege to serve God in Lanchester under the inspiring, dedicated leadership of Reverend Lesley. We welcome him and his family warmly and pray for his success and happiness in the years ahead.

Brenda Craddock.



Lockdown Calendar

(continued from p1)

Stephen Pattison decided to take some pictures of Lanchester and the surrounding areas while he was out walking and running during lockdown. Not knowing what to do with them, he thought of producing a calendar and raising money for Willow

Burn Hospice. Stephen posted six potential photographs for each month on Facebook and asked Facebook users to vote for their favourite.

The most popular photograph for each month was incorporated in the calendar. Stephen, who lives in Lanchester, has so far sold over 350 copies, and raised over £900 for Willow Burn. Calendars are still available. Contact Stephen at: stephen_pattison@sky.com, or Facebook message him. They are also available at The Potting Shed Garden & Gift Shop at Willow Burn.



"Welcome" – Lanchester Methodist Church

(continued from p1)

Long before the pandemic, Lanchester Methodist Church decided to use some bequests to produce a stained glass "welcome" sign. Maralyn O'Keefe, from Lanchester, was commissioned to produce the work at her Glass and Art Gallery in Medomsley Road, Consett. This was her fourth public commission in Lanchester; she has also undertaken several private commissions in Lanchester.

It was decided at the initial discussions, a few months before the pandemic hit, that the word Welcome would be the key part of the stained glass panel and that children who go to Lanchester Methodist Church would do some drawings of what they would like to see in the panel.

Maralyn was very impressed by the drawings:

"The variety of drawings I was given were truly beautiful and it was so very hard to decide which ones to use in my overall design. I also wanted to use the children's ideas exactly as they had drawn them as their own work is a significant part of the whole design. I decided to choose a rainbow, some bees, an owl, the sun, a mouse, a flower, a little bird and a spider in its web. All

to do with nature, some considered more beautiful than others, but all equally wonderful and meaningful.

"By placing them in the word Welcome I felt that this signified a warm welcome was extended to all walks of life, no matter how beautiful, how simple, how scary or endearing they may be.

"The background of squares and rectangles in lots of different colours represents life. The paths in our lives which are all different, at different paces, different sizes and going in various directions."

The light box into which the stained glass is mounted, made by Ed Stone, enables light to shine through the glass so that the colours are vibrant and bold.

The word "welcome" is stronger than ever now with the pandemic, so it is apt that the stained glass Welcome panel was designed, made and installed during the time when we could not welcome people into our homes, into our arms, into our spaces and of course into church. Our welcomes have all had to be at a distance and everyone has felt somewhat 'isolated' as this is not our norm. This Welcome panel now welcomes people back into Lanchester Methodist Church.

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The Lanchester Partnership Fun Run 2021 (continued from p1)

We are really pleased to have been able to make the fun run happen again this year after having to cancel the 2020 event. We decided that we would focus on the run only this time and not have the fair, to ensure that we could keep the event safe for people.

Burnhopeside Hall have been, as always, incredibly accommodating of the event. We really could not do it without their support and so massive thanks must go to Christine and her team. Our fantastic team of volunteers did an amazing job too and we are very grateful for their time and support.

Thanks also to support from the National Lottery Fund, and County Durham Community Foundation, we were able to invest in equipment to make the planning and organisation a lot easier for us all. The course was a new one but was still 2.5k. The new route incorporated a lot of woodland this time.



As usual we had Willowburn Hospice on site selling refreshments on the day so it was great to see people supporting this local charity too!

Not only did we hit extremely lucky with glorious weather for the day, but we are pleased to say we had approximately 120 people registered for the event and all seemed to enjoy it! To see families smiling and enjoying the event after such a difficult period of time was really special. We had one adult runner completing 8 laps of the course and one junior with a 5 lap tally!

If anyone would be interested in helping to bring the event back again next year then please email thelanchesterpartnership@gmail.com and we will be in touch.



The organisers; Michelle Atkinson, Sarah Grady and Angela McDermid (with one very important person missing due to isolating with covid, Kath Marshall-Ivens)



Fun runners of all ages



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Hello again Village Voice readers,



You may or may not remember that I made my debut in this publication before lockdown. It certainly seems a long time ago now.

My name is Poppy, I am a black Patterdale Terrier, albeit with a tint of grey, and I enjoy sharing with readers the walks I take my Humans on. I know they think they actually choose the walks, so it seems a shame to disillusion them. One I

particularly like is at Esh Village, although I need a lift in the car to get there. It is a steep uphill three and a half mile hike from Lanchester otherwise, and I do have my limits. We park on the verge outside St Michael's RC Church – or Esh Laude - on the edge of the village, in the direction of Quebec.

From there we enter a field – signed public footpath and with an old log across what was probably once a gate. We then walk – or at least I sprint – across a couple of fields and past some old farm machinery and a haystack. One word of caution – there are sheep in the field on the

left. I don't bother them, and they don't bother me, but some dogs are not as self-contained as I. At the end of a couple of fields we turn left and carry on along a rough path alongside even more fields, with views to the right across the Deerness Valley. We go under some electric wires supported by pylons and walk in the direction of a farmyard. When we approach the farmyard we have to cross a stile, and I am kept on my lead from then on. At the farm we can either go left back into Esh Village, or carry on down a track to the next farm which is called Low Esh Farm. I prefer that route because it is longer. From Low Esh Farm we turn left past some holiday cottages on our right, and carry on until we reach the main road. We then turn left and follow it back into Esh Village. There the Human often stops to slake his thirst with something called Black Sheep at a pub called the Cross Keys. Dogs are allowed into the bar, although if it is warm we just sit outside on one of the benches provided. From there it is a walk past a school on our right and then along the path back to the car outside the RC church. The walk, without the refreshment stop, takes around an hour which I think is acceptable for an energetic lady like myself.



Pumpkin Party at Lanchester Methodist Church

On Saturday 23rd October the young and young at heart had a great time carving pumpkins and playing pin the heart on Patch the Pumpkin.

We learnt about why we carve pumpkins (or turnips back in the day!) and wear scary costumes at this time of year. We also had a story about Patch the Pumpkin who is different to all the other pumpkins as he shines the light of Jesus through the heart shaped hole in his side!



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Vets on the move

Ashfield Veterinary Surgery in Lanchester has announced it is to leave the village early in the new year.

While that will mean pet-owning villagers having to take their animals on a short journey to Annfield Plain for treatment, it will at least go a long way to alleviate the parking problems at the foot of Peth Bank.

A statement from the surgery reads:

“Development work has started on our new veterinary clinic at Classic House, Morrison Road, North Industrial Estate, Annfield Plain, Stanley, Co Durham DH9 7RX, just two miles from our current site.

“Having outgrown our tiny, existing site, it’s been difficult to offer the level of service we want to. Over the next few months, we will be developing a new spacious surgery that we believe will exceed all expectations compared to our current site and will include parking!

We are thrilled to confirm that we will be relocating to the new building in early 2022, and we can’t wait!

“This much larger site will offer our clients and their pets an exciting range of additional services and facilities in a modern

environment whilst maintaining a warm and friendly feel. In a central location, the site will also have on-site parking including disabled access.

“The site will enable us to grow the surgery to include:

- additional consulting rooms – allowing a greater availability of appointments
- spacious reception and waiting area with separate waiting areas for cats and dogs
- separate dog and cat wards – keeping stress to a minimum for our patients
- walk-in kennels for large breeds
- operating theatre
- dental x-ray and in-house laboratory.”



Ashfield Veterinary Surgery
Lanchester



Christine and Frank

Editors retire from the Village Voice

Christine Monaghan and Frank Redfearn saying goodbye to the Voice after all these years running the editorial side and being involved in many aspects of the publication. They both seemed pleased after receiving their retirement present of an all-expenses paid round the world cruise. Enjoy the experience and send a postcard from Pago Pago when you eventually arrive - we look forward to hearing all about your adventure.

With this edition of The Voice, the first after Covid, we welcome our new publishing team of Keith Brown, Laura Goodchild, Barbara Ridley and Sam Trounsom. They take over from Christine Monaghan who has done the task for the past 19 years and Frank Redfearn. Lynda Dougan has also decided to call it a day; her task in dealing with advertising issues has been taken over by Paul Jackson and David Smith. Thank you to all the outgoing members for all your input. Thanks also to all the advertisers who have returned after such a long break.

Regarding deliveries of the Voice, we need a volunteer for the new Maiden Law Estate, a round of some 54. Please apply early to avoid disappointment. Anybody else interested in delivering, please contact me, Mike Stoddart, on 520291. I think after Covid some deliverers will call it a day so we will need more volunteers to avoid people having to pick up their copies from the village.

Mike Stoddart

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The Orchard Group

It is that time again 'the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'.

Lanchester Community Orchard members were all geared up for a busy day on 11th October. A group of about 20 members gathered in glorious sunshine to harvest this year's crop of apples and hazelnuts and sample the delicious juice made from windfalls.

Maybe you saw our display in Front Street. We took samples of eight apple varieties to our stall and encouraged passers-by to have a taste. The Community Orchard was started about 10 years ago by a bunch of enthusiastic fruit lovers keen to grow organic produce with food miles measured in metres.

You can be a full member of the Orchard for £15 per year per household. The only commitment we ask is to join in on our workdays to help run the Orchard by mowing, scything, pruning, weeding and the fun bit, harvesting. We share out what we grow with all the members.

If you do not have the time to help with tasks but would like to be involved, we have a Friends of the Orchard membership for £6 a year per household. For this you and your family will be welcome to enjoy the Orchard at any time taking in the fresh air and lovely views from our site just beyond the edge of the village on Newbiggen Lane at Margery Flatts.

The Orchard is part of The Lanchester Partnership that promotes making living in Lanchester more enjoyable. Everyone is welcome to join in with our efforts, just contact our membership person, Christine, by emailing davismoray@hotmail.co.uk



Harvesting this year's crop of apples and hazelnuts



The Orchard is part of The Lanchester Partnership that promotes making living in Lanchester more enjoyable. Everyone is welcome to join in with our efforts.





Harold Dixon remembered

The family of the late Harold Dixon would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for all the cards, flowers and messages of condolence after the sudden loss of Harold. He will be a huge miss to everyone, but his memories will stay in our hearts forever.

Harold was a great character in the village. He was a local milkman for many years and never failed to get around in all weathers. Harold was hard working and worked right until the end. He is a huge miss. Everyone knew him, he always had a smile on his face. The only day he ever had off was to go to Appleby Fair as he loved his horses. Thank you to Alderson's Funeral Service, and a big thank you to the Jewitt sisters for the horse and carriage that took Harold through the village on his final journey enabling everyone to say their last goodbyes. He certainly got the send-off he deserved by everyone. A big thank you to everyone who donated to Great North Air Ambulance, the total collected was £860. Sleep well Harold.

Billy, Karen & Victoria



Beryl Stewart 1949-2021

Beryl was born and bred in Lanchester where she lived all her life. In her younger days she was a member of the Methodist Youth Club and the Girls Club. She later started a hairdressing business in the village simply called "Beryls". She ran this successfully for over 40 years with her colleague Claire, who has now taken over the business and named it "Hair by Claire". She enjoyed the banter with all her clients and relished a good argument, often starting the argument off and then remaining quiet, whilst others continued

it on. She never forgot her upbringing and had a soft caring side, visiting the People's Kitchen in Newcastle for many years giving people free hair cuts. She had a son Jason who she was immensely proud of, often telling him that he was the first person in the family to go to university.

Many attended the crematorium and then went back to the Cricket Club to pay their respects. She will be fondly remembered by many as a village character and will be sorely missed.

RIP Beryl.

Service of Remembering

A moving service of Remembering took place on Lanchester Village Green – coincidentally 24 hours before the traditional Remembrance Sunday.

This delayed service, postponed in October due to torrential rain, was to remember those villagers who had died since the first lockdown commenced in March last year. After which funeral numbers were, of course, strictly limited.

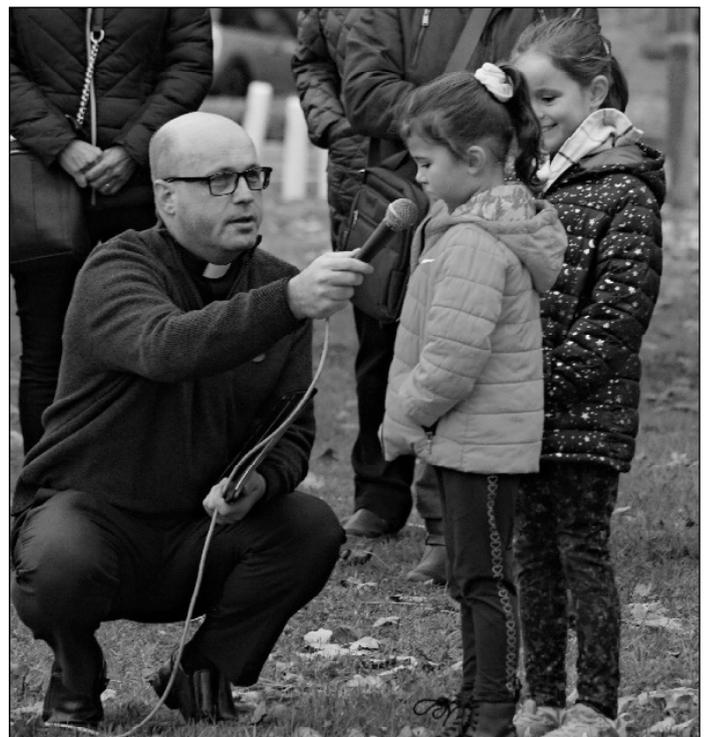
It was sobering to discover that at least 85 villagers – whose names were read out – had passed away during that time.

The half-hour service, with prayers, readings and hymns, was organised by Churches Together Lanchester and Burnhope, with representatives from All Saints Church of England, All Saints Catholic and Lanchester Methodist Churches.

Councillor Keith Harrison praised the voluntary organisations who had helped to maintain the community spirit and helped those in need during the pandemic and described how the Lanchester Valley Walk had become a "focus for activity and exercise."

The service ended on an optimistic note with cousins Kate White, aged eight, and Penny Holden, six, sharing their hopes for the future. Kate said she hoped there would be "no more pandemics so we can socialise with our friends." And Penny said she wanted to see "peace and hope for the future."

So say all of us!



Rev Stephen Martin with cousins Kate White, aged eight, and Penny Holden, aged six. (More photographs on page 10)

Remembrance Service on the Green 2021

There is something very moving about the Remembrance Service which is held every year on our village green. In 2020 the service was live streamed as groups were unable to assemble, but this year we were able to meet again. Everyone who attends enjoys the pervading sense of love and fellowship which unites the people of our village. Memories are stirred of times when our country was at war, and we hear the names read out of all those men and women in Lanchester who died in the two World Wars. Ending that very long list are two young men who died in conflict more recently, namely Stewart Laing in the Falklands War in 1982 and even more recently in 1985 Gavin Peacock who died in action. In 1916, John Maxwell Edmunds, wrote these words and attributed them to the fallen soldiers: 'When you go home tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow we gave our today.'

It is therefore an honour to pay tribute to the armed forces

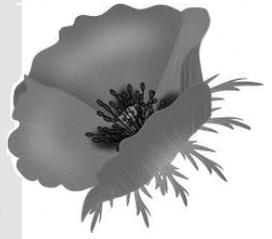
as we gather on the green on Remembrance Sunday. This year, as always, our three clergy were present to lead the service assisted by other ordained members and lay people of their churches. Wreaths were brought forward with dignity and respect by leaders and representatives of different village organisations. Lanchester Brass Band played before and during the service adding a sense of occasion to the proceedings and Mark Draper from the band played the last post with his usual sensitivity and expertise. Once again it was a lovely poignant service and we are left to ponder on these time honoured words written by John Maxwell Edmunds 1916: 'They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor years condemn At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them'

The community of Lanchester certainly testifies to this.

Brenda Craddock

'They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor years condemn At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them'

John Maxwell Edmunds 1916



Lanchester Boys' Brigade

A scout places a wreath on behalf of the 2nd Annfield Plain Scout Group

Councillor Keith Harrison places a wreath on behalf of Lanchester Parish Council

Lanchester & District War Memorial





“Do something. You are by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet.”

- Carl Sagan, American astronomer, writer, scientist

This is a crucial moment in our existence and it is vital that governments, councils, businesses, organisations and individuals take action now. In the words of Carl Sagan, an astronomer and scientist:

**“Do something.
You are by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet.”**

Responding to the Climate Emergency with Lanchester Partnership Environment Group

What can we do in Lanchester?

My thoughts have been dominated for years by the looming climate crisis and the steady unrelenting destruction of our planet. But often I have felt that my concerns were not mainstream; that most businesses, governments and many people were continuing in their business-as-usual polluting ways oblivious to the destructive course our planet was on. However with all the talk of COP26, our screens, the radio and all media have been fully engaged with the topic of climate change. No one can now be in any doubt about the ill health of our planet and about the dangerous trajectory that we are on; how our wildlife is in rapid decline, how we continue to pollute our air, oceans and soils, how we continue globally to destroy our forests, peat lands and drain our wetlands.

But there is hope as more and more businesses, councils and governments begin to make changes that reduce their emissions and realise that the biosphere needs nurturing.

This decade has to be the decade of change when carbon emissions plummet drastically if the children of today are to leave school with any hope of living in a resilient and nature-filled world.

Do get in touch with us to share your ideas.

There are many, many small changes we can make locally in the way we live, spend our money and challenge our leaders, things from taking to the streets, letter writing, insulating our homes and driving less. I'm sure many Lanchestrians have ideas that they could share about Living Lightly on our planet. If you would like to engage in any way with Lanchester Environment Group, be it tree planting, waste management, green investments, please do get in touch through the Partnership email. Together we can make a difference.

**To contact Environment Group please email:
thelanchesterpartnership@gmail.com**

**Sonny Shepherd
Environment Group Lanchester Partnership**



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Councillor Keith Harrison speaking at the service, representing Lanchester Parish Council

Lanchester Brass band played at the service

Service of Remembering

A moving service of Remembering took place on Lanchester Village Green



Welcoming Lanchester

Are you lonesome tonight?

Neighbourliness, or being a good neighbour, seemed to have got lost in society till covid-19 arrived. We were forced to shut out so many things we had taken for granted. We had time to get to know our neighbours and people walking around the area. We made time to be welcoming, there for others, often with a smile and a 'hi', and if required, being prepared to listen to what others might want to say. We were engaging with and including others and being social, all within the constraints of Covid rules. Sadly, these positive gains have dwindled as more people have started to resume many of their pre-covid lifestyles.

The Welcoming Lanchester Guide quoted the BBC Loneliness Experiment definition of Loneliness as "having nobody to talk to, feeling disconnected from the world, feeling left out, being sad or just not feeling understood".

The Welcoming Lanchester Guide quoted the BBC Loneliness Experiment definition of Loneliness as "having nobody to talk to, feeling disconnected from the world, feeling left out, being sad or just not feeling understood".

It is often thought that loneliness mainly strikes older, isolated people. But research indicates that young people are the ones who most frequently say that they are lonely. It is important that people take time to keep social relationships strong. Doing this, you are more likely to be better protected at vulnerable points in life. Making more time for others has the potential to make the biggest impact and most significant difference to those experiencing or at risk of loneliness.

The email welcominglanchester20@gmail.com is not monitored daily so please do not ask a question that requires an immediate answer, however

the Welcoming Lanchester Guide is available online at Mid Durham AAP, Lanchester Medical Centre and Lanchester Parish Council websites.

Marian Morrison

Ladies who lunch

It was lovely to be back going for lunch - not that we haven't all been eating - it's just that it's not the same as going out together, enjoying each other's company, checking out the menus, eating different things and generally putting the world to rights - something it desperately needs at the moment!

We were back out in July when we decided to play it ultra-safe - stay in the village - and go to Ravello's. It was SO nice. You always feel pampered at Ravello's - there can't be a better Italian anywhere - and we have them in our village. We are so lucky. The food was, as always, outstanding, service exemplary and we left feeling pleasantly pleased with ourselves and the world in general.

In August we ventured down as far as Knitsley Mill, also a favourite spot. Another warm welcome from Pauline and the staff. Good food, good service, comfy surroundings and another very enjoyable lunch occasion.

The Stables was on the agenda for September - somewhere else we enjoy going to and this was no different.

A beautiful autumnal day in October saw us dining at the Duke of Wellington in Newton. It's a delightful venue with outstanding views over the Tyne valley. Welcoming staff, interesting menu from which we opted to sample: Chicken Kiev with fries, salad and slaw;

Cumberland sausage and mash with onion and ale gravy; and butternut squash, goat cheese and beetroot burger (which turned out to be a little spicy). Puddings were: white chocolate mousse; amaretto and plum; sticky toffee pudding with ice cream; blackberry frangipani tart with clotted cream ice cream; and salted caramel panna cotta with gingerbread and pistachio (a pudding 'to die for').

A really good, enjoyable meal - which, in turn, made for a most pleasant lunchtime outing.

We look forward to what November has to offer.

The Gourmet Girls



NEW GROUPS USING CROFT VIEW HALLS

After lockdown was eased, we have gradually returned to some normality with the majority of our existing groups rebooking the halls. In addition, we have been delighted to welcome some new activities. We have been very busy with birthday parties and have both the Lanchester Cricket Club and the Lawn Tennis Club using the halls for winter training. Lingotots is a new group which has started on Tuesday evenings where children learn a foreign language. A new playgroup has started on a Friday morning. All activities can be viewed at:

lanchestermethodistchurch.org.uk/croftview.

Eric Hepplewhite

Thursday Club

Such a long time coming - and such a joy to be back!

We were in the process of celebrating 40 years of the Thursday Club when lockdown began. Half our group had enjoyed Afternoon Tea at the Old Vicarage at Castleside and the other half had to wait until the middle of the year when restrictions were slightly lifted and they could go for their turn. Both occasions were greatly enjoyed - we were lucky to have managed the outings.

Our first meeting back in the Community Centre was to hear a talk from one of our favourite speakers: Glynis Grainger. Vera Lynn was her chosen subject and we heard all about "a Burmese Adventure". Just like the subject matter - it was highly entertaining - describing conditions we would never have imagined Dame Vera would have had to endure.

Once Kate had given a lovely vote of thanks to Glynis it was time for coffee/tea and delicious cakes - homemade by a few of our members and of course, the endless chat that we have been so long denied.

In November there will be no meeting in the Community Centre, instead we shall be enjoying a pre-Christmas lunch at Ravello's. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Olive Simpkins

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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.

Foxhills Crescent,
Lanchester,

15th November 2021

Dear Sir,

We now have the Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the correct time in Lanchester, a hard-won fight on the part of some of us. Now we just need all traffic to be redirected along the bypass rather than through the village between 10:45 and 11:30 on the morning of Remembrance Sunday.

Yours faithfully,

David Lindsay



"Santa Stroll" around Lanchester

Santa will be visiting Lanchester again this Christmas! Look out for him on Saturday 11th December in the afternoon as he strolls around the village with his elves, giving out gifts to the children. Please wait within your garden or on your doorstep, the elves will take gifts to them.

All details of his visit, including the route and approximate timings will be posted on the Lanchester Partnership Facebook event page, search 'Santa stroll around Lanchester'. Please like and share it and tell friends and family who aren't on Facebook. Regular updates will be shared during his visit so you don't have to hang around too long waiting for him. Santa's visit has been arranged by the Village Vita group of The Lanchester Partnership with gifts supplied by Lanchester Parish Council.



A NEW HOURLY BUS SERVICE

Running from Lanchester and Burnhope to the Metrocentre and Newcastle Eldon Square has received a mixed welcome.

The Number 6 service introduced early in November replaced the x30 to Stanley. It calls at, amongst other stops, Quaking Houses, Stanley, Tanfield Lea, Burnopfield, Sunnyside, Whickham and Swalwell. MP Richard Holden welcomed the new service but some critics have said it could be delayed in both directions during rush hours by heavy traffic on Tyneside.

Neil McKay



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WHATS ON THIS MONTH

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

Liz 07752 640409

Santa Stroll

Santa will be visiting Lanchester on the afternoon of Saturday 11th December giving out gifts to the children. All details on Facebook, search 'Santa Stroll around Lanchester'.

Christmas Family Film Night

Lanchester Methodist Church, Saturday 4th December at 4pm. Try and guess the film. Clue: pyjamas and dressing gowns may be worn! Bring your own snacks. Everyone is welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult!

Lanchester Social Club

Karaoke - Saturday 20th November

Busker's Night - Thursday 25th November

Katherine Stone -

Saturday 4th December

Dionne - Saturday 18th December

New Year's Day Party

- We Love The 90's -

Tickets on sale from the bar

Lanchester playgroup

A playgroup for under-5s and their parents/carers takes place in Croft View Halls every Friday at 9:30-11. More details on Facebook, search 'Lanchester's new playgroup'.

The Lanchester Community Orchard

The Community Orchard is holding its annual Wassailing Event on 8th January, starting at 9:30. This is an ancient fun event to wake the trees from their winter slumber and encourage a great harvest. It will be followed by one of our regular work mornings. We meet regularly during the year, normally the second Saturday of the month, with extra dates during the busier months - you just come to those you can! The next workday is 11th December and we would love to welcome new members; come along and see if it's for you! The location is a wonderful place to spend time outdoors, but remember to wrap up warm and bring a flask of something hot as we like to pause for a chat. Further information at lanchesterorchard.org or send us an email at lanchesterorchard.org/contact/

Durham Dramatic Society

"Blithe Spirit", that well-loved comedy by Noel Coward, will be on at The City Theatre, Durham from 28th October until 4th December. Sunday matinee only on the 28th at 2:30, then Monday - Saturday at 7:30. Tickets are £8.50 (concessions Sunday and Monday), available from The Gala Durham 03000 266600. Welcome back to all our Lanchester patrons.

Willow Burn Hospice Light up a Life

Light up a Life Sunday 5 December 2021 at 2pm
All Saints Parish Church Lanchester
This Christmas, remember someone special with Willow Burn. As we approach this special time of year, we would like to invite you to join us to remember your loved one(s) at our annual Light up a Life service at All Saints Parish Church on Sunday 5 December at 2pm. During the service, we will gather to sing carols, listen to readings and performances from local choirs and musicians, and light candles in memory of loved ones. Light up a Life is a warm, loving and festive event to be shared with friends and family.

Willow Burn Hospice Christmas Shopping Days

This Christmas, join the team at Willow Burn for Christmas shopping in the Willows Café and Potting Shed. Every Thursday - Saturday from 25 November between 10am and 2.30pm until Christmas, you can purchase gifts, stocking fillers, ginger wine, Christmas cards and handmade crafts made by the Willow Burn Nurses. The team in the Willows Café will also be serving a special Christmas menu. All proceeds to go to Willow Burn Hospice. **The Willows Café is open Monday to Saturday, 10am - 2.30pm.**

Willow Burn Hospice News

Willow Burn Hospice Black Tie & Fabulous Ball

Dust off your tuxedos and dig out your gowns...the Willow Burn Hospice Ball is back for 2022 and it would be great to see you there.

On Friday 25 March 2022 Willow Burn is hosting its Annual Black-Tie Ball in the newly renovated Derwent Manor Boutique Hotel to raise vital funds for the hospice and to celebrate the wonderful Willow Burn community who make a difference every single day.

Be a part of our biggest fundraising event in two years!

Hosted by comedian, TV presenter and performer Steve Walls

Dance the night away with Soul Street Drinks Reception

Three-course meal with wine
Raffle and Live Auction

Get your tickets

Tables of 8 are £392.00 or you can buy tickets individually for £49.00 each.

To reserve your tickets, please contact Rachel Todd at rtodd@willowburnhospice.org.uk / 01207 529 224. www.willowburnhospice.enthuse.com/WillowBurnBall2022

Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

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**Lanchester Medical Centre:
Lanchester Patient Participation Group
Covid-19: What are GPs doing?**



**Lanchester
Medical Centre**

Let us explain what is going on: since the COVID-19 pandemic there are many mainstream social and media stories of people unable to get through on the telephone to reception staff or make an appointment with their doctor. This is because since March 2020 to ensure COVID-19 safe surgeries, GP surgeries were working to a national “Standard Operating Procedure”, that asked them to speak to all patients via telephone or video BEFORE bringing them into surgery. Where necessary patients were seen face-to-face. This guidance has been replaced by “Prevention and Control Guidance for COVID-19”, which states that the system of first a telephone appointment with a clinician and where necessary a face-to-face appointment, continues. Lanchester Medical Centre adopted such a system many years ago and know, by using this system, their patients are successfully assessed, advised, and treated. No less appointments-higher demand: numbers of patients being assessed has increased with more consultations occurring now than before the pandemic, this resulting in a longer waiting on the telephone and for routine appointments. Patients generally have more complications with multiple problems: reasons for this are linked to the pandemic; some people delaying presenting

to the doctor with symptoms throughout the lockdown, and some concerned about catching coronavirus when attending surgery and others not wanting to overload an already busy service. An empty waiting room is not evidence of no work taking place. There is a huge amount of administration work involved in managing patient care. Each day blood test results must be read and actioned, repeat prescription and changes to medication reviewed and signed, referral letters to other healthcare providers dictated. All this takes time. There is, however, a problem. The pressure on everyone is significant. People need to access their GP, and GPs and surgery staff are working as hard as they can. The pandemic has caused a shortage of appointments in surgeries and in hospitals; there is also a national shortage of doctors and nurses. Health services work hard to support patients and clinicians in this time of extreme need. Additional funding is promised but this is not a quick fix and will take time to translate into more clinicians, more equipment, and more patient appointments. For further information please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronaviris-infection-prevention-and-control>



MP VISITS BOYS' BRIGADE

The Company section boys enjoyed a very thoughtful evening when our MP Richard Holden dropped in to celebrate UK Parliament Week. He spent an hour with the boys talking about Parliament and then answered their questions on a number of topics including: the environment, transport, electric cars, fossil fuels, climate change and the economy. Richard Holden said “they were a really fine group of thoughtful lads who were absolutely full of questions especially about the environment, transport

and perhaps most importantly raised the important point about the challenge of delivering both on short term priorities and securing long term change.” Everyone was pleased that he had taken time out of his busy schedule to visit us, and they all enjoyed a great evening.

Eric Hepplewhite

MP Richard Holden pictured with the Boys' Brigade

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Lanchester Flower Club

The Flower Club has had three meetings in 2021: August, September and October - finally getting back to some normality. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed getting together, with many telling me how wonderful it was to have someone to talk to rather than just their own company. It was very humbling and pleasing to see and hear everyone chatting and smiling.

We did not have the usual National Association of Flower Arrangers Demonstrator; one of our own members did a lovely demonstration and the arrangements were raffled. A big thank you to Andrea Stoddart who kindly stepped in to do the demonstration in August and to Helen Tomlinson, our Chairperson, and Kathy Smith who did September's demonstration.

We enjoyed tea, coffee and strawberry cream scones.

The October meeting was a pre-Christmas demonstration. A big thank you to another member Helen Tregonning for her lovely ideas and arrangements which were raffled. We finished with tea, coffee, sausage rolls and small sweet mince pies. Everyone enjoyed a lovely genteel afternoon.

We are to be out and about for our November meeting, having a meal out in preparation for Christmas. We are going to Beamish Park Hotel. Hopefully we will tell you all about our outing in the December issue of the Village Voice.

New members are always welcome, for further information call Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 or Lestrine Kelly on 01207 521494.

Lestrine Kelly



LANCHESTER PREPARES FOR CHRISTMAS 19TH. CENTURY FASHION

Living in a smaller community such as Lanchester, our thoughts may travel back to the village and the people of the past...how did they celebrate the festive season? Was their Christmas so very different 150 years ago? I think we'd have recognised some of the customs and conventions of 'the olden days!'

Christmas was a festival based in and around the home, with simple, less expensive gifts. The owners of one of the large houses on the outskirts of the village usually sent a turkey or goose, a piece of pork or beef to every family and this gesture was gratefully accepted.

The Christmas food was made at home, with every family enjoying a homemade cake, offering a piece to all visitors with a glass of wine. The wine was usually homemade, possibly ginger, rhubarb or elderberry. It appears there were several public and private dances and parties to celebrate the festive time, and residents who could afford the price of one shilling and three pence would enjoy the excitement of an excursion to see the Newcastle or Sunderland shops or a pantomime. Such treats were eagerly looked forward to, saved up for, and remembered fondly long after Christmas was over.

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day were as important as Christmas Day with carols sung again in the streets. The singers carried lanterns, church bells rang in the New Year, and colliery works buzzers marked the start of Lanchester's first footing, at midnight. A dark-haired man was considered as a lucky first foot, while women were regarded as very unlucky. Ready with coal, salt and bread, he entered the house to be greeted immediately after midnight with cake and wine. Most houses had their own ceremonies, one of which was to open the back door to let the Old Year out, and then the front door to let the New Year in. No ashes or tea leaves could be taken out of the house until something, food or fuel had been brought in.

Maisie Raine



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Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan Celebration Event

An event to celebrate the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan took place on Wednesday 20 October at 1pm at Lanchester Community Centre.

The Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan is a document which will guide development, regeneration and conservation within our Parish over future years. The Neighbourhood Plan includes a number of planning policies developed to reflect the wishes of the local community. It was

progressed through a working group of the Parish Council and included representatives from local groups and residents.

Following many years of hard work and a delay due to the pandemic, on 6 May 2021 the community voted YES to the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan at referendum. The turn-out was high and an overwhelming 89% voted yes to the Neighbourhood Plan, a great endorsement from the local community. Durham County Council approved the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan at their meeting on 23 June 2021.

Organisations and members of the community who had been involved in the preparation of the plan came together to celebrate. There was a timeline display of the Neighbourhood Plan and displays from a number of community organisations.

Cllr. Keith Harrison the Chair of the Parish Council thanked all those who had been involved for their tireless determination to complete the plan. Cllr. Ossie Johnson read out a moving letter from Mike Wardle the Chair of the working group who had been unable to attend the event.



Mike McGaun, Doug Oliver and Richard Holden MP



Keen to reach out, Mike and Doug have attended each of the Parish Council meetings held since then and we have met local groups like members of the Lanchester Partnership. They have also had a series of meetings with people with concerns from blocked drains, flooding worries and overgrown grass in the summer. However, they do rely on input from residents so we can learn ourselves about what is happening, so please do get in touch if you have any concerns.

Working very closely as Councillors and as the local MP has been invaluable to us. Richard has a very 'hands on' approach to local matters in Lanchester

and elsewhere and is a real champion for North West Durham in Parliament. His input has been very helpful when it has come to giving local matters national context. For instance, after concerns were raised to Mike and Doug at Lanchester Parish Council recently about vehicle idling and pollution in the centre of the village, Richard asked a series of questions in Westminster to government ministers concerning how this issue should be better regulated and enforced here in County Durham.

In the last few months we have each gained an even deeper sense of the unique civic life of Lanchester and its environs. On the same day Mike and Doug were elected, the Lanchester Plan was approved in a Parish-wide referendum, proving the great sense of place and pride that local people have in this delightful part of the county. We fully recognise how special Lanchester is to so many people around us and we want to spend our time in the years ahead on the Council and in Parliament working alongside local residents to ensure that this remains the case.

Mike McGaun, Doug Oliver and Richard Holden MP

Lanchester Village Voice

Richard, Doug and Mike - November 2021

In May Mike and Doug were elected to Durham County Council for the Lanchester ward following Richard's election in December 2019. The ward is centred on the village but encompasses a broad rural area, from Holmside in the east, through Burnhope, over to Castleside and beyond Muggleswick and into The North Pennines AONB in the west. It has been our privilege to get to know so many local people in our towns and villages and gain an even greater understanding of issues of concern locally. We have heard a lot of concerns about planning, road safety, fly-tipping and about local bus routes. We have sought to address these concerns and that has involved us getting to know the machinery that operates behind the scenes at County Hall and we have raised countless pieces of casework to officers at the Council's head office in the City of Durham. Crucially, we have also been able to work closely as Councillors and as the local MP for everybody in the community.

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on

Tuesday 12 October 2021 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 14 September and Finance and Planning Meetings 29 September – approved.

Police report – received.

Correspondence:

Tree Planting in Lanchester – It was agreed to assist Lanchester Partnership in contacting local landowners regarding tree planting.

Richard Holden MP – A meeting to be arranged with the Parish Councillors.

Letter of thanks – A letter of thanks had been received from a resident regarding action on some trees near his property.

Parking around Lanchester EP School

Councillors considered information received regarding the parking around the EP Primary School during school drop off and pick up times. A lengthy discussion took place on the problems caused. It was considered that the problem has become worse over recent times.

It was agreed that this matter required a multi-agency approach including: Durham County Council, schools, Police and County and Parish Councillors. The County Councillors had a meeting with a Durham County Council officer today and are waiting for feedback and suggested solutions.

Churches Together Service of Remembering, Thanksgiving and Hope

Reverend Stephen Martin was welcomed to the meeting. Councillors were provided with details of a Churches Together Service which is planned to take place on Saturday 30 October at 10am. The service will be in three parts with a blessing at the end. The Parish Council were asked to speak at the service.

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

The next PCC meeting will take place on Saturday 20 November. The Police and Crime Commissioner will attend. Councillor Hepplewhite informed the meeting that he had a number of crocus bulbs which would be planted on the village green. The Council discussed funding for additional bulbs and agreed that £200 is spent on additional crocus bulbs.

The Parish Council discussed a project to install a solar planet walk on the Lanchester Valley Walk. A meeting had taken place yesterday with a representative from York University where a similar walk had been installed in 2000. The AAP have been approached and are happy to receive an application for funding from one of their new funding streams. The County Council will need to be in agreement, planning permission will be required and the details and costs of the project developed. It was agreed that a working group is established to progress the project.

Traffic and Speed Concerns – Councillors received an update from the Police on several areas. It was agreed to ask the Police to undertake additional speed surveys on Ford Road and Durham Road.

Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan – Celebration Event - The Neighbourhood Plan celebration event will take place on Wednesday 20 October at 1pm at Lanchester Community Centre. Unfortunately the schools are not able to attend. Invites have been sent out and displays and refreshments have been organised.

Financial report - discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment – approved.

It lasted less than a week!

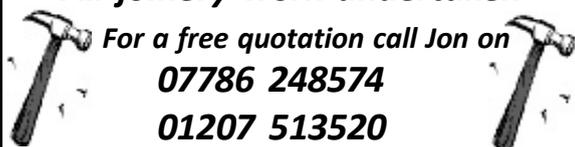
Newbiggen Lane was planed and resurfaced with the road markings reinstated in October. Only four days after this was completed, there was a water leak and Northumbrian Water dug a hole in the newly finished road near Foxhills Crescent. A few days later, Northumbrian Water dug another hole at other end at the corner with Front Street.

As we write this, there are traffic lights at each end of Newbiggen Lane!



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THE FRIENDS OF LONGOVICIUM

After a couple of false starts due to mechanical breakdown, bad weather and Covid, Archaeological Services Durham University have been able to “geophys” three and a bit more fields south of the fort to complete an almost full survey of the fort and surrounding civilian settlement or “vicus” for The Friends of Longovicium. We are now able to see in plan the residential and commercial area consisting of many strip-houses facing on to Dere Street, the main Roman road travelling from York to Corbridge and beyond. These lie to the east and south-east of the fort. West of the fort is what could be termed the industrial estate, with evidence of hearths and possible kilns within small enclosures.

North of the fort, beyond Cadger Bank, is a series of enclosures, trackways and possible buildings which are at the moment unidentified. They may be mausolea or other funerary monuments, they may be more industrial remains.

Without excavation we will probably never know. One thing we asked Archaeological Services to look for was evidence of the Roman crossing of Dere Street over the River Browney, south of the fort. We expected there to be at least a paved ford, if not a timber bridge. Unfortunately, the archaeologists found no evidence for either. One of our members has been digitally reconstructing what the buildings of the fort and vicus may have looked like, based upon the evidence of the geophysical surveys. Many of the pictures may be seen on Facebook – Friends of Longovicium. As Covid eases, our meetings have started again and the Friends of Longovicium are once more meeting at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, every fourth Thursday of the month (except December).

For further details contact Rodney Hawkins by email: hawkins_15@sky.com.



Welcome Back to Your Community Centre!

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/>

Welcome back to your Lanchester Community Centre; it's great to be up and running again and to be able to offer you such a great selection of activities and groups.

So far we have:

Keep Moving, Tae Kwondo, Table Tennis, Swing Fit, Groove n Glow, Keep Fit, Art Group, Male Voice Choir, Scottish Dance, WI, Flower Club, Thursday Club, Sewing Bee, Lace Making, Patchwork, Bridge, Dog Training, Mahjong, Wildlife Club, Friends of the Fort, Embroidery and for the little ones there is Dramatots, Hartbeeps and Musitots.

The office is now 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 or leave a message on 01207 521275 and we will get back to you.

For your safety the Centre is regularly checked to ensure its continuing compliance with Covid regulations and advice. Keeping everyone safe and well is our main priority.

Our halls and rooms can be hired at an hourly rate for parties or other gatherings, (social or business). We now have new heaters installed to keep you warm!

Our gym is now fully open. Its opening times are 7am-9pm Monday to Friday and 9am-1pm Saturday and Sunday. Membership is only £19.50 a month. Contact the office for details about dates for inductions for gym membership.

Drop in and have a chat it will be good to meet you!



Lanchester WI celebrate 96 years!

Lanchester WI celebrate their birthday every November, usually with a full day visit to some local site of historical or cultural interest. Because of all the fears about the pandemic, we decided to be cautious this year, and celebrate close to home with a celebration meal in Ravello's restaurant in the village. It was so good to see everyone for the first time in months so, besides enjoying a superb meal, we had a great 'catch up' session. Thanking Marie, our President, for arranging the meal, and the staff of Ravello's for their good natured welcome, 96 years young!!

Maisie Raine

The WI enjoying lunch in Ravello's

A Souper Event

It was good to be able to hold a fundraising event at Lanchester Parish Church on Thursday October 21st.

The event was a 'Soup Lunch' which until last year has been held for a number of years in October. The soups are made by members of the fundraising committee and there was a choice of six soups: Pea, Ham and Mint; Vegetable; Libyan (lamb based); Leek and Potato; Parsnip, Lemon and Ginger; and Autumn Tomato Soup. All the soups were delicious and accompanied by a large buttered bread bun.

Echoes of Charles Dickens' novel "Oliver" were present as a number of people said to our waitresses: 'Please Miss can I have some more?'. There were two sittings so that social distancing could be observed and as people chatted over a cup of tea or coffee, with an optional biscuit, there was a lovely feeling of warmth and fellowship. It was a haven in the present time to set aside from the troubled outside world and enjoy a 'souper' lunch. Thank you Margaret Walters and all your team who organised everything and raised £208 for our church funds.

Brenda Craddock.

Enjoying a soup lunch



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VILLAGE VOICE NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by **Tuesday 7th December 2021**

The deadline for advertisers is **Tuesday 7th December**

Lanchester E.P. School

I think it is probably fair to say that the last 18 months have been both the toughest but the most fulfilling for our school. Closing our doors on that grim, depressing and rather frightening day on Friday 20th March 2020 will remain in all our memories for many years to come, I am sure. I clearly remember standing on the yard, saying goodbye to our children, wondering how their little lives would change in the time until I would see them next. However, the amazing sense of community spirit that ensued will never be forgotten. It has been a time when staff, parents, children and the local community of our wonderful village have all pulled together to help and support so many of our wonderful families. Social media was key to this with our Twitter feed becoming a bit of a lifeline for families and it really helped to keep us all connected at a time when we could not be together physically.

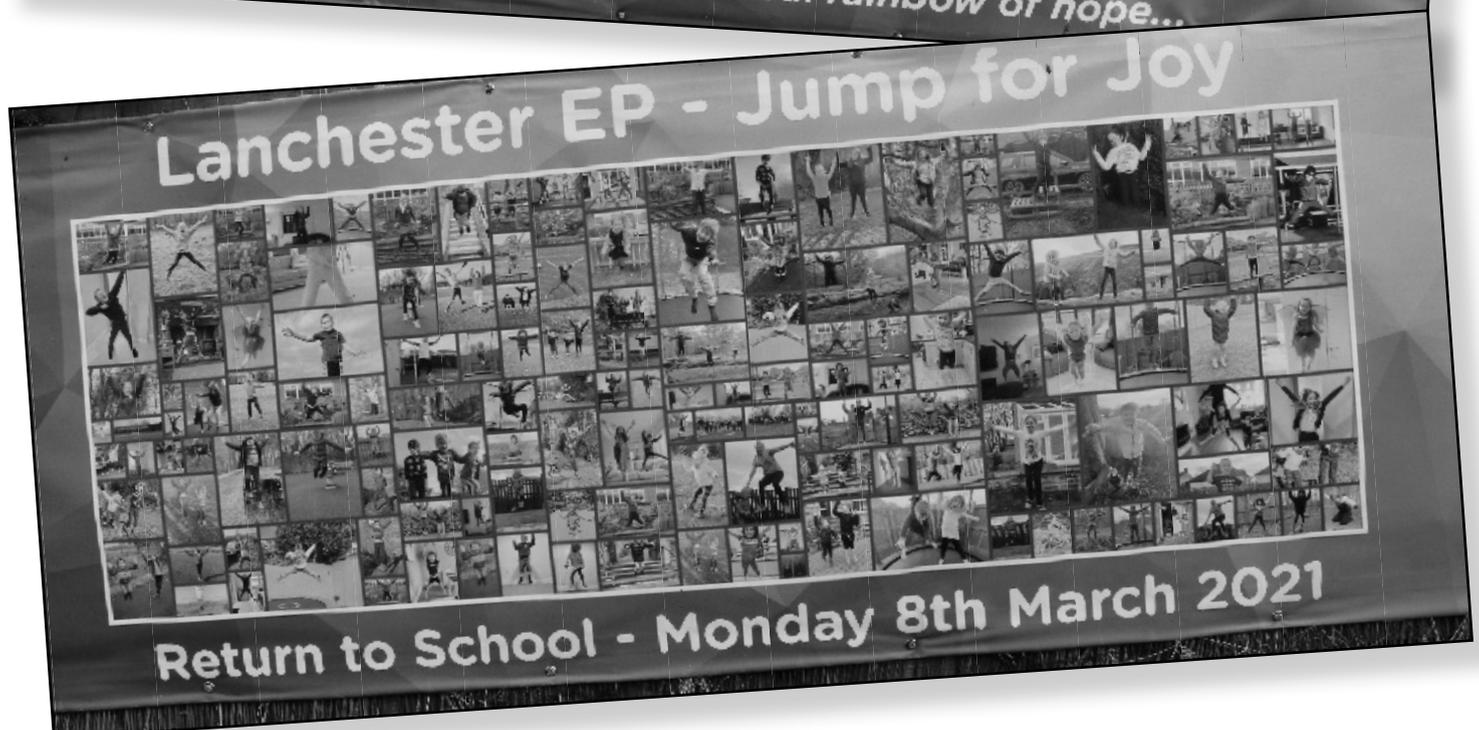
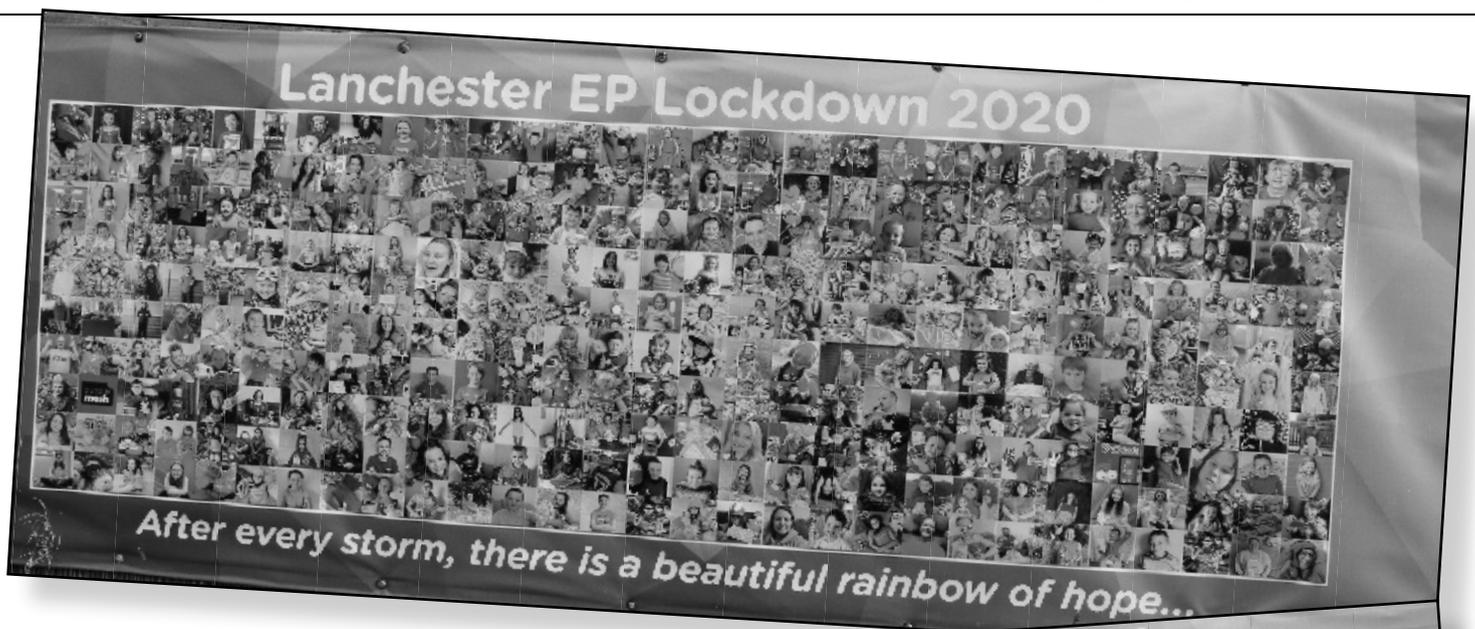
During the pandemic, school staff have worked even harder (contrary to what the media like to report!). We have been there for our vulnerable children. We have reverted, literally overnight, to online learning. We have worked with the Key Worker children in school. We have communicated with our families. We have delivered free school meals to our families. We have been there for each

other when many of us experienced loss of loved ones – like so many others. But above all, we have tried to retain a great sense of positivity and sense of humour.

During the pandemic, we had a number of whole school projects which we completed – the results of which are on display outside our school. We produced a wonderful Lanchester EP Lockdown 2020 Rainbow Banner consisting of children, staff and governors. The whole school community threw themselves into this and loved the final product. We really feel that our children are our rainbow of hope – they are the future.

Then, of course, we then had to undergo a further lockdown at the start of 2021. This was so much harder for so many people – the novelty had gone – reality had set in and our children and families struggled. The return to school in March was met with joy and some trepidation but once again, we felt this big day should be marked and this time we felt a Jump for Joy by our children was appropriate. Again, our families threw themselves into this project and once again, we produced a wonderful banner which is also displayed outside of our school.

These simple, yet highly effective banners show a very special school community brought even closer together by the trauma we were all going through and I hope that children



Lanchester E.P. School *continued*

and parents and staff alike will always treasure these special products.

In addition to these whole school projects, the staff felt it was important to connect with the school community as much as possible. We did rather enjoy our time making a number of videos which we hoped would just bring a smile to the faces of our families during the long, dark, challenging days filled with Covid.

Our first film was 'Toilet Trouble' which we released at the end of the spring term in April 2020. May brought a film entitled, 'You Can't Stop the Beat' as we felt it was important for parents to know that we were still there for them, would always be there for them and the beat of our school could never be stopped. The end of the year saw a joint film with staff and Year 6 called, 'Working 9 to 5'. 'Merry Christmas Everyone' followed in December 2020 and we thought that would be our final effort.

However, the Senior Leadership Team had different ideas. One Friday night in January as we were putting the world to rights over our WhatsApp chat, the idea was born of us secretly filming 'Here We Go Again'. We re-wrote the words, acted, sang, dressed up and enjoyed being rather naughty in school (after everyone else had gone home!) and

surprised everyone on the final day of the half term with our little gift to them all. The faces on some of the staff will remain with us forever!

The final film of the pandemic was 'Jump for Joy' which was all put together in time for our return to school on Monday 8th March – another date which will never be forgotten but this time for all the right reasons! All of these films can be found on our school website – go to Parents, then Media Gallery and you will be able to watch them all at your leisure.

So, what have we learnt from the last 18 months? Well, we know that we have a fabulous school community, that we can get through anything with the support of each other. We also know that none of us ever want to revert to home learning again! But I do feel that we have come out of this period of time stronger, more resilient and with a greater determination to make the most of those really small things that mean so much. Families, friendship, human contact and touch are all just irreplaceable.

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

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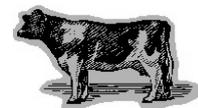
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Lanchester All Saints' Primary School

Firstly, I would like to say that I am thrilled to be able to write for the Village Voice again - it seems to be another step along the road to 'normality'. As a school, we have been overwhelmed with the kindness shown to us over the past 21 months – thank you to our community who have supported the school- it is wonderful to be back.

It is a fortuitous time to write an article for you as the whole school has just undertaken an extremely important project which seems equally as important to share. During October, Years Three to Six took part in an international project focusing upon COP26; linking up with Durham University, our pupils learned about climate change (the impact it is having, the financial and economic pressures associated with it and particularly the importance of the summit in Glasgow).

Following the project, our pupils and staff wanted to make a practical response to the issue of climate change, so we used our school's Feast Day, celebrated on the 1st November, to take the opportunity to get our families involved in making a positive contribution to our local community.

During the COP26 fortnight, our infant pupils made bee bombs in preparation for the spring; their wonderful work will definitely encourage pollinators to our gardens and wild areas. Inspired by a young girl in Year Three, the whole class went litter picking near to the bypass and collected nearly four sacks of litter!

We also took this opportunity to tidy up the front of the school and add some lavender, bluebells, irises, alliums and more with Year Four! The families who came to support allowed us to make a wonderful start. In spring, we will continue to plant outside of the school and utilise our recently redeveloped school garden to its full effect (at the moment though, we are delighted with our harvest of apples).

Year Five made bird feeders and placed them strategically around school and the local area and finally, our Year Six pupils took the opportunity to design and deliver posters to our neighbours; keep an eye out for some informative leaflets in the village!

The fantastic support shown by our families allowed us to make such a positive difference. It has really added smiles to our faces to see our supportive families back in school, helping out with the children again. From the intensive focus we have placed upon climate change, the importance of COP26 and the fact that our pupils know that they can make a positive difference in the world, we have had a number of pupils using their own initiative and taking positive action out of school and into their own lives. We have families who litter pick, a young boy who is asking Santa to deliver solar panels to a developing country on his behalf, pupils who are looking at their home and considering how to improve their surroundings to develop a range of habitats and children who are actively reducing, reusing and recycling! In school, we are continuing to learn about the effects of climate change and how individual responses can be powerful and our School Councillors are undertaking a project related to energy efficiency. We look forward to spring to continue improving our grounds and to hear about how our bee bombs flourish; hopefully spring will allow more opportunities for our families, school and community to work together as we have in the past because it has been truly inspiring having everyone back together, aspiring to be more!

Frances Stephenson
Head Teacher
All Saints', Lanchester



Putting bird feeders on the trees



Litter picking on the bypass



Tidying up the school garden



Cricket News

2021 saw the cricket teams play a full season of

fixtures, with only very little disrupted by Covid. The first team took time to adapt to the different rules and versions played in the NEPL, but once they did, they improved and achieved a mid-table finish.

The overseas player, Sri Lankan Pasindu Madushan, performed very well, bowling economically and effectively. He also transformed from a middle order batsman to opening the batting culminating in an unbeaten century at Gateshead Fell. The team did brilliantly to reach the T20 Finals Day, where they came within a whisker of beating champions to be, South Northumberland. The seconds performed very well with several players scoring centuries: Johnny Green, Chris Ramshaw, Jonathan Hames, Ryan McVittie and 15 year old Jak Forster. The thirds fielded eight or more juniors in their fixtures and showed progress during the season, in fact, overachieving by reaching the Banks Cup Final. On a glorious day in September, the team performed at their very best and beat champions from the higher division, Hetton Lyons in front of a big crowd.

The club was proud to field two under 18 teams, such was the propensity of 16+ aged players and won the Tyneside league, finishing second in the tougher DCB league. Charlie McPhail scored three hundreds. The under 15s were runners up, losing just once, whilst the 13s finished mid table.

Ben and Fiona Holden did a great job running the All Stars sessions with over 60 children at times. We also ran Dynamos for 9-11s for the first time and had 14 attend on Saturday mornings, most playing cricket for the first time. It was great to be back playing and the club thrived during this difficult period as many villagers came to the club for the first time and enjoyed a drink in the open air.



Bowls Report

Like many organisations and individuals our club had its challenges in 2020 and 2021. We opened our green as soon as we were permitted, in mid-2020, with Covid precautions in place. While inter-club games were banned we organised club competitions - only for them to be abandoned because of the second lockdown.

In 2021 leagues restarted but our fortunes were affected by the sad loss of two key members. Ken Raper who was secretary for many years and a fine bowler and Stan Easten who was generally considered to be our best player. Naturally these setbacks and some others affected our results, but we came out fighting. A number of people were thrown in the deep end and fortunately we had some good bowlers who joined us from recently closed clubs. Our results got better as the season progressed. We successfully avoided the wooden spoon on Mondays and finished in respectable mid-table positions in the other three leagues we play in. Our most important achievement was that we entered full teams in all our games when many clubs did not. We also increased our membership, showing we are a club where new bowlers are welcome. Congratulations to Bruce Fox who won the club championship defeating Paul Hammond Snr in the final. Bruce also won the handicap. John Vickery won the three woods over Keith Brown but Keith had consolation when he won the two woods over Stuart Lee. Joe Newton with Ian Murray bagged the pairs, runners up were John with Robert Cuthbertson. Jeff Hockaday took the Challenge. Jimmy Dearden a relatively new bowler did very well finishing second in both the Handicap and Challenge. We will reopen the green in mid-April. We welcome new members and have a progression plan to get you started in the game.

Lanchester Tennis

As the 2020 summer tennis season approached, who would have envisaged what the next couple of years would have in store for Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club and, indeed, the rest of the world! When lockdown began, we were busy preparing the courts and finalizing the coaching programme ready for the forthcoming season. Then everything was placed on hold in lockdown. However, after strong lobbying by the Lawn Tennis Association, we were actually able to start playing, with restrictions, from 15th May 2020 with the club setting up all the necessary protocols and protective measures to ensure safe and healthy play.

Much to our surprise and delight club membership rose steadily with members, old and new, embracing the new regimes and enjoying a lot of playing time.

Sadly however, due to the guidelines etc., some coaching was not able to take place and this has left its mark with fewer players

participating in certain junior groups.

On a more positive note, 2021 has been better with a return to limited social functions and tournament play. Barbeque, Strawberry Tea and Sausage Sizzle were all enjoyed by members and families over the summer.

The tournaments returned to a knockout format, with some excellent matches being played. Congratulations to all the winners - Dougal Reed, mixed doubles and men's singles, Michelle Ridley mixed doubles, Julie Walker and Rachel Langford ladies doubles and Edwin Seeley and James Gray men's doubles.

Despite everything, the club will continue to strive to provide a safe and proper place to play tennis in Lanchester.

With regards to the Village Voice, may I extend our thanks to the outgoing editorial personnel for all their hard work previously with the publication and wish the new team every success in the coming months and years.

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Cricket News

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Bowls Report

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Tennis Report

Congratulations to all the winners:

From left to right:

Julie Walker and Rachel Langford, ladies doubles

Edwin Seeley and James Gray men's doubles.

Dougal Reed, mixed doubles and men's singles,

Michelle Ridley mixed doubles.

(Full report on p23)

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