

# the Village Voice

Issue No 11, Volume 24

Lanchester, November 2024



Above: photographs taken by Liz Jordan Smith who lives in Newbiggen, of the sky over Lanchester. One of a spectacular sunset, and the other of the recent Northern Lights.

Top: All Saints' Halloween disco (page 18)

Middle: Playgroup Halloween party at Croft View, photo by Zoe Barron.

Bottom: Publicising the apple harvest in Front Street (page 4)

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## Lanchester WI News

On Saturday 5th October Lanchester WI held a Fashion show at the Club; approximately 100 joined us to watch the models and grab some bargains for the winter and enjoyed refreshments. Thank you to everyone involved in making it a very successful event.

President Marie welcomed everyone to the October AGM meeting (33 members) and introduced Lesley Jerrad from Durham WI. Marie reminded members about upcoming events including the Birthday Meal in November and a visit to the Pantomime in December. Raffle winners were Janis Suddes and Alma Kelly.

Lesley read out names of the Committee and asked for votes for next year's President, Marie was re-elected for another year. The reports for the year were read out by President Marie, Treasurer Lynne and Secretary Tracey. Lesley then demonstrated how to make a star tree decoration with beads, and we enjoyed refreshments while concentrating on the task.

**Tracey Dobson**

*Right: Fashion show in progress*



## Lanchester Fish Bar Sold

Henry, the owner of the Fish Bar, had been planning to retire after 23 years living and running his business in Lanchester.

Henry and his wife Clare's home and business is now in the final stages of being sold and they left to retire to the Newcastle suburbs to be closer to their adult children on the 15th of November. Henry's final shift was on Saturday November 9th. They posted the following on Facebook: "As a family we have loved our time in the village, my children forged enduring friendships in their time here at local schools and colleges before launching into university life and the reality of working lives. Happily, they have followed my wife Clare's example into the world of Health and Social Care rather than mine in the world of surveying and being a small business owner.

"Clare will of course keep her links with the village for her 6-weekly fix with Jenni at Talking Heads and Charlotte at Bellissimo!!!!

"I am also thankful to Susan for her 23yrs of excellent and faithful service and who will be retiring with me but obviously remaining in this lovely village in which she was born and has lived all her life.

"My brother-in-law Tom who worked with me for 19 of those years retired in July and has relocated to Doncaster to be close to his 3 sons and 5 adorable grandchildren. He is doing well and recently had a visit from one of the many friends he made in the village.

"We are sad to be leaving but also, at 76, glad to be able to put my feet up at last and enjoy some well-earned relaxation and time with Clare and our family and friends.

"Thank you, Lanchester folk, for your custom and friendship over the years. The Atkinsons are leaving the village! But not the lovely memories which will endure."

**Henry and Clare.**

*Right: Henry and Susan on one of their last shifts.*



## Lanchester Curiosities, By Matthew James

### Doll House

Lanchester Curiosities opens once again for business. Last time, a nosey old woman had entered my shop for the first time and screamed at what she found amongst my shelves...

"I don't believe it." She says incredulously after she stopped screaming. "But how?" she calls out to me.

I know how. I wouldn't be telling anyone that. Let alone you, my reader.

The old woman practically skips back across to me. Full of laughter, surprise and joy at the doll in her hands, the woman looks younger somehow. "How have you got one of these? I don't understand. I don't care. I finally have a Cherry doll all of my own. I never even got to hold one. I just had to make do with staring at the cardboard cutout in the shop window!"

I nodded, as if I cared about her past. I used to be interested in people's stories. I used to enjoy listening to their tales about the items they have always wanted or about things they lost and I had somehow found again. They made out as if I were a saint. A magician with a heart. But I can assure you, I am not a magician. I doubt I have a heart anymore either.

"How much for the doll? I bet they are worth thousands! I bet I cannot afford it." the old woman's face had fallen in realisation. The doll in her

hands was boxed, shiny and new. The small doll had ginger curly hair, wore a long Victorian style black dress with a small red cherry embroidered onto the left side. She was made of porcelain as her skin was almost white. Why someone would want something like that was behind me.

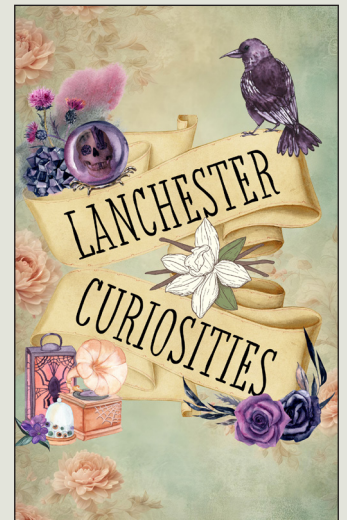
"For you madam, I will charge just one penny." I say and smile.

"One penny?! But how can you afford to let an item go for so little?" The woman was already rooting into her bag, no doubt for her coin purse...

Some people were easily fooled.

I'm afraid I must close the shop for now. Won't you pop in again, same time and same place, next month?

*All of Matthew James' work can be purchased on Amazon or via [www.matthewjameswriter.co.uk](http://www.matthewjameswriter.co.uk)*



## Lost and found

On Sunday 13th of October at 13:35 I found a gold ring on the pavement between Station House and the junction at the end of Ford Road. It is worn quite thin so I guess the wearer has owned it for a long time and it will have great sentimental value.

It has some small stones set in it.

Hopefully the owner will read this and will be able to contact me on 520501 so I can return it.

**Stephen Ramsay**  
**Resident of Lanchester**

## Lanchester Local History Society October Meeting

David Mason the County Archeologist came and explained how events had unfolded with the Sedgefield Archaeology Project. Something was identified at Sedgefield in the mid-1990s, this led to the TV show Time Team visiting in 2002. They found traces of a large Roman settlement straddling a north-south road running parallel with the road between Hardwick Park and Sedgefield. The show speculated their finds represented an "industrial zone" surrounded by agricultural and domestic structures. Based on this new interest in 2005 a new dig project was started. A ditch had been identified and archaeologists love a ditch as it's often a good source of discarded rubbish. They weren't disappointed as some of the impressive finds came from the top of the ditch.

The project was a success from both the finds and the opportunity for the community to get involved. The real interest for the Roman nerds was that this Roman settlement was different from other Roman sites in the north as it wasn't a fort or a high status villa.

*Marian Morrison*

## November Meeting

### Two tragedies to end all tragedies

Lanchester Local History Society was treated to a fascinating slice of North East history at their November meeting, but one, or rather two, events that have, very surprisingly, disappeared from collective memory despite their huge significance.

Our guest speaker, David Griffiths, firstly told the story of the Victoria Hall Sunderland disaster which occurred on 16 June 1883, at the end of a children's entertainment. An announcement that free toys were to be distributed led to an excited rush downstairs from the gallery to an area where the outside door was half closed. This resulted in a terrifying crush in which 183 children aged between 4 and 10 lost their lives, with devastating impact on many local families.

In the aftermath of this catastrophe, ways of ensuring this would never happen again were debated, and a young architect, Robert Briggs, invented and patented the crash or panic bars familiar to us all today. Whilst this undoubtedly prevented many similar incidents, this safeguard was not, at first, universally adopted, particularly in the USA, and other tragedies did follow.

The second tragedy took place a few miles away in 1872, at Washington New Hall, which became better known as Dame Margaret Hall. During the cleaning of one of the many chimneys an obstruction was encountered, so the chimney sweep sent a six-year old boy, Charles Drummond, up the flue to investigate. When he failed to return, another young lad was dispatched up the chimney and found the lifeless body of Charles. Such practices were, of course, illegal as a consequence of laws passed earlier that century by Lord Shaftesbury, but they were rarely enforced. The Washington tragedy changed that, and such cruelty came to an end. So, two tragedies put an end to all such tragedies, or least made them very much less likely.

David then added an interesting postscript, as, in 1868, four years' earlier, one of this area's most famous ladies had been born at Washington New Hall - Gertrude Bell, whose story has been told at previous Local History Society meetings but was also illustrated here.

A very entertaining evening and most enlightening talk was, unfortunately, missed by several members and others - but David was warmly thanked for his research and informative presentation and was seen to be giving his contact details out at the end, so you may get another chance to hear this fascinating slice of local history.

*Martin Joyce*



*Above: Extensive dig site at Sedgefield. Courtesy of Northern Echo.*

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## From the House

October flew by in the blink of an eye. I'm adjusting to my role as a Member of Parliament and am enjoying my work in both Westminster and the constituency. This past month, I've been focused on connecting with constituents and important local businesses, meeting with representatives from public services and the day-to-day work of the House.

I've been out on the doorstep in

Lanchester and was pleased to meet with residents and discuss any ways I could help them. Elsewhere in the constituency, I have had the pleasure of visiting key community pillars such as Cornerstones in Chester Le Street and Burnhope Community Centre. I've met with Stanley Police, the North East Ambulance Service, If U Care Share Foundation, local firefighters amongst others. If you need assistance or would like to meet with me, please feel free to email me at [luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk). I recently held a constituent's surgery at Lanchester Methodist Church – see the photo.

Shortly I will be meeting with representatives from Lanchester Parish Council to discuss their concerns about the planning application for holiday lodges at Greencroft Park.



I am now running a North Durham 'View of the Week' competition on social media; it has been popular with entries showcasing the best of the constituency. A new winner is posted each Thursday. If you would like to take part, find me at [www.facebook.com/lukeakehurstmp](http://www.facebook.com/lukeakehurstmp). The Business of the House has been fast paced. I am proud to have raised the issues of Child Poverty in the North East and Mental Health Community Nursing Support in oral questions to the relevant ministers. I was also pleased to vote in favour of key legislation such as the Employment Rights Bill and the Renters Rights Bill. Constituents who want to discuss any issue or problem, please contact me at [luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk) or call my office on 0191 371 8834.

**Luke Akehurst**  
**Member of Parliament for North Durham**



Luke Akehurst MP with Danny Wood his chief of staff.

## Ladies who lunch

We love to get out and about - and last month saw us dining at the Italian restaurant in Sunnyside - Sorella Sorella. Not too far away, excellent parking - looked a good choice of venue.

A warm welcome awaits from the very pleasant staff, and we were soon seated with various menus to peruse. They have a really extensive choice of food with price options. A main menu, a specials, and a 2/3 course menu costing £15/£20.

We chose for starter loaded zucchini - filled with olives, sundried tomatoes, feta cheese, pesto yoghurt topped off with pine nuts (it would make a lovely light standalone lunch). Mains were tagliatelle lamb ragu - lamb shoulder in red wine, garlic, tomato, mint and salsa verde; penne Sorella - chicken, Italian sausage, mushroom, chilli and garlic in a pesto cream sauce; fish of the day, which was roasted Norwegian halibut with basil mashed potato, asparagus, samphire and prawns in a mustard cream sauce; feather blade braised beef (which evidently 'melted in the mouth') with mashed potato and seasonal veg. Desserts were tiramisu; sticky toffee pudding; red velvet cheesecake with either custard or cream.

We felt that the service was a little relaxed - having said that, we were out for a good natter as well as a good meal! And the meals were excellent - really good food in plentiful quantities - enough to satisfy the largest appetite.

We enjoyed a most convivial lunchtime and overall, for value for money, it would be hard to beat.

Somewhere else to put on your 'must visit' folks! It's definitely a fixture on ours.



## The Gourmet Girls

## Apple Harvest time in the Lanchester Community Orchard

Orchard members and their families joined in with our apple harvest on Saturday 12th October. The apples, all heritage varieties, were picked, sorted and shared and juiced. We were lucky to have another sunny day although a bit chilly. All members receive a box of apples, and we also shared the apples with our local organisations and community. The only question remained... what to cook with all of our delicious apples?

If you would like to find out more about the Community Orchard, then please visit our website [www.lanchesterorchard.org](http://www.lanchesterorchard.org).

We always welcome new members of all ages.

**Eleanor Johnson,**  
**Lanchester Community Orchard**



Front cover photo: Publicising the harvest in Front Street  
Above: Picking the apples  
Left: Sorting apples into boxes for the orchard members

## Thursday Club

We were entertained by the Amigos. This group is run by Tony Reather (ex-head of All Saints' Catholic Junior School) and two friends Jim Rafferty and Michael Grimes. There are two guitars and three singers. There were lots of well known songs and the ladies joined in, singing along, making for a fun afternoon. Afterwards we had tea, coffee, biscuits and a good chat.

**Jan Vasey**

**Thursday Club Secretary**



## Strength Training for Kids: A Game-Changer for Young Athletes

Strength training for kids isn't an extra activity—it's vital for any young athlete who wants to succeed. Yet, strength training is often seen as something only for adults or elite athletes. The truth is, it's even more critical for kids. Building strength at a young age is key if we want our children to thrive in sports and in life.

For over 15 years, we've seen how strength training helps kids step up to the stage with power and confidence. It's not about lifting weights; it's about developing the physical and mental tools necessary to compete at the highest level.

The trouble is, that today's young athletes face big challenges. They are up against stiff competition. Too often, many lack the physical power to compete at a high level. Others doubt their abilities, especially when the pressure is on. While the fear of injury holds others back from giving their all when it matters. These are the ingredients for young athletes to lose their confidence, enthusiasm and sense of belonging in the sporting world.

Strength training develops speed, power and stamina. Accelerating their athletic performance. It strengthens muscles, improves balance, and increases flexibility. Enhancing physical

resilience and avoiding injuries. It also helps kids overcome self-doubt by setting and achieving physical goals, proving their capabilities. This process builds unstoppable confidence as kids learn to trust their bodies and abilities. Strength training gives them the tools to tackle any challenge, both in sports and in life. These aren't just athletic lessons; they're lessons in resilience, courage, and lifelong success.

We've worked with high-level athletes in football, racing, and dancing. Some have even gone on to the professional leagues and world stages. We've also worked with hundreds of grassroots athletes, showing them that effort and belief outshine raw talent. The drive to push harder and the confidence to keep going sets champions apart.

Do you want to give your child a real advantage?

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*Keir from the Young Gunz Academy*

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**Would you like to share your celebrations with the Village Voice - birthdays, weddings etc? email words and pictures to:**

**lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk**



## Poppy's walks

Good day readers

This month's walk took place in late October when the sun's rays sprinkled on the autumn trees, turning their leaves to gold. Apologies for the poetic intro but it really was a glorious walk which I am about to tell you

about, starting from Langley Park Post Office in the centre of the village.

As you will know by now, I am Poppy, a Patterdale terrier who shares with you readers the walks I lead my Humans on.

From the Post Office we walked down a side road onto the railway path and turned right near the entrance to Diggerland. We walked along a tree lined avenue - part of the railway path - until we came to the main road, which we crossed and proceeded to the left along a pretty road called Wallnook Lane which runs alongside the River Browney and past quite a number of attractive looking residences.

We walked across a stone bridge which took us across the river, and eventually back to the main road and the roundabout on the A691 Consett to Durham Road. We crossed that at a traffic island in front of the garage/filling station and walked along the footpath in the direction of Witton Gilbert. For a short spell it was not particularly pleasant walking alongside a busy road but soon the path veered off to the left and we left the main road behind. We walked into Witton Gilbert and along its main street. At this point I tugged hard on my lead to deter the male Human from

stopping at one or even both of the pubs along the main street. After successfully passing both hostelrys without stopping we turned right into Coach Lane. This takes us along to the church, where we turn right down a steep country lane, past a field with llamas grazing in it on our right.

At the bottom of the hill, we walk past a couple more fields before reaching a footbridge, which again takes us over the Browney. We turn right and follow a path along the river which meanders to the left. Then we climb a fairly steep but mercifully short gradient, and this takes us back onto the railway path, officially known as the Lanchester Valley walk. We turn right and head back towards Langley Park. At this part of the walk there are steep gradients on both sides of the path which are just crying out to be explored by yours truly. This is also a particularly attractive part of the walk, with the trees looking at their best in the late October sun.

Before too long we reach the outskirts of Langley Park again and continue to follow the railway path until we see the sign for Diggerland again. We leave the path then and head towards the Post Office where our car is waiting. I would have been happy to walk all the way back to Lanchester but I was outvoted two to one on that score. The walk took just under two hours and included no stiles or muddy footpaths.



## PARADISO SOCIAL CLUB MEMBERS CHOSE FILMS FOR THE 2024/25 SEASON

On the 13th of October members and visitors came together for the new season. While enjoying refreshments and watching "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" guests had the opportunity to vote for their monthly film choices from December 2024 to June 2025. Their chosen programme is listed below. New members are always welcome - join us at Lanchester Community Centre from 7pm for refreshments, a raffle and a chat. Members £4 and non-members £5.

### 8th DECEMBER 2024

#### The Way

A father heads overseas to recover the body of his estranged son who died while travelling the "El Camino de Santiago," and decides to take the pilgrimage himself. On his journey, Tom meets four other pilgrims from around the world. From the unexpected and, often, amusing experiences along the way, Tom begins to learn what it means to be a citizen of the world again.

### 12th JANUARY 2025

#### The Mercy

This biography drama starring Colin Firth and Rachel Weisz is the incredible story of amateur sailor Donald Crowhurst and his solo attempt to circumnavigate the globe. The struggles he confronted on the journey while his family awaited his return is one of the most enduring mysteries of recent times.

### 9th FEBRUARY

#### Past Lives (Drama romance in Korean and English)

In Korea, Na Young, a girl and Hae Sung, a boy are schoolmates and good friends. Na Young moves to Canada and then to New York with her parents. Hae Sung continues living in Korea, does his engineering course, goes through a short spell of military service and then takes up a job. Both keep in touch periodically through video chats where they talk of their past and general stuff. Meanwhile in New York, Na has changed her name to

Nora, made a name as a playwright and is happily married to Arthur, an American. Hae visits Nora in New York. What has the future in store for Nora and Hae and their relationship?

### 9th MARCH

#### The Banshees of Inisherin

This dark historical comedy explores how two lifelong friends find themselves at an impasse when one abruptly ends their relationship, with alarming consequences for both of them. Starring Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Kerry Condon, Barry Keoghan

### 13th APRIL 2025

#### Mary Queen of Scots

Mary Stuart's (Saoirse Ronan's) attempt to overthrow her cousin Elizabeth I (Margot Robbie), Queen of England, finds her condemned to years of imprisonment before facing execution.

### 11th MAY 2025

#### Elvis

This film tells the story of American music icon Elvis Presley, from his childhood to becoming a rock and movie star in the 1950s, while maintaining a complex relationship with his manager, Colonel Tom Parker. Starring Tom Hanks and Austin Butler.

### 8th JUNE 2025

#### Operation Mincemeat

During WWII, two intelligence officers use a corpse and false papers to outwit German troops. Starring Colin Firth, Matthew MacFadyen, Kelly Macdonald, Penelope Wilton, Mark Gatiss.

# Wildlife Notes

Autumn has well and truly arrived, and winter draws ever closer. The sharp calls of Redwings pierce the crisp, cold air. Halloween and Bonfire Night are over. The Christmas season draws near. Leaves, blown from the trees by the wind, now litter our streets and lawns. And if you take a closer look at these piles of dying leaves, you will find a completely new ecosystem. Have you ever wondered how patches of leaves lying on lawns or compost heaps seem to disappear overnight? The answer lies with the humble earthworm. Occurring in most soils and vital to soil structure and fertility, they eat decaying leaves that would otherwise take a long time to decompose, as leaves contain a compound called lignin that resists bacterial decomposition, meaning it requires slower fungal action (fungus causing the plant to rust, fueled by cool, moist weather). Often overnight, some earthworms will emerge to feed on dead plant material on the surface, pulling fallen leaves and other plant debris into their tunnels.

Another invertebrate that can be found among the leaves is the humble woodlouse. These are terrestrial crustaceans belonging to the order Isopoda. 5 species are commonly found in our gardens, but there are 30 species in Britain. Woodlice produce eggs in spring that are retained in the body of the female until they hatch. Known as mancas, the newly hatched woodlice are kept in a pouch on the underside of the female for a few days before they disperse. Similar in appearance to adult woodlice, the mancas shed their outer shells multiple times as they grow, becoming adults by late summer and overwintering before reproducing in their second year.

They are naturally abundant in a healthy garden. Woodlice hide in damp dark places such as under logs, stones or flowerpots during the day and move around at night in search of rotting plant material for food. If they do venture into your house, they are unlikely to survive for long unless they can find a cool, damp area. In the garden, they are a key part of a healthy garden ecosystem, feeding on decaying plant material and providing food for many species. So maybe this year, you might acknowledge the work of these humble creatures in your garden and look closer at the tiny worlds around you.

**From the wildlife correspondents.**

*All photos are taken by the wildlife correspondents*



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# Remembering...

## Martin Matthews - 'No Time Like The Present' his final album

### A Tribute to the Man

*His Final Gift to his great charities:*

*Proceeds from the album will go to The Bobby Robson Foundation, Marie Curie, and Macmillan.*

On 6th August 2023, Martin died. His battle with cancer, which began at the outbreak of Covid, early in 2020, was over. The interim years, when he knew the inevitable and cruel outcome, were not wasted.

Martin will be known and remembered by many people in Lanchester as the co-owner of the newsagents and Country Homes and Gifts and Coffee shop; he and his family were at the very centre of village life for decades.

In truth, there was so much more to the man. He was a talented artist and an innovative and outstanding musician. Over the decades, Martin played in twelve different bands and was a creative force in each one. While playing in 'The Steel Swing Band' - a jazz band, he became one of the most talented guitarists on the jazz scene; his use of jazz chord voicings carried over to his recorded music, establishing his reputation as a virtuoso guitarist and leaving other guitarists in his wake.

He played at Cambridge Folk Festival with The Champion String Band, had four programmes with the same band on BBC, toured Canada and North America with Cuig and taught on the Folk Degree Course in Newcastle. He recorded four solo albums: three of these albums were part of his outstanding music and art project 'Wall to Wall', many other albums with his bands and featured on the albums of many other renowned musicians.

Bassist and producer Sean, who collaborated with Martin for more than 20 years, said: "Martin was a perfectionist in everything he did. Even through the difficult months and years of his illness, he was determined to get this album

finished. He considered it a job that needed to be done and done well.

"We managed to record everything before he died, but in true Martin fashion, he left me with extensive notes addressing each and every point of the album he felt should be refined during the production process. Over the past year, I've worked to fulfil those wishes as best I could and while I'm sure there are things he'd still want to change, I think we've produced something he'd be proud of."

Guitarist Andy McLaughlin, who also features on the album, added: "Martin was hugely influential and innovative in his approach to folk music, and we hope this album will serve as a fitting legacy to his work. He was a virtuoso on his instrument, a fantastic composer and everyone who knew him couldn't help but appreciate just what a clever and creative talent he was. He was absolutely focused on finishing this album as a way of contributing meaningfully to the art form he loved, and we couldn't be prouder of helping him along the way."

No one who knew Martin well was left untouched by his enthusiasm, his knowledge, his mastery of his instruments, his humanity and generosity – and – not to put too fine a point on it – his musical genius. He had a fierce enquiring, deep intelligence. He was a profound thinker about everything although he often disguised this through his wonderful sense of humour; this is how most of his friends will remember him. He was hilarious; he was outrageous, and he was the best of company.

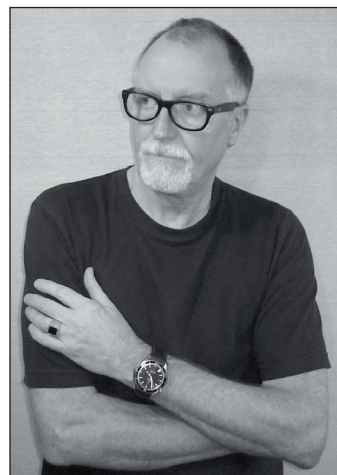
Most of all, Martin was a master of his art.

We'll not see his like again.

### Maria Matthews

*No Time Like The Present will be available to buy from November 16th 2024 from [maria.matthews52@gmail.com](mailto:maria.matthews52@gmail.com) and downloadable on all major streaming platforms.*

*Check out his website: [martinmatthews.uk](http://martinmatthews.uk). If downloading the album, please make a donation to the charities. QR code to help below.*



*Far left: Martin Matthews (right) with bassist and producer Sean Taylor*

*Middle: Martin Matthews with wife Maria.*

*Left: Martin Matthews*

## The Lanchester Partnership: Friends of Longovicium

Earlier this year the Friends and Partners were able to arrange the installation of a new interpretive display board at the lay-by next to Longovicium Roman fort. The display graphically represented the results of all the surveys we have commissioned over the years. Unfortunately, the display board has recently been severely damaged, whether by accident or vandalism is not known.

The Friends are now having to look at getting the panel

repaired and replaced.

There will be no meeting of the Friends in December as the normal date clashes with Christmas. Our next meeting will therefore be 23rd January 2025.

*Information on the Friends of Longovicium can be obtained from Mrs. M. Williams tel: 01207 520063, or from Rodney Hawkins email [hawkins\\_15@sky.com](mailto:hawkins_15@sky.com)*

*To read about our work visit [www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com](http://www.longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com). Note there are no dots in "couk"!*





## Community Centre News



**Here is the latest news from your Community Centre**

### **What's coming:**

Thanks to all who attended the new Men's Club that had its first meeting in October, it went well.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 19th November, 7pm to 9pm. Durham Brewery are coming for part of the session. Please come along and join in, it's all free!

### **What's New:**

A new group will start on Friday 6th December, 6pm to 7pm. Hapkido and Kumbo Taekwondo. Contact 07871437694 for more information. First lesson is free, then after that price will be - under 16s £2 and over 16s £5 per lesson

Gym Offer – 4 months for the price of 3, starting January 1st, offer expires 28th February. Contact the office to join.

We now have new flooring in Meeting Room 3, Community Café and it's been decorated.

*The office is staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-1.15pm. On Tuesday and Thursdays, it's 9am-3pm. 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 website - <https://lanchestercc.co.uk/> or scan the QR code for our website.*

## Lanchester Flower Club

**Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society**

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday 23rd October 2024 in Lanchester Community Centre. We enjoyed a lovely afternoon, entertained by one of our members, Christine Stockdale. She kindly did a lovely demonstration, providing us with some different arrangements to raffle. Her theme was "Summer into Autumn". As you may see from the photo, in some of Christine's arrangements, she has used the bright cheery colours of summer. Then other arrangements the lovely amber, red and gold hues of autumn. Christine finished, disappearing for a second, and coming out with her witch's outfit. Finishing with a smile from us all. We would like to give a big thank you to Christine for all her hard work. We all then had tea/coffee and biscuits and much more chatter. We didn't do our quiz, we seemed to run out of time enjoying chatting and socialising. By the time you read this we will have had our Open Afternoon on Saturday 2nd November. We have no meeting in December. Our next meeting will be Wednesday 22nd January 2025 - we will be visiting Beamish Park Hotel for a belated Christmas lunch.

**Lestrine Kelly**



*Right: Christine with her witch's outfit and her arrangements.*

## Lanchester Parish Council

**Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held in Lynwood House on Tuesday 10th September  
Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 7.00pm**

**Minutes** – Annual Meeting, Ordinary Meeting 10th September – approved

### **Police Reports**

Members were updated on the recent PACT report for September.

### **Correspondence**

Letter from Resident – Christmas Light Switch on Event  
Jill & Mike Gladstone have accepted the Parish Council's invitation to turn on the Christmas Lights this year.

### **Durham County Councillors**

County Cllr D Oliver provided an update on the following areas of work:

- Planning – Solar Farm development
- Greencroft lodge development and forest development
- Community Funding – if there are any worthy causes to inform Councillor Oliver
- County Hall – staff are starting to move out of County Hall
- Durham Park and Ride is expanding
- Flood – Working with DCC as to what has been done since the flood

### **Remembrance Sunday**

Councillors considered a request to help with the cost of the leaflets for Remembrance Sunday - approved

### **Trees** – ash dieback on roadside

Councillors discussed the trees on roadsides with ash dieback - the Clerk to investigate if any assessments were taking place

**Greencroft Forest Park** – Members discussed the development.

**Footpath adjoining the A691** – Members discussed the footpath that runs alongside the A691 which is falling into disrepair – Clerk to take no further action for now

**Garage Burnside** – Councillors discussed the recent request from a resident to help with the repairs of their garage – Clerk to advise resident that we will be taking no action

**Durham County Council** – Lanchester Station Road Unadopted Highway and Recreation Ground River Quality **Monitoring** – Members discussed the request from Northumbrian Water to use the land for river quality monitoring – request granted, Clerk to ask if we can be kept updated with the information they collect

**DCC consultation on 2025/26 Budget** – Members discussed the consultation – Clerk to send email to Councillors with more information

**Dora's Wood** – Councillors discussed that the entrance to Doras Wood has been blocked off by nearby residents – Clerk to speak to Countryside Rangers to investigate

**Advertising Boards** – Members discussed the increasing number of advertising boards in the Village – Clerk to send a letter to DCC to investigate further

**Kitswell Football Field** – Members discussed the request for more regular cuts of the football field – Councillors agreed to 3 more cuts per cutting season as and when required

**Community Emergency Plan** – Councillors were updated on the recent training exercise that took place – information received

**Annual Return 2023/24** – approved

**Financial report** – approved

**Accounts for Payment** – approved

## Art Group Exhibition

The annual exhibition run by Lanchester Art Group proved a huge success this year. Secretary Margaret Walters said more than 60 paintings of the 250 on display were sold.

The group of talented artists - many of whom are retired from full-time employment now - showcase their work at the community centre over a weekend every October.

This year's exhibition took place on October 19 and 20 and Margaret said footfall had been "most encouraging."

"It was good to see families come to look at the paintings, we have had more children through the doors than in previous years," she explained.

Refreshments were available in the adjoining room to the exhibition.

The Art Group has been in existence for around 42 years now and the annual exhibition is becoming a fixture of the Lanchester calendar.

One interesting new recruit is Ukrainian Tatyana, an artist and art restorer who moved to Lanchester two years ago when war broke out in her home country.

She has obviously been taking a keen interest in local places of interest and displayed paintings of Lanchester Parish Church as well as of North Shields, Robin Hood's Bay and Durham City.

**Neil McKay**



Above & left: visitors at the exhibition and some of the work on display.

Right: Anabel's work, and Anabel.

## Exciting new artist at the Art Group Exhibition

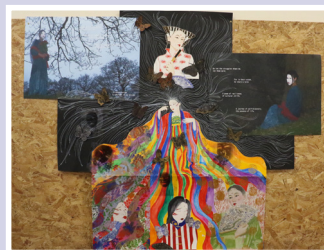
An interesting addition to the displays this year was work from Anabel Weston.

Anabel, a mixed-media artist based in County Durham, is an exciting addition to this year's displays. Currently studying a foundation in art at the Durham Sixth Form Centre, with plans to pursue university studies, Anabel also works part-time at the Lanchester library. Born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and moving to the UK at the age of eight, Anabel's background is deeply influenced by her dual heritage—her mother is Malaysian Chinese, and her father is British.

Her artwork, which includes painting, printmaking, and collages—particularly jelly prints, dry point etchings, and watercolours—reflects her ongoing exploration of identity, culture, and belonging. In Anabel's words:

"Having experienced cultural assimilation and bullying for being mixed-race, my practice is rooted in navigating the complexities of my background, combining elements of both my Malaysian and British heritages. I use art to celebrate the beauty, history, and richness of both cultures, seeking to bridge diverse backgrounds and confront personal and societal challenges."

In addition to exploring her identity, Anabel is deeply inspired by current conflicts and activism such as the Middle Eastern Conflict, using her work as a response to these events. Driven by a sense of obligation to support marginalized communities, her art engages with themes of social justice,



## From our councillor - Family Hubs

Awareness of the value of early intervention has particularly grown in recent years, with greater advancement in educational psychology, and perhaps because of increasing social political pressure to enhance equality of opportunity – meaning there is greater focus on boosting disadvantaged children in their earliest years.

To that end, it is to be welcomed – in my mind - that the last Government and the present one have supported greater investment in early years in support of our very youngest people through the Family Hubs and Start for Life (SfL) programmes, as well as more thought about how this can be creatively delivered. Durham is one of the 75 local council areas from around the country brought into the three-year Family Hub and SfL initiative, with 15 Hubs around the County, with Lanchester's two most local being run from Clifford Road in Stanley and Moorside in Consett.

On 27th March, it was my pleasure to join for the opening of Stanley's Family Hub and meet some of the brilliant team that work there. I saw the service which is both a rebrand, and hopefully also an expansion of the existing Family Centre provision, linked to the legacy of Sure Start, which worked with families up until the point children started school at 4. Family Hubs support families from pregnancy right up until your child turns 19, or 25 if they have special educational needs or disabilities. The Council states that "Family Hubs aim to make a positive difference to parents, carers, and their children by providing a mix of physical and virtual spaces, as well as

outreach, where families can easily access non-judgmental support for the challenges they may be facing."

DCC officers have promised a universal service open to young families of any background, located anywhere in the County with support for social care, education, mental health, and physical health needs at the centre of its focus – with SfL a key (but not exclusive) focus.

SfL includes support of parents with infants, from the point of conception, up until the age of 2 – with good practice in terms of health in pregnancy, emotional wellbeing, feeding infants, speech development and advice in terms of financing.

Visiting, as I did on Stanley's launch in the spring, I was impressed by not only the dedication of the teams involved, but also their specialism. However, for it to work well, it clearly wished to engage closely with the people in the towns and villages nearby in a cooperative manner, and I promised to help with that.

If you have young family members – or know anyone looking to start a family – and wish to learn out more about the Hubs, and how they can support outcomes for young people at the most important time in life, you can visit [durham.gov.uk/familyhubs](http://durham.gov.uk/familyhubs) or call on 03000 261 111. The local hubs are open 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday.

**Doug Oliver**



Above: Doug Oliver with Samantha Peacock, one of the Stanley Hub's coordinators.



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## New owner for Alexander Sales & Lettings in Lanchester Village

Bourne & Co has acquired Alexander Sales & Lettings, which has been in Lanchester since 2012. This is a significant milestone for the Bourne family, who have deep roots in the North East, having lived in the area for over 35 years. The new owners are Simon and Lauren Bourne who have extensive local knowledge. Simon is excited about the acquisition, stating, "We have a strong commitment to service, honesty, and community and I am keen to bring a professional but friendly approach to the business.



Above: Lauren and Simon Bourne

We've already rebranded and introduced new marketing opportunities, including Rightmove, to better serve our clients and extend our reach." As part of the transition, Bourne & Co has changed the opening hours to 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

"Nobody can sell property better than us in Lanchester," Simon added. "Our children go to school here and have classes in our village. We live here! We enjoy the benefits of this incredible village every single day, from pub grub, to orchards, to Christmas lights on the green. It is my mission every time the phone rings to get this across to prospects."

Lauren, who combines her day-job as a midwife with running the agency, said, "By partnering with Nested, a UK wide agency, we see no reason why you wouldn't want to support your local independent agency. We can do everything, and more than the out-of-town agencies can do and we can't wait to help."

Simon and Lauren extend their heartfelt thanks to Paul Morgan, founder of Alexander Sales & Lettings, for his contributions to the community and wish him all the best in his retirement.

For more information, visit [bournenco.com](http://bournenco.com) or contact Bourne & Co directly at [info@bournenco.com](mailto:info@bournenco.com), WhatsApp or 01207 529 900.



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We also do click and collect from Lanchester Hardware store

## Police Report - Winter Nights

With the nights drawing in, it is very important that residents double check their cars are locked, windows and doors are secure, and valuables are kept out of sight. Criminals use the dark nights to their advantage; they know that visibility is poor, and they have more chance of not being seen in the shadows. Simple, cost-effective steps can be taken to ensure you, your family and your property are kept safe. Sensor activated security lights will brighten up dark areas to deter would-be criminals. Day and night CCTV will act as a deterrent also, as well as providing evidence should anything happen.

Defensive planting is a great way to turn nature against criminals as most people will not want to climb through sharp rose bushes or other thorny plants. Pricker strips can be placed on the back side of fences to make it hard/painful for anyone attempting to climb fences. Ensuring sheds and outhouses are secured with good quality padlocks will make it difficult for criminals to break in and increase their chances of being heard or seen. Window sensor alarms can be installed to warn people if a window is broken or moved during the night.

In the police, we call these measures "Target Hardening". If your property looks safe, secure and well protected, then there is less chance of criminals choosing to target your home.

If you have any enquiries around what you can do to protect your home, then please email [consetbeatteams@durham.police.uk](mailto:consetbeatteams@durham.police.uk)

#WinterNights

PCSO Connor Milner



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## Dear Village Voice

I would like to thank everyone who has been kind enough to sponsor my bike ride which I completed during the October half term, over 3 days, a total of 95 miles. There were punctures, beautiful scenery and tired legs!

I have raised over £1000 which will go towards my trip to Shubhubhakamana School, Kathmandu, Nepal. I will be helping pupils prepare for their English exams.

**Again, thank you so much for your generous donations.  
Abigail Hobson Horne**



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## Lanchester Medical Centre: Patient Participation Group



Last winter there was a significant number of patients in hospital with respiratory illnesses such as flu and COVID-19. The risks of COVID-19 and flu are still real, and the vaccines provide the best possible protection against serious illness. This winter people in the North East and North Cumbria are being asked to 'be wise, immunise' by booking their flu and COVID-19 vaccinations online. If you are eligible, as well as contacting your surgery, you can now book your flu and COVID-19 vaccine via the NHS website or app or by calling 119.

If your preferred venue or time is not showing at the time of booking, please don't worry, as more appointments are being added all the time. For some people, COVID-19 and flu can be extremely serious, so it's vital that our most vulnerable patients are vaccinated to strengthen their immunity, protect themselves and help reduce pressures on the NHS this winter.

Care home residents were among the first to have their protection topped up, ahead of the colder months, with NHS teams having already delivered vaccinations to more than a third of all care homes.

Flu vaccines for school age children are currently taking place in schools and community clinics across the region and children aged two and three are being offered an appointment at their local GP surgery.

Many appointments will be at local community pharmacies, but some people will also be contacted by their GP practice where it may be possible to book a flu and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time.

**If you are eligible and haven't yet been vaccinated, please book your appointments today to ensure you're fully protected.**

**For more information and to check your eligibility, visit [NHS.uk](https://www.nhs.uk).**

**BE WISE IMMUNISE** NHS

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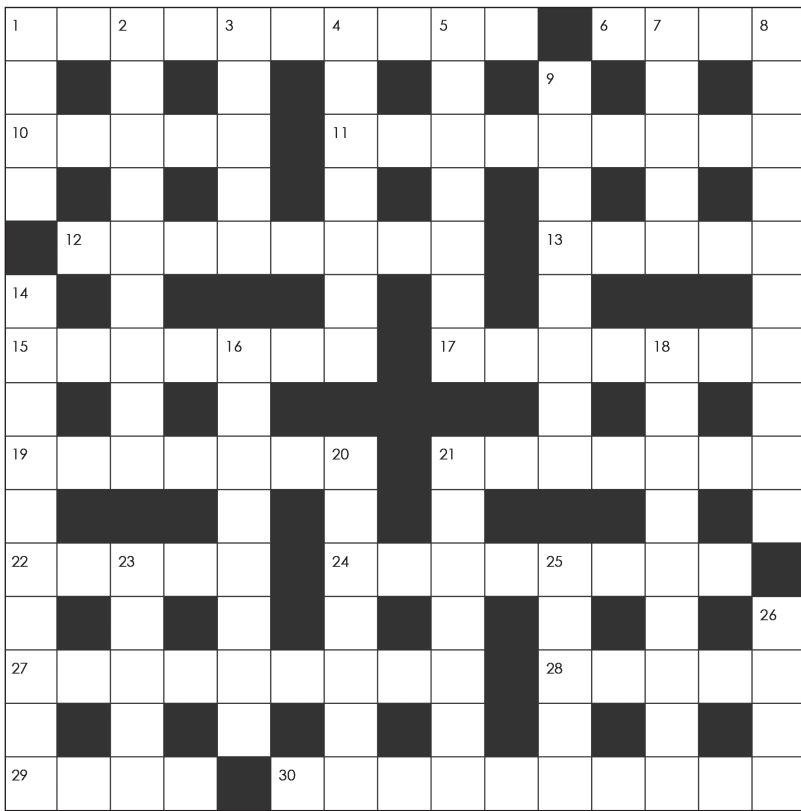
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# CLUES CROSSWORD 202



## Across

1. Out of puff (10)
6. Freshwater fish (4)
10. Dryly comical (5)
11. Roy Wood wished it could be every day (9)
12. Silver coin found in a pudding (8)
13. He drove the fastest milk cart in the west (5)
15. Huge ship (7)
17. Rhinoplasty that might be performed by 5 down (4,3)
19. Pot of interest built over time (6)
21. Gerald, naturalist and writer (7)
22. Caregiver (5)
24. Unsolicited visit (4-4)
27. Robert broke 'his leg' making one (9)
28. Judith Kerr's came to tea (5)
29. Sicilian volcano (4)
30. Person licensed to provide goods or services (10)

## Down

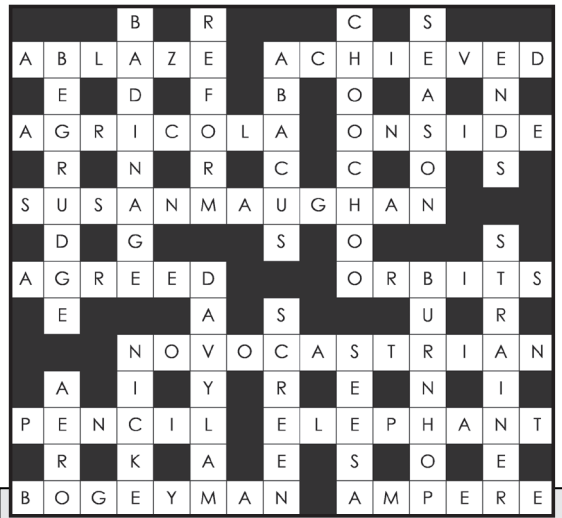
1. Old word meaning to remain or stay (4)
2. Conceited or self-obsessed (9)
3. Flower traditionally associated with Amsterdam (5)
4. Terse and to the point (7)
5. Doctor who carries out operations (7)
7. Earthly person (5)
8. Sport played by Newcastle Eagles (10)
9. Person who judges or evaluates something (8)
14. Within reach (10)
16. Form of French cuisine (8)
18. Mister Ordinary (3,6)
20. More fortunate (7)
21. Type of mammal (7)
23. Red-breasted Christmas visitor (5)
25. To seize and hold (5)
26. Gaelic language (4)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by **Wednesday 2nd December 2024** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



## Crossword Solution 201

There were 18 entries for crossword 201 of which 15 were correct. The winner drawn from the hat is **W Phillips.**

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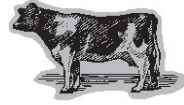
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## WHAT'S ON - November / December 2024

### Light Up A Life 2024

Sunday 1 December, 2pm – 4pm, Lanchester All Saints Parish Church

Join us this December to remember our loved ones together. Christmas is a time to be thankful, but it can also be a time when we miss those who are no longer with us the most. Light up a Life offers an uplifting and meaningful way to remember family and friends and is an opportunity to come together to celebrate and remember our loved ones. Light Up a Life is a warm, loving and festive event to be shared with friends and family.

Welcoming you to the service is such an honour and we are privileged to share this special time with you. Together we will gather to sing carols, listen to readings and light candles in memory of loved ones. Following the service there is the opportunity to spend time together with some light refreshments.

**Book of Remembrance**  
If you would like to remember your loved one(s) with a dedication in our Light Up a Life Book of Remembrance, please contact Ali at Willow Burn: 01207 529 224 / aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk. Please note - all

dedications must be made before 11 November to be included in the Book of Remembrance.

### Vintage Tractor Club

Meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm in Lanchester Social Club.

### Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights on the Village Green will be switched on on Saturday the 23rd November 2024 at 6pm with the whole event starting at 5.30pm.

### City Theatre

'A Bunch Of Amateurs', a comedy, by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman will be on at The City Theatre, Durham, DH1 3RA from Sun 24th Nov until Sat 30th Nov. A small amateur dramatics group facing closure invites a Hollywood star to take the lead in their production of King Lear. Neither side gets what they expect, and there is more drama off stage than on! Performances Sunday

and Saturday matinee only at 2.30pm. Monday - Friday 7.30 pm. Tickets £8.50 with concession £7.50 on Sun, Mon and Tues. Tickets from Durham Gala on 03000266600 or www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk and follow the link for tickets.

### The Lanchester Community Orchard Work Sessions

We meet regularly to maintain and care for the orchard. Come and join us to find out more and help look after the trees. There are jobs for all ages and we always stop for coffee! New members are always welcome. For all our work session dates please visit the What's On page of our website [lanchesterorchard.org](http://lanchesterorchard.org)

### Monday Art Group

We are a small friendly group who enjoy painting and drawing, and come together to learn, and give each other support in making art. We meet each Monday in

the Community Centre from 10.00am to 12pm with an occasional demonstration by visiting artists or our own members. New members are most welcome. Contact [tojimrafferty@yahoo.com](mailto:tojimrafferty@yahoo.com) if you would like further information.

### Riverside Musical Theatre Company

"Alice in Wonderland", a Christmas pantomime, will be performed from Wed 11th Dec to Sat 14th Dec at Park View Theatre, Chester le Street. This is a very funny script with some fantastic musical numbers. Come along and join us to see some of our favourite Wonderland characters. It's fun for all of the family and only £10 per ticket, it would be a shame to miss it. Visit [www.ticketsource.co.uk/](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/)

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Jan Massey  
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## Paradiso Film Club - Christmas Party

8th December, Lanchester Community Centre, 7pm for refreshments, raffle and a Christmas quiz. Followed at 7.30pm by "The Way" starring Martin Sheen, Emilio Estevez and James Nesbitt. This is a powerful and inspirational story about family, friends and the challenges we face while navigating this ever-changing and complicated world. Martin Sheen plays Tom, an American doctor who comes to St. Jean Pied de Port, France to collect the remains of his adult son killed in the Pyrenees in a storm while walking the Camino de Santiago. Rather than return home, Tom decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage to honor his son's desire to finish the journey. What Tom doesn't plan on is the profound impact the journey will have on him and his "California Bubble Life". On his journey, Tom meets four other pilgrims from around the world, each with their own issues and looking for greater meaning in their lives. From the unexpected and, oftentimes, amusing experiences along the way, this unlikely quartet of misfits creates an everlasting bond and Tom begins to learn what it means to be a citizen of the world again discovering the difference between "the life we live and the life we choose".  
Members: £4, Non-members : £5. Annual membership: £5

## Lanchester Library

### Library Book Club

On Monday December 17th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, this group will be reviewing "Coming Home to Island House" by Erica James. "Erica has written an engaging and entertaining historical family drama that begins in the summer of 1939 and takes in the declaration of World War 2 and its early beginnings" (a reviewer on Goodreads). We look forward to seeing you there and hearing everyone's opinion, that makes a Book Club very interesting.  
**Thursday Book Club**  
On Thursday December 20th from 4.00-5.00pm, this group will be discussing "Passage across the Mersey" by Robert Bhatia. If you would like to join this group, pop into the library and speak to the Librarians.  
*Pins and Needles* will meet up on December 5th from

10-11.30am. Bring along your wool, thread, needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Do you like knitting, crocheting? Everyone welcome, enjoy.  
**Scrabble Group** meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1.30 to 3.30pm. Do you enjoy this word game and want to get on the Triple Word Square? Come along and enjoy the company.  
**Rummikub Group** meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 1.30 to 3.30pm. A great strategic but simple game with tiles that are always changing. It is a very enjoyable game  
**Children's Crafts** are available every afternoon and Saturday. Different crafts, ideas and materials are set out in the library for children to be creative, pop along with your children and enjoy.  
**Borrowbox** now has newspapers and magazines, click ePress, look for extra news and comment and find the magazines that fit your lifestyle.

## Musical Memories - Christmas Party

4th December 2024 at 2pm, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. Join us to share Christmas music, refreshments and fun activities. Christmas clothing is very welcome.  
Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group using the ability of music to improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email Helen at lanchesterdfc@gmail.com

## Lanchester Methodist Church Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held every Saturday at the Methodist Church between 10 and 12. If you would like to organise a coffee morning for your organisation, please contact Judith Brown on 521898.

## Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be in the Main Hall of the Community Centre on November 21st at 1:30pm when we will be entertained by the EP School choir.

## Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

Our November meeting will be held unusually at 1pm to 2.30pm on Thursday

28th November. This is a trial to overcome the dark winter nights so we will see if we continue it. There will be no December meeting as our usual 4th Thursday of the month clashes with Christmas. Information about the Friends can be obtained from Mrs M. Williams, tel: 01207 520063 or from Rodney Hawkins at hawkins\_15@sky.com. The Friends website can be found at [www.longoviciumcoulk.org](http://www.longoviciumcoulk.org).

## Wellbeing walk

Every Monday at 1pm on the village green next to the war memorial. Walk lasts up to 90 minutes, all welcome. To book please visit [www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham](http://www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham) or call 03000 262539.

## Lunch Club

The next meeting of the lunch held at Lynwood House will be our Christmas Lunch on 10th December, 12pm start, all welcome.

## History Society

We meet on Friday December 6th for a history focused social event. We will have some light refreshments and a quiz. All welcome to join us as the evening sometimes ends with us discussing a range of local history topics. Then on 3rd January we will have our now annual Show and Tell. Folks bring along an item of interest or one which they know we won't have any idea what it is! Please remember because of the security system we ask you to be there about 6.45 for a 7.00 start and if you are joining us for December a contribution to the party would be appreciated.

## Lanchester playgroup

Every Friday at 9:30 at Croft View Halls. Find us on Facebook, 'Lanchester's new playgroup'.

## City Theatre

'A Bunch Of Amateurs', a comedy, by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman will be on at The City Theatre, Durham, DH1 3RA from Sun 24th Nov until Sat 30th Nov. A small amateur dramatics group facing closure invites a Hollywood star to take the lead in their production of King Lear. Neither side gets what they expect, and there is more drama off stage than on! Performances Sunday and Saturday matinee only at 2.30pm. Monday - Friday

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## Lanchester Hiking Group

Meets at 10am on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month. Walks are about 5 miles long within a 30 minute radius of Lanchester – lifts provided. For further details please call Helen Thomas on 07712425623 (or email [hdbthomas@live.com](mailto:hdbthomas@live.com)).

## Flower Club

We have no meeting in December. Our next meeting will be Wednesday 22nd January 2025, when we will be visiting Beamish Park Hotel for a belated Christmas lunch.

## Monday Art Group

We resumed our activities this month after a summer break. We are a small friendly group who enjoy painting and drawing, and come together to learn, and give each other support in making art. We meet each Monday in the Community Centre from 10.00am to 12pm with an occasional demonstration by visiting artists or our own members. New members are most welcome. Contact [tojimrafferty@yahoo.com](mailto:tojimrafferty@yahoo.com) if you would like further information.

## Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium

Friends of Longovicium There will be no meeting of the Friends in December as the normal date clashes with Christmas. Our next meeting will therefore be 23rd January 2025. Information on the Friends of Longovicium can be obtained from Mrs. M. Williams tel: 01207 520063, or from Rodney Hawkins email [hawkins\\_15@sky.com](mailto:hawkins_15@sky.com).

## Wildlife group

The next meeting is Tuesday 10th December 7:30 pm at the Community Centre. AGM followed by a shared table meal.

## WI

The next meeting is the Christmas party on Monday 2nd December in the Community Centre at 7.00pm.

## All Saints' Concert

All Saints' Catholic Church is holding a "Christmas Concert" on Sunday 15th December at 6pm with Consett and Lanchester Band, all are welcome.

## Thursday Club

On December 19th the Thursday Club will be celebrating together with a Christmas meal in the Community Centre at the Community Cafe.

## Choral Society

Lanchester Choral Society Christmas Charity Concert in aid of Willow Burn Hospice. Friday 20th December 7.15pm, Lanchester Methodist Church Christmas readings, Carols old and new with audience participation. Guests -Anna Foster, Paul Smith, Ian Gray. All welcome, donations to Willow Burn gratefully received.

## Willow Burn Nurses' Christmas Fair

The Nursing and Care Team at Willow Burn Hospice invite you to join them at the Nurses' Christmas Fair on Saturday 23 November 2024, 11am – 2pm. This annual event is a great opportunity to enjoy some Christmas shopping and to catch up with the team at Willow Burn. With a fantastic mix of gift stalls, cakes and produce, raffles, games and tombolas, it's sure to be a fabulously festive day. As well as stalls, the Willows Café will be open, our Potting Shed will be transformed into a Christmas gift shop and there's the opportunity to meet the main man himself, Father Christmas. All proceeds from the fair will go to fund the vital services provided by the Willow Burn Nursing and Care Team.  
*\*Please Note - car parking is available at Willow Burn, however we expect this to be a popular event. If travelling to the fair by car, we kindly ask you to please consider our neighbours and park responsibly.*

# St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

## Sixth Form Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening was held in October and was well attended by students and their parents/carers. The evening started with talks from Mrs Hammill and Mr McCarthy explaining why students should have confidence joining our Sixth Form. Fran Bell (Y12), Dora Herbert (Y13) and Lachlan Shaw (Y13) also spoke about their experiences of Sixth Form both in the classroom as well as the wider opportunities they have participated in. The evening then moved to the Sixth Form centre where there was an opportunity to meet teachers and current Sixth Form students about the subjects on offer. There was also an opportunity to meet a range of post-18 providers so students can see how we support their progression once they finish in Sixth Form. There was a positive buzz on the evening and a number of students have already completed their applications!

St Bede's Sixth Form Admissions



## Christmas Card Competition Winner

Last year, while in Year 12, Amy Southern entered the Youth SVP Christmas card competition and emerged as the winner! Her card is now in print and available for purchase. This is a wonderful opportunity to own a piece of art created by a St Bede's student while supporting a worthy cause. Please visit the SVP website if you would like to take a look.

The theme of the SVP Christmas card was "Peace in Our World," and Amy's design, featured to the left, beautifully captures this concept. Amy shared her thoughts on peace, stating: "Peace means to be free from war and violence, to feel safe and tranquil. It's about not judging or being judged, finding comfort, and living without fear of what may happen."

Congratulations again to Amy! We also want to give a special shout-out to Evie Lumley (Year 13) and Helena Modrzejewska (Year 9) for their highly commended work, which narrowly missed the top spot.



*Catherine Hammill*

## Lanchester All Saints' Catholic Primary School

What a wonderful half term we have had in school – the first eight weeks of the school year have flown over!

Our extra-curricular clubs have been widely enjoyed by pupils across school: from fencing, wheelchair basketball and curling to football and our young leaders programme, there has been something for everyone. Pupils have also continued to enjoy French and the opportunity to play a brass instrument outside of lesson times too.

Pupil leaders are in place across school; we now have our School Council, eCadets, Worship Leaders, Reading Ambassadors and House Captains in place leading the school with enthusiasm and pride!

Year Six swam weekly this last half term, pupils in Years Five and Six represented All Saints' at cross country and our boys played in the first round of the Bishop's Cup. The learning outside of the classroom continued with our EYFS pupils visiting Petite Street, Year One spending time in Durham city, including the cathedral, Year Two spent a great day at the Locomotion Museum, Year Three visited the Oriental Museum to further their learning about the Egyptians and Year Four gained an Art Award at Ushaw Historic House which focused on the work of Matisse. Year One also undertook a workshop about Diwali and the whole school

attended a welcome liturgy, Bishop's welcome and Harvest Mass in church.

The term ended with the corridors being filled with gruesome ghouls, zealous zombies and curious clowns at our Halloween Disco...what a fantastic way to end the half term which has been packed full of learning and celebration and we cannot wait to see what the second half term holds for us all!

**Frances Stephenson**  
Head Teacher



Above left: Pupils in Nursery and Reception showing their artistic creations  
Above right: Year 3 visit to the Oriental Museum to learn about Egyptians  
Front cover photo: Halloween disco

**All Saints' Catholic Primary School  
Lunchtime Supervisors wanted  
- All Saints'!**

**11.30am - 1pm each day**

**Free lunch provided**

**Get in touch with Frances Stephenson  
to discuss this further:**

**01207 520435**

**asl@asl.bwct.com**

## Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

School life has continued to be busy and fun this month. Our learning in our woodland has been a highlight of the half term. We have had our youngest children making apple crumble and pumpkin soup on the fire, after walking to the village shops to buy the ingredients - such a great life skill. Our oldest children, meanwhile, have been learning how to start a fire safely and chop wood. All wonderful skills and ones which the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about!

We were pleased but surprised to see that our school has made the top 25 schools in Durham for academic results last year. Ranked as the 21st best school in Durham for our KS2 SAT results was a lovely surprise - one of only two schools in North-West Durham to make the top 25. Our children always work hard and do their best and we are always very proud of them for that.

Next year looks like it will be a very exciting one for our school. We are hoping that the plans will begin for the re-building of our school and we are also hopeful to bring the RSC (Royal Shakespeare Company) to our school for a performance of *The Tempest*. This should be confirmed later this month and I will let you know the details of day and time asap as one of the performances will be open to the local community to attend. As we return refreshed from the October half term break, our minds immediately are thinking of Christmas! With only 7 school weeks, nativities and carol services will start in earnest on our return.

*Right: learning in the woodland*

If there are any parents who have yet to come and look round our school prior to applying for a place in Reception for next September start, then please do get in touch. I will happily and proudly show you around the school, seeing the children in action in their classrooms.

*Just drop me an email: [j.davis@lanchesterep.net](mailto:j.davis@lanchesterep.net)*

**Mrs Jane Davis , Head Teacher**



## All Saints' Roman Catholic Church

### Bishop Stephen Wright from the Diocese of Newcastle and Hexham

On the 5th and 6th of October we enjoyed a special weekend, when Bishop Stephen Wright visited us at St Teresa's Church Annfield Plain and All Saints' Catholic Church Lanchester. The mass on Saturday evening at St Teresa's was to celebrate and mark their 70th anniversary. After the mass an address was read, a brief history of the church. The Church was dedicated to St Teresa of Lisieux. The Presbytery was built in 1953 at a cost of £8,471. Land for the building of the Church was kindly donated by the National Coal Board. The Church was opened and blessed by Bishop McCormack on the 17th December 1953. As there was no electricity at this time, the Church blessing was in candlelight. Throughout the life of the Church, it has been extended and reordered as required. In 1972 the church was extended to add an area for combined church and social use, and still to this day we have a thriving social group. In 1977 a Grotto to Our Lady was built. It was decided to revamp our Grotto as a lasting memory of our Church's 70 years. After mass Bishop Stephen along with Father Charles and Deacon Peter blessed our newly revamped Grotto. Then tea/coffee, sandwiches and cake were prepared and enjoyed by all.

Bishop Stephen stayed overnight in All Saints' presbytery. Father Charles, along with many Priests and Deacons from our diocese, joined Bishop Stephen and enjoyed an African supper together. Bishop Stephen officiated at the All Saints' Catholic church mass on Sunday morning. Bishop Stephen gave us a little pen picture of himself, his family, his role as a barrister -then deciding to go into the Priesthood. A brief address was read detailing the history of All Saints' Catholic Church, which was established in 1901. The congregation then worshipped in a small tin building, and within 3 years the primary school was built. The school was founded by the Sisters of St Paul's, Selly Park from Birmingham. As the village population expanded

the working people supported by the Catholic landed gentry built our current church in 1926. Our church was founded on a strong traditional faith which is still thriving today. After mass many of the parishioners joined Bishop Stephen, Father Charles and Deacon Peter for tea/coffee cake and scones in our Parish Centre. A very memorable and busy weekend.

A note for the diary All Saints Catholic Church are to hold a "Christmas Concert" on Sunday evening 15th December 2024 with Consett and Lanchester Band, all are welcome.

**Lestrine Kelly**



*Top right: At the grotto to our Lady Bishop Stephen Wright and Father Charles C. Ejeji.  
Top left: Cutting the cake at St Teresa's L-R Deacon Peter Smith, Bishop Stephen Wright and Father Charles Ejeji.  
Above: All Saints' Catholic Church morning mass. Father Charles Ejeji, Lewis Henry altar server Bishop Stephen Wright, altar server Abigail Walls and Deacon Peter Smith.*

## Cricket News

September 28th was the Club's Presentation Day and a great day it was, bringing together younger members, their parents and the senior players. The event was teamed with Peter Chinnery raising money for Pancreatic Cancer UK in memory of his wife and our President, Dawn, who passed away from the disease, last year. By the time raffle prizes were claimed, £1000 was heading off to the charity, a marvellous effort.

The Ice Cream shop from the village sent an ice cream van with their amazing produce and Piggy Blinders were on hand to provide food. Many local businesses donated prizes for the raffle. Pete Bell came along and provided entertainment as a singing guitarist.

### Senior trophies were won as follows:

President's Trophy — Dan Arthur

Most Improved player (provided by George Wilkinson) — Dan Scott

First team: Batting- Charlie McPhail, Bowling- Henry Sherwood, Fielding- Kieron Taylor, Player of the Year- Kieran Gohery

Second team: Batting- Jack Slane, Bowling- Dan Scott, Player of the Year- Dan Arthur

Third team: Batting- John McGilvray, Bowling- Tim Kennington, Fielding- Leo Johnson, Player of the Year- John McGilvray

Junior trophies were won as follows:

Under 18s: Batting- Tom Deaville, Bowling- Ibs Khan, Player of the Year- John McGilvray

Under 15s: Batting- Joe Malone, Bowling- Riley Sayer, Player of the Year- Nathan Watson

Under 13s: Batting- Riley Sayer, Bowling- Riley Sayer, Player of the Year- Finlay Tennant

Under 11s: Batting- George Tilley, Bowling- Jack Harrison, Player of the Year- Ollie Wainwright

Under 11 girls- Player of the Year – Gracie Martin

Under 9s- Player of the Year- Kasper Somerville

### Damaged seat

On Friday 11th October, some individual(s) chose to set fire to one of the bench seats purchased to commemorate someone important to the cricket club. The seats are fairly resilient so whilst it didn't go up in flames, some irreparable damage was caused. The seat will have to be reinstated because it was provided to the club and will cost in the region of £400 to be repaired. I don't expect anyone to give their child up over this matter but arson is an addictive and dangerous crime and if they have done it once, they will do it again. Think back and remember, did they come home smelling of smoke and burnt plastic? If they did, then they were there.

**Andrew McConnell**



Above: Under 11 girls team

Right: Gracie Martin - Girls Player of the Year



## Lanchester Bowling Club - you can't miss us now

Finding the location of bowling clubs in the County is often very difficult. There's the ones tucked away in corners of parks, the whereabouts of which some locals are even unsure; then there's the ones behind housing estates or down very narrow lanes; Dipton's is on flat ground halfway up a hill; View Lane is actually on Bourne Court some distance away from said Lane; there's one by the banks of the Wear where you have to go through a car park and then backtrack on yourself; and then there's the ones where a sat nav is needed just to get in the general vicinity. One thing many of them have in common is that signage is almost non-existent.

This, however, is not the case with Lanchester. It was never really difficult to find, but now our splendid new sign makes it even more obvious where we are. Thanks go to Durham County Council and local councillors Douglas Oliver and Mike McGuan for facilitating the grant that provided it.

**Bob Cuthbertson**



### The Optimist

*I stand behind the mat a while,  
Feet together, wood in hand,  
I see the other player's woods  
Lying where they planned.*

*Both feet on the mat, firmly placed,  
Balanced, just like I've been shown,  
Eyes focused on the aiming point,  
My confidence has grown.*

*A forward step, a bend of knee  
The arm goes back, full swing.  
Now concentrate, keep thoughts away  
Of teammates gossiping.*

*They're standing fairly well behind,  
As you prepare to bowl,  
Muttering and giggling  
As some rude tale is told.*

*Concentrate, just keep your nerve,  
Distractions you ignore,  
Release the bowl, watch it go,  
You can't do any more.  
The bowl runs mostly true and straight,  
Along the line you picked,  
Then suddenly it starts to swing,  
As though a switch is flicked.*

*You hoped you'd done it all correct,  
But suddenly, you cuss,  
The thing is going the wrong way -  
You forgot to check the bias!*

*You're standing there, red of face,  
Embarrassed to the core,  
You think "I hate this game.",  
But know you'll be back for more.*

*Never mind, it happens, right,  
We're none of us internationals,  
We all turn up and full of hope,  
Prepare to play our rivals.*

*Sometimes we win, more often not,  
It doesn't really matter.  
We've met up with good friends again  
And had a darned good natter.*

**Richard Goodfellow (Bowls Club Member)**

*Left: Richard Hall, Joe Newton,  
Councillor Douglas Oliver and  
David Friesner in front of the new  
sign paid for by a DCC grant.*