

the Village Voice

Issue No 2, Volume 22 Lanchester, February 2022

Lanchester men receive honours

(full stories on pages 2 and 3)



Lifetime Achievement for
“Tennis Dennis”



Lanchester Group CEO receives his MBE



Ossie Johnson becomes an
Honorary Alderman



Susan Orley receiving
a cheque, presented
by Josh and Thomas
Taylor of the Boys
Brigade, for £565
(Full story on p6)



Park House, Genome Centre Lab, Manpreet and Anna processing PCR tests.
(full story on page 22)



A busy week
for the eCadets
(online safety group) at
Lanchester All Saints'
Primary School
(Full story on p21)



3 year
old Mila
waking
up the
trees
(Full story
on p6)

Lifetime Achievement for “Tennis Dennis”

(continued from p1)

On Saturday 12th February, Durham and Cleveland Lawn Tennis Association held their annual awards ceremony at Sunderland Tennis Centre. The awards profile volunteers and professionals alike, and celebrate their work or contribution to local county tennis.

This year, the Lifetime Achievement award went to Dennis Laycock, aka “Tennis Dennis”, for his work at Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club. Dennis has been involved with the club in various capacities since 1990 and is currently Secretary (27 years), groundsman (full-time since 2006) and Level 2 coach. He has forged links with the local schools and businesses and initiated coaching programmes for health groups (Breast Cancer Rehabilitation) and new player/member sessions.

He was instrumental in encouraging young players to obtain coaching qualifications and thereby enabling them to take the sport forward. In 2009, through Dennis’s hard work, the club gained the Clubmark accreditation, the first all grass court club in the country to do so. Dennis also found time to travel, support and referee the club junior tennis teams at Middlesbrough. He is well known in tennis circles for his passion for the grass courts in Lanchester and was even featured in the Groundsman Magazine...fame at last! This enthusiasm even went as far as promoting the club on his gardening business van to be seen around the county.

This award recognises Dennis’s commitment and enjoyment for the sport of tennis which he loves.

Despite the recent pandemic, the club continues to grow and provides a safe and healthy environment in which to enjoy tennis. The 2022 grass court season will start late April and if anyone would like further information about the club, please contact **Dennis on 07960494442**.

Ossie Johnson becomes an Honorary Alderman

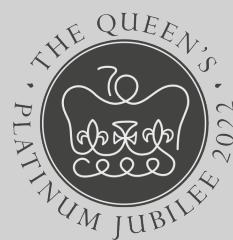
(continued from p1)

County Councillor Ossie Johnson, who retired at the last election, has been awarded Honorary Alderman status by Durham County Council.

Ossie has dedicated most of his life to local politics. He spent nearly three decades as a member of Derwentside District Council and was Chairman in the year 2000.

When Durham became a Unitary Authority, he was elected as a County Councillor for the Lanchester Division and continued to be the chosen Councillor for the last 10 years, ending his service as Vice Chairman of the Council in 2019.

Following his retirement, prior to the 2021 election, the title of Honorary Alderman was conferred at a special meeting of the Council and unanimously passed by all Councillors. This award was in recognition of services rendered to Durham County Council and Derwentside District Council. Ossie continues to support his local community as a member of Lanchester Parish Council.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Meeting to organise a village event.

Do you want an organised village event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee? If you do, and are interested in helping to make this happen, we would like to hear your views and ideas. We invite you to attend a meeting on Thursday 3rd March 2022 at the Methodist Church on Front Street, starting at 7.30pm. We hope as many of you as possible will come along to help and be part of what will be an historic occasion; one that is unlikely ever to be repeated. If you are interested in being involved but unable to attend the meeting, please let me know.

Eric Hepplewhite 07969 808958 or email
erichepplewhite@btinternet.com

Sing for the Queen!

Following the online Christmas Concert, Lanchester Choral Society is planning a concert to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. It will be a varied concert culminating with a 'last night of the proms' selection.

Why not come and join us? We meet every Friday at 7.15pm in Croft View Halls. Further details from David Hughes 01207520427, Mary Richardson 01207520558, or just come along!

An advertisement for Davisons Clothing. It features a silhouette of a woman holding a child, with a hanger above them labeled "Clothing". To the right, text reads "Spring Stock Arriving Now". At the bottom, it says "Front Street, Leadgate" and "01207 502355".

DAVISON'S

Clothing

Spring Stock Arriving Now

Front Street, Leadgate

01207 502355

Lanchester Group CEO receives his MBE

(continued from p1)

In November 2020, Tony Cleary was awarded an MBE for services to International Trade and Export in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2020. However, due to Covid restrictions he was unable to officially collect his award until November 2021. He was joined at Windsor Castle by his family who are Lanchester residents and who named their business after the village.

Tony and Veronica Cleary established Lanchester Wine Cellars in 1980 to import and wholesale wines across the UK.

Over the last 40 years, the business has grown exponentially, diversifying across different areas of expertise within the UK wine and gifting sectors and their supporting industries. The Lanchester group now employs over 550 people with a combined income of £110.5 million for the financial year ending 30th June 2021.

"We are a diverse group of businesses spanning different sectors and various customer bases. This was a strategic development plan to ensure that, as a group, we remain strong with each business supporting the others as needed", Tony explains.

Raised in Durham, Tony started his liquor career at Whitbread's Brewery in nearby Castle Eden where he sold beer and spirits. He then joined Domecq Sherry and later United Rum Merchants as district sales manager. Seven years later, at age 27, Tony, spotting the potential in wine, left United Rum and established Lanchester Wine Cellars. With just £4,000 of Tony's savings and a further £1,000 investment from friends, the business was established.

Veronica and Tony's living room on Meadow Way became the company office with stock stored at a nearby rented warehouse.

The business initially sold wine to local off licences and restaurants and continues to do so to this day.



Veronica and Tony, with Alexandra, Ben and Caroline

Over the years the company expanded its salesforce and they outgrew both the Cleary's house and subsequent office space in Lanchester, both above the betting shop and above the library.

In 2000 Lanchester Wines bought the former Ransome and Marles site at the Greencroft Estate in nearby Stanley, providing the company with land for office space and warehousing. Over the years, the Lanchester group has developed the Estate, and continues to invest in it adding infrastructure, buildings and renewable energy generation facilities.

Veronica and Tony believe the profits from the business should be reinvested within the business, which remains 100% owned by the Cleary family. The couple's three children – Alexandra, Ben and Caroline – all work within the business.



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Cadger Bank proposed development

Objectors to plans to build 46 homes off Cadger Bank in Lanchester have been boosted by archaeological experts.

Durham County Council's Archaeological Department said such a development would cause "significant harm" to the nearby Roman fort.

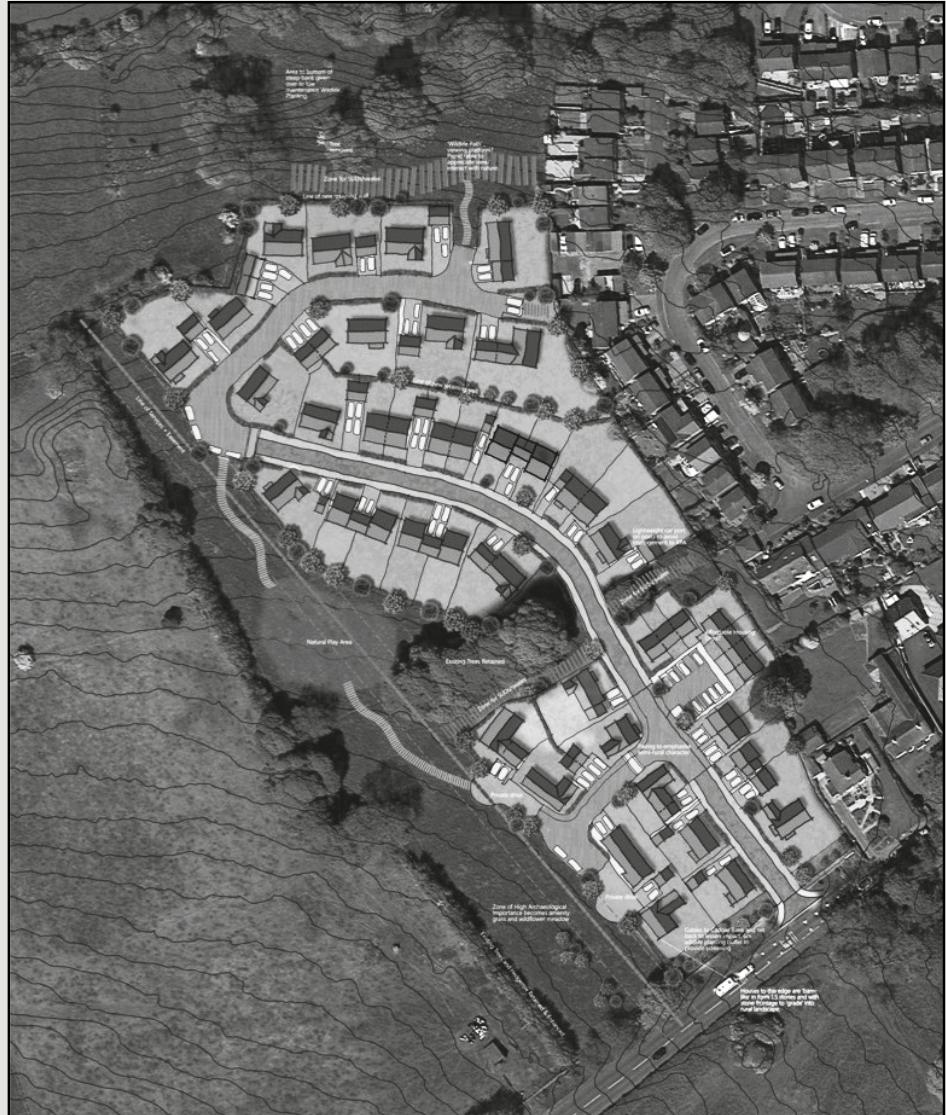
At a previous appeal against a similar development a planning inspector highlighted the 'remote' nature of the fort, and how it is important that it remains distinct from Lanchester as a separate settlement, with the fort effectively commanding the high ground.

The department made their submission to the county council which is to decide on the application.

More than 60 objections to the development had been received by the authority, including many from Lanchester residents, by mid-February. **The deadline for objecting is the end of February, although planners would still accept views submitted after that time.**

A very similar planning application was withdrawn by the developers in January 2021.

Local objectors point to the unsuitability of access roads and the pressure on local facilities such as schools and medical centres, as well as an intrusion into open countryside, as valid reasons for rejecting the application. It is also not within the areas designated in the County Durham Plan, or the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan.



(plan of proposed new development on Cadger Bank)



Black Bull Sketch

Readers might be interested in the sketch of the Black Bull Inn and its filling station, made in 1925. The sketch was discovered about 20 years ago at a local car boot fair. It shows a view of the village seldom seen elsewhere. This was submitted by John and Rosy Gall. If other readers have paintings or photographs of the village in past times, or interesting anecdotes of the village in the past, please send them in.

lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk

Our most senior deliverer celebrates her 90th birthday!

Betty Whaley was 90 recently. Betty is our oldest deliverer having delivered the Voice since the start and still has a wonderful zest for life. My grandchildren loved coming with me on my deliveries and looked forward to going up to Hollinside to see Betty and all her chickens, cats, goats, and a donkey that she has had over the years. They firmly believed, when they were younger, that Betty rode the donkey to deliver the Voice. I would not put it past her either!

Mike Stoddart

A few more words on Betty

90 years young definitely applies to Betty! Always full of fun and with a ready smile, Betty enjoys every aspect of life. Whether she is looking after the chickens in her garden or gliding along the dance floor, Betty shows the same enthusiasm and love of what she is doing. Dancing has been a big part of Betty's life and she continued to tap dance until very recently. However, she is probably still tapping her way along Hollinside Terrace where she has lived since arriving at the terrace when she was a very shy young girl. The clear air at Hollinside and eating healthily with home grown vegetables and fresh eggs have certainly contributed to Betty's long and active life. A valued member of Lanchester Methodist Church, for many years Betty played an important role in overseeing the work of the Junior Church as well as running the village youth club. With her sense of humour and care for every individual, Betty has encouraged many young people in their own Christian journeys.

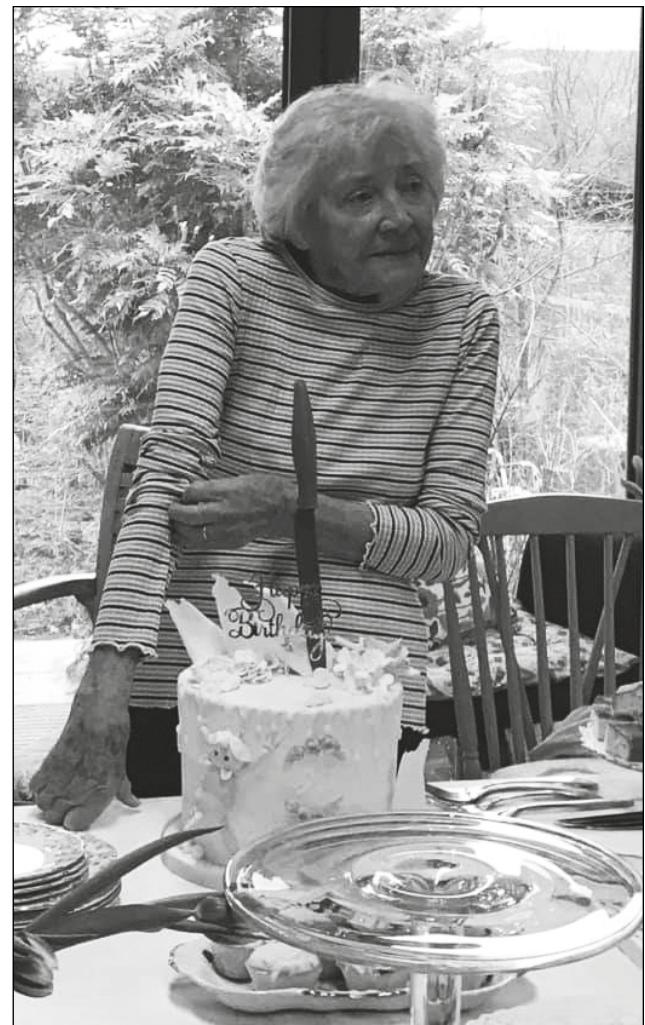
It was the nearby farmer and local preacher, Norman Gall, who introduced Betty to life as a Methodist when she came to live at Hollinside. Over the years she has developed and grown in every way with her Christian faith definitely shining through.

A real treasure with a twinkle in her eye!

Happy Birthday, Betty!

Margaret Coates and Joyce Snowball

(Betty pictured cutting her birthday cake!)



More delivery news

Many thanks to our deliverers Jean Carr, Lawrence Cody, and Peter and Julie Richardson who have decided to call it a day. We welcome Karen McKenna, Jessica Ross, John Keenon and Julie Sheldon who have joined and are now full-time deliverers. Without them we could not deliver door to door. I know the perks are fantastic, but they are still much appreciated.

Mike Stoddart

Lanchester Local History Society Potential

Do you recognise this street?

You could find out about a former resident from the 1890s by reading The Lost Sister: Susan Clifford (1888-1938)

Lanchester Local History Society was contacted by John Clifford during Lockdown in 2020 and were able to help with some points for his article about Susan. She was a cousin of the author's great grandfather. Susan was born near Derby and should have grown up there with her siblings and cousins, but she did not. Her mother died after giving birth to her. Susan's father already had four children, and entrusted her to close friends who had none of their own, coal miner John Varley and his wife, Harriet. At some time in the 1890s, the Varleys moved with Susan 150 miles north to County Durham. They lived on Hamsteels Common for about 10 years. Many families had been attracted to the Durham

coalfield where mine owners offered free but poor-quality housing. Hard living and working environments created the conditions for excessive drinking, gambling and violence. Expansion of social facilities and new Methodist churches were successful to some degree in exerting a wholesome influence.

To read the full, richly illustrated story visit the Lanchester Local History web page.
<https://www.durhamweb.org.uk/historyforum/cdfhhlanchester.html>



Boys' Brigade News

(continued from p1)

February has already been a busy month for the Boys' Brigade, with a talk by an ex-member from Gateshead Company on his experiences whilst serving in the army during tours of Afghanistan, Iraq and Bosnia which was enjoyed by all.

We then carried out our own Winter Olympics with tobogganing, slalom skating and curling (videos of these can be found on the 14th Lanchester Facebook page).

However enjoyable and noisy these activities were, there was a reverent silence to hear from Susan Orley from The Stroke Society about the work they do and the things to look for if you think someone is having a stroke:



Susan receives a cheque from the Boys Brigade

- FACE:** *Smile and see if one side of the face droops*
- ARMS:** *Raise both arms. Does one arm drop down?*
- SPEECH:** *Say a short phrase and check for slurred or strange speech.*
- TIME:** *If YES is the answer to any of these, call 999 right away and note the time symptoms started.*

Susan was invited to our Boys' Brigade to receive a cheque, presented by Josh and Thomas Taylor, for £565, being the money raised by all the boys who last year completed a sponsored midnight walk. The Stroke Society was particularly important to our Boys' Brigade as one had suffered a stroke shortly after birth.

It just goes to show that you do not have to be old to suffer a stroke, so if you think someone is having a stroke, please remember the points above.

Eric Hepplewhite

Here we come a Wassailing

(continued from p1)

If you passed the Lanchester Community Orchard on a bright sunny January morning recently you would have been forgiven for thinking you'd stepped back in time.

Following on from our successful celebration of the Winter Solstice, Orchard members reinvigorated the ancient tradition of wassailing to encourage a good harvest.

The invite simply stated bring a cup for mulled cider/apple juice, musical instruments, and something to wake up the trees. From 3 to 73 we gathered together armed with our pots and pans, fortunately there were also a couple of musicians in our number! Proceedings started with a delicious cup of mulled cider. Then with traditional music and songs, lots of laughter and our very own "Green Man", played by Joe M, the trees were well and truly awoken and presented with gifts of toast and cider. Younger members were clapped and cheered as they skipped round our very own mulberry bush.

As a relatively newbie to the Orchard, I have to say that it has been a fabulous group to be part of – the Orchard itself is a beautiful and peaceful place that brings a welcome respite from the real world. We are always looking for new members; it's well worth a visit to see this lovely corner of Lanchester, a warm welcome is guaranteed although you're more likely to find us with flasks of tea and coffee than mulled cider. No prior

knowledge or skills are required just the odd spare Saturday morning to join a working party and a desire to try something different.

The Orchard is supported by the Lanchester Partnership. Contact the Orchard by texting 07817369160 and view our activities at www.lanchesterorchard.org

Lanchester Community Orchard, wassailing to encourage a good harvest.



Anchor Boys – an interview with new member Nathan, age 7

1. How long have you been going to Anchor Boys?

I started going in September 2021.

2. What do you do there?

We play lots of fun games and do lots of craft as well.

3. Why do you like going?

Because of all the fun games like Anchor Boys cricket.

4. What are the leaders like?

They are nice and kind and they are fun too.

5. Tell me about the awards.

The leaders give 2 crazy awards each week like the most attractive socks, the highest score in Anchor Boys cricket and the messiest hair.

6. Who can go?

Boys from Y1 to Y3.

7. Where and when is it?

It is at Croft View Halls on Thursdays and the times from start to finish are 6:00PM until 7:00PM.

8. How much does it cost?

£18 per term.

9. What would you say to someone who's thinking about coming?

They should come because it will be very exciting and you can try out lots of new things.

10. What should they do if they would like to come?

They can just come along on Thursday, or they can email: LanchesterBB@hotmail.com for more information.



Anchor Boys enjoying fun and games.

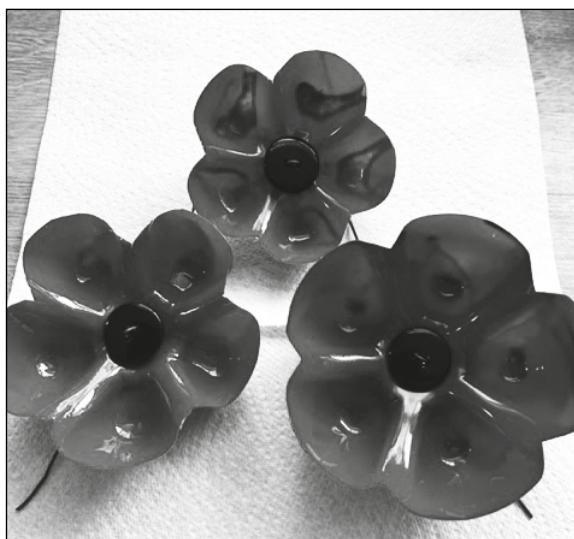
Poppy display

Thank you to everyone who is currently collecting 1 and 2 litre empty plastic bottles for the poppy displays in November. We have so far collected around 200.

You can drop bottles off at Croft View Halls, Hair by Claire or at my house any time. The Methodist Church will also receive them on a Monday or a Wednesday between 11am and 12noon.

We only require the bottom so if you want to cut the bottom off just above a mark which is around all the bottles near the bottom that is fine, but we are happy to receive the whole bottle. If anyone cannot leave them at any of the locations above ring me and I will collect them.

Eric Hepplewhite 07969 808958



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Willow Burn Hospice

Willow Burn Hospice is giving you a chance to win a diamond bracelet for your love in its Diamond Raffle to be drawn on 25 March 2022 at the Willow Burn Hospice Ball.

Worth £4995, the Platinum Diamond Claw Set Line Bracelet has been donated by Berry's Jewellers, a luxury, independent and family-owned top quality retail jewellers with stores in Newcastle and across the UK in Leeds, York, Nottingham, Hull and Windsor.

The prize was donated by the Newcastle Store, located on Grey Street in the city centre. Store Manager, David Nicholson has been a long-term supporter of Willow Burn following the care his mam received at the hospice. David said: "Willow Burn will always hold a special place in my family's heart, and I am proud to be able to support the annual ball in this way to raise as much money as possible so that other families can receive the care and support that mine did."

Tickets can be purchased online at: www.willow-burn.co.uk/willow-burn-diamond-raffle or in person at the Hospice. Every two tickets sold in the Diamond Raffle will pay for one hour of vital nursing care for people living with a life limiting illness in Derwentside. Tickets are on sale until 25 March at 10pm.

Paul Jackson receiving the bracelet from David Nicholson (below)



Dianne from Lloyds Bank and Erica from Halifax at the Pavilion who match funded on the evening. (right)



Willow Burn Welcomes Sir Bob Murray

On Friday 4 February 2022, the team at Willow Burn were honoured to welcome former Sunderland AFC Chairman, Sir Bob Murray to the hospice.

Sir Bob was joined by Willow Burn's patron, Helen McArdle CBE, for a tour of our facilities, guided by Paul Jackson (Chairman) and David Barker (Director of Willow Burn).



Sir Bob Murray and Helen McArdle CBE, Willow Burn Patron (above)



Annual Chinese Banquet Raises £2295 for Willow Burn

Team Willow Burn and guests had a fabulous evening at The Pavilion Cantonese Restaurant celebrating the Year of the Tiger on Monday 7 February 2022. As ever, the food was delicious and our guests were lots of fun.

The evening raised a fantastic £2295 for Hospice Care in Derwentside and it wouldn't have been possible without the team at The Pavilion, match funders Halifax and Lloyds Bank, raffle donors and our wonderful guests.



PARADISO CLUB

The Lanchester Partnership is relaunching the Paradiso Club social event at the Community Centre.

Come along and join us on the below dates, 7pm start. £5 membership for the year and each social is £3.50 for non members or £2.50 for members. Join us for refreshments, social time to catch up with others and then a film.

Dates for your diary are below - to join our mailing list for reminders and updates please email thelanchesterpartnership@gmail.com. Info also published on the Lanchester Partnership Facebook page.

MAR 13 - Limbo

APR 10 - Yesterday

MAY 8 - La Vita e Bella (Life is Beautiful)

JUN 12 - film to be announced

JUL 10 - film to be announced

AUG 14 - film to be announced

SEP 11 - film to be announced

OCT 9 - film to be announced

NOV 13 - film to be announced

DEC 11 - film to be announced

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Remembering

James Starling (Jim) Owens

In Consett during the 1940s most young men chose to start their working lives in the steel making industry at Consett Iron Company or in the coal industry at one of the local mines, but Jim Owens, encouraged by his parents and local priest, decided to take up a career in the health service. Jim, aged 14, began working at Shotley Bridge General Hospital in 1944 as a Junior Clerk and would continue his career in finance and administration there and at other local hospitals for many years, only interrupted by his national service with the RAF in 1948 - 1950 where he was posted to Egypt. Jim married Mary in 1950 at Consett St Patrick's church and continued to work at Shotley Hospital. Through study and hard work, he attained the position of Deputy Hospital Secretary before leaving in 1975 to take up a post of Hospital Secretary at Earls House Hospital in Durham, responsible for the commissioning of the new hospital being built there.

It was at this time Jim, Mary and family moved to Malton and were soon welcomed into the Lanchester village community. Mary and Jim were active members of All Saints Catholic church and made strong and lasting relationships with the people and clergy of the parish. Jim was also on the board of Governors for All Saints and St Bede's schools and was a Non-executive Director on the Derwentside Primary Care Trust. Jim worked in the Durham and Chester-le-Street hospitals until he retired in 1992.

He found it difficult to settle without being employed and applied for and obtained the position of Parish Clerk to Lanchester Parish Council where, in this role, he became a familiar figure around the village and at Council meetings and was proud to have been involved in the introduction of the Christmas lights and tree and the Easter crosses to the village green. Jim carried on this work until 2008 when he finally retired. As he put it himself, "1944 to 2008, not bad was it?" Unfortunately, both he and Mary suffered sight loss and with Jim not being able to drive any longer, they moved from Malton to Lanchester in 2010. Mary sadly passed away in 2012 and Jim remained in Brook View and often commented on the care and assistance he received from his friends in the village when walking to church each morning which he did without fail until the Covid 19 lockdown arrived. Jim died peacefully on December 16th 2021 aged 92.

Jim will be remembered for his smart appearance, his wit and charm, loyalty to friends and dedication to his family and for being the gentleman that he was.



James Starling (Jim) Owens

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A Warm Welcome to our New Librarian

Laura Parkinson, Assistant Duty Officer started at Lanchester Library at the start of the year 2022, replacing Zena Roddon who has been promoted to a new post at Seaham library.

Laura is a 'local' to this area and is passionate about reading and sharing books and stories and is planning to write in the near future both children's and adult fiction. She enjoys a wide genre of books from the classics, science fiction, fantasy, and crime. At the moment she is reading 'The Dilemma' by B.A. Paris.

She hopes to get to know users of the library and can help with reading suggestions and signposting to Library and Local Services.

Libraries have changed over the years and if you need help accessing their free online services Laura is most happy to help you. 'Libby' shares magazines, comics and newspapers, you can download books and audio books through your tablet, iPad or laptop on 'Borrowbox'.

The library also subscribes to Which, the consumer magazine, and Ancestry.

For children there is Featherbed Tales, where a child or adult can record a story and send it to a friend or relative, which would be particularly good for relatives who live far away.

Laura is organising a follow on from Chatterbooks, to encourage children to read and enjoy books. A welcome pack with interactive activities will be available soon, please ask at the library.

At the moment Durham County Council is holding a consultation and a paper questionnaire is available to complete at the library. Please use your library as it is a valuable free asset in the village, especially at a time like this, with cost pressure for us all now and in the coming months.



the larder cupboard

Durham's mobile refill shop coming soon.
Weekly stop Tuesdays at
Lanchester Community Centre.
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Heritage 100 Walks

The Heritage 100 Walks is a project coordinated by the Walk and Talk Trust. The Walk and Talk Trust was founded for the public benefit, to promote the physical and mental health benefits associated with regular healthy exercise, specifically walking.

The Heritage 100 Walk project aims to create 100 circular heritage walks across County Durham over the next few years. It is planned that a heritage walk in Lanchester will be included as part of the project. Each walk will tell a story about the heritage of the area.

The Parish Council are pleased to be involved and support the project. Parish Councillors have met with officers to begin progressing the walk route. It will be necessary to agree and finalise the route and compile the heritage information to 'Tell the Story'.

If you would like more information or would like to be involved in any way, please contact the Parish Council on 01207 520146

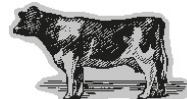
Lanchester Library Family History Sessions

FREE Family History Sessions using Ancestry, including volunteer support, during this March and April on the 1st and 2nd Mondays between 1.30 and 4.30. Call in/contact the library to book your hourly slot.



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Good day to Village Voice readers

As you will know by now, my name is Poppy, I am a black Patterdale Terrier with more than a tinge of grey, and I like to share with you the walks I take my humans on in and around Lanchester.

This one involves a walk up Newbiggin Lane and back down Cadger Bank.

We start at the Station House on the railway path and walk past it in the direction of Newbiggin Lane.

But before we get there we turn left over a footbridge over a stream and into Brook View, then Broadoak Drive. We walk along Broadoak Drive past a patch of grass next to another stream – or probably the same one – where I have a sniff before we carry on joining Newbiggin Lane at the junction with Broadoak.

We continue up Newbiggin Lane, sometimes diverting along Ridgeway if the doggy bin is required. Then we continue with fields on our right and allotments and Margery Flatts on our left. I walk on my lead on the right-hand side of the road, facing any oncoming traffic,

although unless it is near school time traffic tends to be light. There are lots of intriguing smells in the verges. When we get to the barn conversions at Newbiggen we turn left along Yeckhouse Lane towards Lanchester Dairy. I often stop at one house and put my head through to see if the white dog is in the garden. He and I sometimes have a chat.

On the way to the dairy there is a hen coop on the right, so I am kept firmly on the lead. In fact, I am on my lead most of the time on this walk. We pass through the dairy, past houses on the left which also have dogs to sometimes meet and greet. There are some frightening looking large shaggy creatures called Highland Cattle in a field on the right. If they come towards the fence, I keep my distance since they have fearsome looking horns.

When we get to the junction with the main road back into Lanchester we are about a mile from home.

We walk along the grass verge before crossing the road at the lay-by near the Roman fort and down Cadger Bank along the footpath.

The walk takes about an hour and 20 minutes and benefits not just me but the humans too.



Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

We held our first monthly Flower Club meeting of the year on Wednesday, 26th January 2022, in Lanchester Community Centre Main Hall. We all enjoyed a talk by Antony Atkinson, his subject was Mo Mowlam. It was very well attended with 26 members and visitors. We all enjoyed the usual raffle, tea, coffee, biscuits and convivial chatter. Friends enjoying an afternoon out, what a lovely way to start 2022 following the (as the Queen once said) annus horribilis 2020/21.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 2pm in Lanchester Community Centre main hall. The flower demonstrator will be Wendy Smith; her theme will be "Dust Your Hats Off". There will be the usual raffle of all the lovely

arrangements created by Wendy. Light refreshments and a social afternoon with friends. Everyone welcome.

Should you need any further details please contact:

Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667 our chairperson or Lestrine Kelly 01207 521494 our secretary.

Our annual membership is £25 visitors £5.

(pictured: Antony Atkinson)

Est 23 years

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Would you like to contribute to the Village Voice?

Situations Vacant!

We're looking to expand the team of writers, reporters, contributors, and photographers. If you would like to join the team, please email lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk.

We are particularly looking for young people to report on their activities!

Articles/features

If you have ideas for articles or features which you think would work well and be of interest in the Village Voice, please contact us on the same email.

News and special events, if you have any news stories or events which you would like to see in the Village Voice – for example: fundraising activities, weddings, obituaries – again contact us on the same email address.

Looking forward to hearing from you!



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Ladies who lunch

Our last outing in January was the start of the new year and it always seems a good time to make a visit to the Pavilion and celebrate the Chinese New Year - 2022 being the year of the Tiger - let's hope it turns out to be a good one.

Normally the visit begins in the hospitality area where you are treated to a large pile of prawn crackers, drinks are ordered and menu choices made - a pleasant interlude, but not this time. Covid has done away with all that and we were taken straight to our table. We decided to go with the set lunch menu as we have always done.

It has gone up - like most other things – and is now £19.95 per person. Service there is very efficient, the staff always welcoming and obliging. It wasn't long before we were enjoying our first course of chicken and sweetcorn soup or Peking hot and sour soup served with prawn crackers. Appetisers of salt and pepper chicken wings, salt and pepper spare ribs, Peking spare ribs, crispy wontons and curry triangles were very much enjoyed.

Our main course was made up of fried pork in oyster sauce, chicken in orange sauce, sweet and sour chicken, chicken with pineapple and ginger, chicken in lemon sauce, and beef with green peppers and black bean sauce. We were a little disappointed that the sizzling hot plate dishes were not included, they were greatly missed.

Our meal was rounded off with tea or coffee, the coffee is absolutely delicious, and the waitresses are quickly round with top ups.

All in all a most delightful lunch which we thoroughly enjoyed and we will most certainly be back. Next time we visit, it could be that we decide to choose a meal from the main menu - which has some amazing sounding dishes on offer.

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Dear Village...

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

Dear People of Lanchester!

My name is Yvette and I wonder if you would be able to help me. This is a little bit like Radio 4's 'Saturday Live: Thank You!' as I am trying to find a person I met almost 15 years ago at 'Shiremoor House Farm'. Our meeting changed the course of my life.

Below is the information I recall:

He was staying with /lived in Lanchester with his parents (I think)

His name is Stephen/Steven

Tall – over 6ft

Maybe middle 50's now

Ex -police officer

Had two children: a son and a daughter (then!)

In his early 20's he wanted to go travelling and went to work at his uncle's restaurant in either the Isle of Man or Isle of Wight to save up money to go – but, ended up falling in love and stayed.

Eventually travelled around Spain

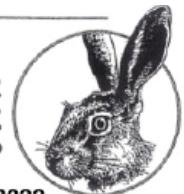
As a result of our encounter those years ago I became a Minister of Religion, and I would like the opportunity to say to him - a huge "thank you".

Do you know him? If you do, please reply to the Village Voice email address and we will forward any replies to Yvette.

lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk

NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by
Tuesday 15th March 2022
 The deadline for advertisers is
Tuesday 15th March 2022



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	Elliot 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 Coulth	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 lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk or phone E Williams 01207 520063

Thursday Club

The Thursday Club is an independent group for ladies of all ages. Somewhere to meet new people, make new friends and spend a convivial afternoon enjoying talks, slide shows, quizzes, meals out and more. Our meetings come to a close amid the noise of everyone having a really good natter together - putting the world to rights every month, as we enjoy coffee or tea and biscuits.

YOU would be most welcome to join us. Our next meeting is on March 17th at 1.30pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre when we will be holding a table top treasure hunt.

At our January meeting we started off the new year with a wonderful faith lunch, which was scrumptious. This was followed by a screening of the film 'Little Women'. A most enjoyable afternoon!



Ladies enjoying lunch and the screening of the film 'Little Women'



Tuesday Lunch Club

We are looking to start up again soon, if you haven't rung up and left your name and number, please call Jackie 07908 838452.

Without contact details we will be unable to let you know the exact date, also we will need numbers for catering.

WHATS ON - February, and March

Lanchester Library

Monday Book Club

On Monday March 28th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing The House on Bellevue Gardens by Rachel Hore, 'an elegiac tale of wartime love and secrets' (Telegraph). We look forward to seeing you there and sharing your views.

Thursday Book Club

On Thursday March 17th from 5.30-6.30pm, the group will be discussing A Daughter's Secret by Eleanor Moran, 'an excellent, tightly plotted and emotionally fraught psychological thriller with an added crime element by a very stylish writer' (Daily Mail). This sounds good! If you would like to join this book group, pop into the library and pick up your copy.

Toddle Time

starts Thursday March 10th 10.30-11.30. For babies and under 5s, come along and enjoy songs and rhymes with other young families. Ask Laura for details of future sessions.

Lanchester Local History Society

After a successful first face to face meeting we are planning our next one. It will be a talk from Harry Bunney entitled 'My memories of driving Venture buses'. There will be as much social history as technical stories so it's a talk that will interest many people.

This meeting will be held on Friday 4th March in Room 3 of Lanchester Community Centre at 7pm. All welcome.

Thinking of Going Electric?

Come to an Open Meeting and we'll try and answer your questions. Sunday 7pm 27th February 2022 Main Hall Lanchester Community Centre FREE

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be in the Main Hall of the Community Centre on March 17th at 1.30pm. It will be our 42th birthday - along with cake - we will be celebrating by enjoying a table top treasure hunt run by Sam Simpkins.

Lanchester Social Club

Aryana – 5 March
Karaoke – Every second Saturday of the month from 8pm
Alisha Lee – 19 March
Connor – 26 March
Buskers Night – Last Thursday of the month from 8pm

Lanchester WI

Our next meeting will take place on Monday March 7th, in the Community Centre, starting at 7.15pm. Our speaker will be Elaine Williams who will talk about bobbin lace making, and we will enjoy our usual evening of good company and humour. Our competition will be to produce an animal from rescued material, moving on from our farming theme of our last meeting. We hope some of our new ladies might consider how they could become more involved with our WI in the future. Please keep up to date about how you might contribute, and also be informed about all our future events and outings. It's a good habit

to look at our Information Table at every meeting.

Lanchester Wildlife Group

Meet at 7.30pm in Lanchester Community Centre Small Hall on the following dates:
8 March: Patrick Oulton (North Pennines AONB), Tees-Swale: naturally connected – landscape scale nature recovery
12 April: Elliot Lea (Naturally Native - DWT), Water Voles & their recovery.
For more information email lanchesterwildlifegroup@outlook.com or phone E Williams 01207 520063.

World Class Bowls in Stanley

World Tour Lawn Bowls is coming to Stanley Indoor Bowling Centre (above Asda). The top 16 ranked professional bowlers and 16 qualifiers will be battling away on 31 March to 2 April, qualifying 28 to 30 March. Hopefully we will see World Champion Les Gillett, along with crowd pleasers Greg Harlow, Nicky Brett and Alex Marshall. Top local bowlers David Bolt (South Shields) and Brett Arkley (Stanley) could also have a good chance. Check World Bowls Tour and Stanley IBC Facebook and website pages for details.

World Day of Prayer 2022

(WDP) is a women-led, ecumenical movement promoting "informed prayer and prayerful action". The 2022 service has been prepared by the Christian Women of England, Wales & Northern Ireland. As attendance at the

annual service (normally held on the first Friday of March) continues to decline, the local WDP committee has decided to hold this year's service on Wednesday 2nd March at Lanchester Methodist Church at 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

The format for the service will follow the theme of HOPE. We will hear accounts of how God's plans have worked out in unexpected ways bringing freedom, justice and God's peace to some of the vulnerable in our society today. Offerings at the service on 2nd March will help the valuable work of WDP in the UK and with projects run by Christian charities around the world.

Lanchester Annual Litter Pick

Saturday 19th March 9:30- 12 noon
Organised by The Lanchester Wombles and The Lanchester Partnership

Families and individuals of all ages are most welcome to help in our Village Spring Clean. Equipment provided on the Village Green but bring your own picker if you wish. Together we can really make a difference.

Quiz night

Saturday 19th March 7pm at Lanchester Social Club
A fun evening with a quiz, a few rounds of bingo and a raffle, all fuelled by a pie and pea supper. Tickets are £5 each and include the supper, alternative dietary options will be available (please get in touch beforehand to request this). Tickets are available by emailing

Easter Bingo

The Lanchester partnership is looking forward to welcoming families to an Easter bingo event at Lanchester Social Club on Sunday 24th April, doors open 3.30pm for 'eyes down' at 4pm, and a finish in time for bedtime ready for back to school. Everyone is welcome - children and adults of all ages! There will of course be bingo prizes as well as a raffle.

Donations to the raffle would be much appreciated and can be donated in advance by contacting thelanchesterpartnership@gmail.com, or brought along on the night.

Tickets for the event are £3.50 per adult - free entry for children. Bingo tickets will be sold on the day for 50p each. For event tickets please contact thelanchesterpartnership@gmail.com.

Lanchester Medical Centre: Lanchester Patient Participation Group



**Lanchester
Medical Centre**

More people than ever planned to go alcohol free this January; were you one of them?

Yes...then your steps will be bouncier, your mind calmer, your nights sleepier, your weight reducing and your wallet fuller - but the good stuff is under the surface. On the inside, a month alcohol-free lowers blood pressure and cholesterol and reduces diabetes risk and levels of cancer-related proteins in the blood. A break from alcohol can also help you lose weight.

No...then it is not too late to start your 31 days being alcohol free, then you will reap the same benefits. What's more, over 70% of people who stay alcohol free for 31 days continue to drink less six months later! This isn't about giving something up, it is about getting something back; it's an investment in your health and happiness.

Tips to help you get through 31 Dry Days

1. Focus on your goals - whether you're sick of feeling tired and groggy, want to lose weight, feel more positive, save money, or improve your health and fitness.
2. What are your triggers for a drink - stress or boredom, a long hard day: recognise them and try another tactic.
3. Do you use alcohol as a go-to way to destress or as a treat? Think of other ways to be kind to yourself: a bath, phoning a friend, getting out for a walk, or playing a video game.
4. Get support: you could do it with a friend or a partner. You can also sign up for free and download the **Try Dry** app, which has lots of tips and helps you track your drinking all year round.

Even though the stress and strain of COVID-19 has increased some people's alcohol intake, the good news is that being in control of your drinking can improve your overall health and wellbeing. You sleep better and have more energy, improve your mental health and concentration, look fabulous and get brighter skin, save money, and feel an amazing sense of achievement.

Alcohol units- to keep health risks from alcohol to a low level: men and women are advised to not drink more than **14 units a week on a regular basis** and to spread your drinking over 3 or more days.

Drink (Alcohol by volume AVB)	UNITS
750ml bottle: red, white, rose wine (ABV 13.5%)	10
Single small shot of spirits (25ml, ABV 40%)	10
Alcopop (275ml, ABV 5.5%)	1.5
Small glass of red/white/rosé wine (125ml, ABV 12%)	1.5
Bottle of lager/beer/cider (330ml, ABV 5%)	1.7

Drink (Alcohol by volume AVB)	UNITS
Can of lager/beer/cider (440ml, ABV 5.5%)	2.4
Pint of lower-strength lager/beer/cider (ABV 3.6%)	2
Pint of higher-strength lager/beer/cider (ABV 5.2%)	3
Standard glass of red/white/rosé wine (175ml, ABV 12%)	2.1
Large glass of red/white/rosé wine (250ml, ABV 12%)	3

Warning regularly drinking more than 8 units a day, or more than 50 units a week puts you at '**high risk**'. Consult your GP for advice before you stop drinking or call Drinkline on 0300 123 1110.

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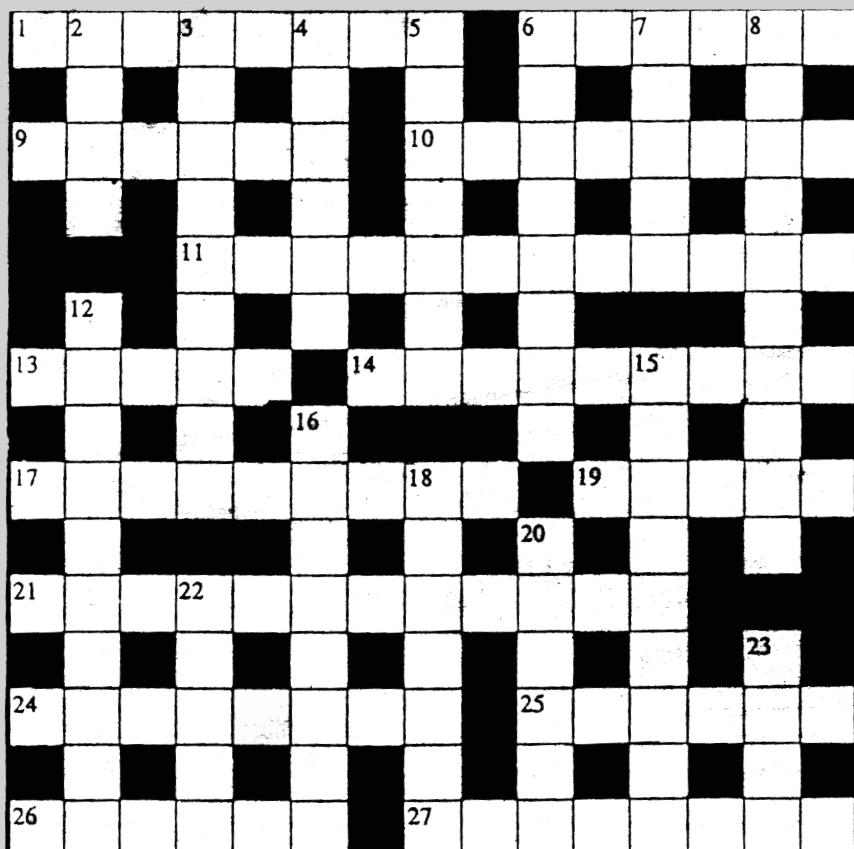
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CLUES CROSSWORD 170



Across

- Work or play with (8)
- Walk awkwardly (6)
- Guru (6)
- Sal cedes having a lower social class (8)
- Sport needing navigational skills (12)
- Stared (5)
- Asinine (2,1,6)
- Replica (9)
- Scorn (5)
- Making public (12)
- Town on the Donegal/Tyrone border (8)
- Papal Ambassador (6)
- Entirely (2,4)
- Thin slice of coated fried meat (8)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Down

- Turnip (4)
- Outgoing (9)
- Skilful (6)
- Greetings (7)
- Large Spanish Estate (8)
- Former Labour PM (5)
- Home of 1984 Olympic Games (3,7)
- Former Whig PM (10)
- Like a nine sided figure (9)
- Music style with well defined notes (8)
- Dirty (7)
- Part human part machine! (6)
- What saints wear (1,4)
- Former Yugoslavian PM (4)

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



Winner of the Crossword 169

is Marie Burrows.

There were 14 entries, 10 of which were correct in last month's crossword competition.

The winner, drawn from the hat, was Marie who wins the £10 prize.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on
Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 7.00pm

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 11 January, Planning Meeting 11 January, Finance Meeting 26 January and Planning Meeting 26 January – approved

Police Report - received

Correspondence

Lanchester Partnership – a request to use the Village Green for the annual litter pick on 19 March was approved. Information on a meeting organised by the Partnership on ‘Contemplating Going Electric’ was received.

Northern Saints Trails - Councillors considered the information received from the County Council which included the proposed location point for an interpretation board on the Lanchester Valley Walk.

Memorial Seat - Councillors considered a request for a memorial bench on the Village Green. Further communication is to be undertaken with the resident.

The Clerk Magazine and Clerk & Councils Direct magazine - received

Durham County Councillors – An update was received on several issues including drainage problems on Kitswell Road, parking outside schools, planning applications, damage to trees and Durham Road pavement. The Parish Council discussed the effect of recent storms on the trees. It was agreed that the County Council are asked to attend a future meeting to discuss tree management.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Councillors discussed the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend which will take place between 2 – 5 June 2022. The Parish Council with Burnhope Parish Council are organising the Beacon event which will take place on 2 June in the evening at Burnhope

Picnic Area. Eric Hepplewhite informed members that he will be putting an article in the Village Voice advertising a meeting for individuals and organisations to attend if they are interested in being involved in organising a community event. The outcome of the meeting will be reported back to the Parish Council.

Kitswell Park Play Area – Annual Inspection - Councillors were informed that the Annual Inspection for Kitswell Park Play Area had been completed. No major or high risk problems were raised, however a number of maintenance issues need to be undertaken.

Recycling Bins – Front Street - Councillors were informed that following correspondence and a request from the Parish Council the County Council have confirmed that they will undertake a trial of street recycling bins in Lanchester. The location of the bins is to be decided. It is expected that the bins will be installed in May/June.

Police and Crime Commissioner Visit - Councillors discussed the arranged meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner which will take place at the end of March. A route was discussed to cover the key locations.

Olivers Tree Services – 40 Anniversary – Olivers have asked if they can plant a tree in Lanchester to celebrate their 40 year anniversary. The company was established in Lanchester and has a huge connection to Lanchester.

Financial report - discussed and approved

Accounts for Payment – approved



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Lanchester Show Cancelled for 2022

It is with a heavy heart that the committee can confirm that Lanchester Show will not go ahead this year. While the committee was hoping this was the year we could bring the show back to the village, circumstances and time constraints beyond our control have meant this has not been possible.

In light of this news, we are asking that you **SAVE THE DATE** in 2023 on which the show would normally run (1st Sunday in July). We plan for an alternative event that we hope will demonstrate our commitment to the show and our appreciation of your support over the years. The next show in 2023 will be the 70th show held, and we are working hard from now on to bring it back to you as the great show that it is. We will have further announcements in the Village Voice and on Facebook so please follow us.

There are opportunities for anyone wanting to help out, please don't be put off if you think you don't have time.....we need all kinds of help.

Don't forget you can always support us by being a member of the society.

Lanchester Show Committee



Keeping Lanchester Clean

You may from time to time see residents of Lanchester out picking litter. Many of these pickers are members of The Lanchester Wombles. The Wombles were set up in March 2021 after the founder member, Lynn, became saddened by the amount of rubbish in the surrounding countryside whilst taking those all important 'lockdown walks'. Feeling unable to tackle the idea of a Womble group alone, Lynn noticed a post by another Lanchester resident who had also been out litter picking and got in touch with the idea of setting up the Womble group via a Facebook page.

Lynn and Martin then set up the group which took off rapidly with many locals getting very much involved in simply picking up litter on their daily walks, and posting their activities on the Facebook page. Within weeks the village began to look very tidy and a real sense of pride in the work of the group was evident.

There are currently over 130 members signed up to the group and although things have quietened down from the initial flurry of activity, there is still a core number of members who go out regularly and collect litter in their local areas. So, a big thank you to all those who help to keep Lanchester clean.

The Wombles are joining forces with The Lanchester Partnership on Saturday 19th March 9:30 - 12 noon for a Grand Litter Pick starting on the village green. So please feel free to join us, even for an hour, to spring clean our village.



Community Centre News

Here is the latest news from your Community Centre.



Would you like to learn British Sign Language? Strictly Come Dancing's Rose Ayling-Ellis showed us how we should be embracing signing and the Government are going to make BSL an official language.

The Community Centre has asked Durham Deafened Support to run a basic signing course for beginners. Priority will be given to anyone who has a hearing loss and a wish to sign. The course will start on Monday 7th March, 1-3pm and run for 12 weeks. We do expect a high demand so please book early. For more information contact the Community Centre or Durham Deafened Support on 0191 5183358.

We are very sad to have to report the death of Richard Downs who had been our caretaker for many years. He was a very special person. Always helpful, kind and considerate. He had a short illness and was cheerful to the end. He will be sorely missed by all the users of the centre and especially by the Centre team. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this difficult time. Remember if you have any family occasions or business meetings planned for the coming year your Community Centre is a really great venue with excellent facilities.

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 hiring our brilliant venue 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/>

Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

Thursday 10th February was a landmark day in the life of Lanchester E.P. School. This was the first day of 2022 when we had no staff absences due to Covid-19 – quite a remarkable achievement. Is this a sign of better things to come? We certainly hope so as we are eagerly anticipating the longer days, lighter mornings, and warmer weather. However, we are also hoping for more normality in our lives again.

March is certainly going to be a lot more normal in terms of travel and visitors to our school. On Sunday 6th March we have 6 staff and 16 children travelling to Dubai to learn more about their culture and religion. The school received £36k in funding from the Turing Scheme to fund this project. Originally, we applied to go to India, but Covid prevented this from occurring. However, we were able to change the destination country as long as we still achieved the aims and objectives of the visit. So we are visiting Hartland International School, a mosque, the cultural centre, Expo and also enjoying some sightseeing, the beach and the water park! It should be an amazing experience for all involved, especially for those children who are flying for the very first time!

The following week we will welcome 17 teachers from Latvia, Portugal, Turkey, and Greece. They will spend time in our school learning about how we use music to prevent bullying and we also intend to show them our wonderful area. We are holding a ceilidh for families too – this will be the first time we have welcomed parents into the school building for

exactly 2 years! You may see us showing them around our wonderful village and experiencing some traditional fish and chips.

Then, on 21st March we have a group of 4 children heading off to Denmark with 4 staff as part of our Learning Outdoors Erasmus+ Project. They will visit a school in the north of the country near Aarhus and work with pupils from Denmark, Sweden, Poland, and Spain during their time there. Another fabulous opportunity!

The week after this, we have Year 3 children heading off to Birdoswald Roman Fort overnight and Year 4 are going to Seahouses Hostel. They will all relish this special time away with their peers.

Finally, during the last week of this half term, we will welcome European teachers and students from the Learning Outdoors Project to our school. They will enjoy participating in a Lanchester Trail, Beach School at Seaham, and a visit to Beamish Museum – all chosen to encourage them to learn more effectively when they are outdoors.

These additional activities really help to inspire and motivate the children to be able to appreciate the similarities and differences between themselves and children elsewhere in Europe and the wider world.

Hopefully we will have lots of tales to share of our exhausting month in the next edition!

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



Police Report

Hello, just an update on what has been going on in Lanchester. Firstly, we have had a couple of incidents of graffiti reported from the Parish Council. If there are any more incidents can this be reported via 101 so we can start to create a log of this which will help us once we identify a suspect.

Secondly, I have received a few emails relating to parking and speeding issues in and around the schools. We have recently received some new speed watch equipment so once training has been completed, we will be out in the areas that have been highlighted. Consett NPT will be continuing to carry out patrols around schools during morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups. We will be linking in with other agencies where possible to try and work together. We are still encouraging people to be considerate with where they park vehicles and strongly encourage walking to and from school, where possible, to help ease congestion and reduce the risk for children and all those around the schools. Finally, we have had a number of incidents in the Consett area as a whole, regarding off-road bikes, quad bikes and e-scooters. These should not be used on the public road and paths and should only be used on private land with the landowner's permission. If caught being used on public land these could be seized.

We are looking to work with the community to help make the area you live in a better one. So, if you have any information you want to share, please get in touch and let me know.

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

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Lanchester All Saints' Primary School

Online Safety at All Saints'

It has been a busy week for the eCadets (online safety group) in All Saints'. Before we begin telling you what we have been up to, we should introduce ourselves properly. We are Felix, Joshua, May, Will and Abbey. We are pupils in Years Five and Six and we are passionate about teaching our friends about how to stay safe online. On Tuesday, it was Safer Internet Day. Each year, we give an assembly to the whole school around a theme of online safety. This year, we looked at how children should and could show respect whilst gaming. We know games can be fun but we have to stay safe when playing them. The main messages were: including people when they want to be included, being kind and supportive, thinking about how your words and actions make not putting pressure on someone and respecting their boundaries, listening to other people, and understanding that another person may not have the same interests or likes as you...and that's OK! We took this opportunity to play a game with the whole school, asking people to identify if messages that had been sent in a gaming chat were respectful or disrespectful.

We thought it would be a good idea to write a questionnaire for pupils. We spent a long time speaking to children at break times, hearing their thoughts and opinions about their own internet usage. We wanted to hear about their experiences online – whether they only speak to people that they know in real life online, if they knew what to do if they stumbled across something that made them uncomfortable or sad online, whether they thought that they

learned enough about online safety in school and if they ever played on games that have a higher recommended age limit than their own age! The answers we received were really useful and will help us to design useful presentations or messages in the future. Luckily, everyone we spoke to knew that if something had upset them they needed to speak to a trusted adult, block and report.

This week, Mrs. Stephenson held some workshops for parents related to online safety. We also thought that it would be sensible to ask families about how they use the internet at home. For the second time this week, we developed a questionnaire and sent it out to be completed. The parents of our friends have a few days to give us some information about how their family use the internet at home. We will then look at the responses and begin to think about how we can work with the school again. It has been a really busy week for us (because we have had to attend all of our lessons still) but it has been worthwhile because we have to keep learning and reminding ourselves about how to keep ourselves and others safe online.

Thank you for reading!

From,

**Will, May, Abbey, Joshua and Felix
All Saints', eCadets**



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Cheers David & Caroline



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Genome Centre

We guess that many of Lanchester's residents have no idea what goes on in Park House. So, the Village Voice set off to find out.

It has been many things in recent memory: a police station, parish council offices, GP practice and a charity's offices. But the current owners would like to know more. We'll come to that later, but what does it do now?

It has been home to the Durham Genome Centre since 2014 when the directors, Neil Sullivan and Louise Allcroft, moved the business from Sunderland. Its work all revolves around DNA - deoxyribonucleic acid. There is DNA in the nucleus of every cell. It carries genetic information and has all the instructions that a living organism needs to grow, reproduce, and function. The key thing is that DNA is unique to an individual or animal. (End of science lesson!). Their mission has been to make complex science understandable, and available to all.

Many residents will have taken advantage of PCR testing for Covid-19 at the centre when needed as evidence to travel etc. – but it does much more. For example:

Paternity testing, used to establish parentage.

Testing animal DNA. There are lots of fascinating examples here which we will cover in later editions, but some highlights:

- Studying the otters in the River Browney by analysing their poo to determine family groups, their territory and how far they travel.
- Analysing bird eggs, for example peregrines', to determine the sex of the chicks.
- Study of bats
- The RAF send birds that have been involved in a bird strike to determine the breed of the bird so that they can tailor their bird scaring at their airfields.

But they are also interested in the history of Park House. They think it was built around 1880, but there appears to be no record of its early history. There was a safe in the building when they took it over – without a key!



Witton Park Amenity.



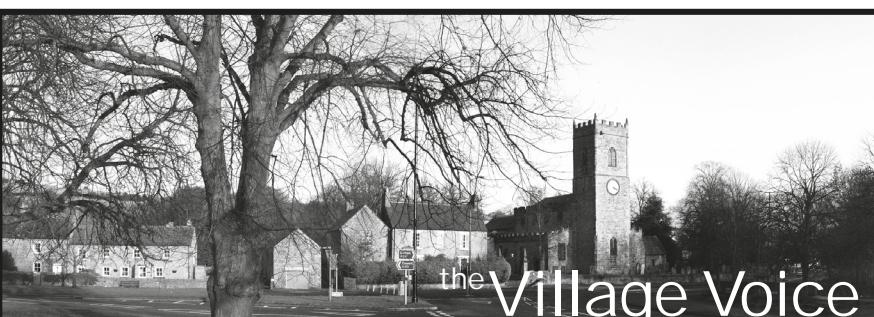
The safe – without a key!



Reception area brass plaques

So, they had a locksmith open it and found a treasure trove of historical documents, just waiting for someone to analyse. There was also a 16mm film – looks like it was for a film society. There were also some ancient black and white slides of scenes around the area – we've reproduced one here and intend to reproduce more over the months, in case anybody recognises the scene or people in the photographs. And finally, for now, in the reception area is a board containing brass plaques which were found in the building. These relate to previous activities which either took place in the building or were headquartered there (we assume). Again, if anybody has any information on these activities, we'd be pleased to hear from you.

Please contact lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk



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Football Focus

From our new young reporter, Matthew



For many Covid-19 halted the football season for a fair few months, but with things returning to normal football is beginning to start back up again. Over the following weeks I will follow the football teams of the schools around the village looking at how each school is getting on with football after the pandemic and an insight into the players' perspectives. Football for a large percentage of children and teenagers is a pillar of their childhood and the pandemic has massively interrupted the experience for many and thus emphasises the importance of everyone having a positive experience when playing.

Personally, growing up with football I have always had a positive experience because of many coaches and teachers making sure that football in school and outside has been enjoyable for everyone while maintaining values such as respect, team-work and fair play. I have many positive memories of school football such as winning trophies and missing lessons to travel with the team but returning soaked after a game in torrential rain. All the schools in the village have various football teams starting back up again and hope that they can have a successful season as for many this will be the first season after the pandemic.

However, for many teenagers there is a major decrease in local football teams at about the 15-16 age group with many teams struggling to find players and not being able to keep their team afloat. This in many ways reinforces the importance of school football teams as, for many teenagers, this will be one of the only times they will be able to play football as they are unable to access football teams outside of school. Stay tuned for more on the importance of enjoyment in football and how local football teams are doing with results and personal experiences still to come.

Matthew Walker

Anyone for Table Tennis?

Lanchester Table Tennis Club meets in the Community Centre on Friday evenings in the main hall where 5 tables are available for play. Junior club, from 6-7pm, is supervised by 2 senior players, with hints and tips given on playing the game. Senior club, from 7-8.30pm, is for over 18s and invited junior improvers.

Professional coaching for members is being provided this year, fortnightly, on Saturday afternoons from 4-6pm, made possible with a generous grant from our local county councillors.

Lanchester Eagles have 2 teams in the Sunderland and District League and home matches are held on Wednesday evenings in the small hall. County Councillors Mike McGaun and Douglas Oliver recently came to watch our Auxiliaries team play a league match.

Annual membership fee is £10 adults, £5 juniors [u18] and session fees are Adults £5, Juniors £2. New members are always welcome and the first 'try out' session is free.



Lanchester Table Tennis Club in action!



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Coaches Stuart McPhail, and Jack Slane, discuss training drills with the group.



County Councillors Mike McGaun and Douglas Oliver recently came to watch Lanchester Table Tennis Club Auxiliaries team play a league match (full story on page 23)



Cricket News

Introducing our new young photographer, Peter Huthart.
Peter was at the recent training session for the Lanchester Cricket Club under 11's and under 12's at Croft View Halls. The under 11's meet at 4:30 and under 12's at 5:30. The fee is £2 for the evening.
All welcome, please contact the club via their Facebook page if you would like to join.

How to contact the Village Voice

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Please do not use this number for matters relating to content.

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email: lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk
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NEXT DEADLINE

Please submit any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by

Tuesday 15th March 2022

The deadline for advertisers is
Tuesday 15th March 2022

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