

# Lanchester Parish Council

February 2023

# Newsletter

Welcome to Lanchester Parish Council's newsletter. This newsletter is produced quarterly to provide the community with information on the services and activities that the Council provides.



## Christmas Light Switch On

Saturday 26 November saw the annual Christmas Light Switch On, a much loved community event. Following restrictions in recent years, the event was back to full capacity and hundreds of families gathered on the Village Green.

Lanchester Brass Band and Lanchester Choral Society attended the event and provided a great selection of Christmas Carols.

A team of volunteers served complimentary mulled wine, mince pies, cakes and sweets. There was also a small gift for all the children. Many thanks to the volunteers who kindly gave up their time to help out.

The Parish Council were delighted that Councillor Ossie Johnson agreed to switch on the lights this year. Ossie Johnson has been a Lanchester Parish Councillor for over 40 years. In addition he was a Derwentside District Councillor until 2009 and became a Durham County Councillor in 2009 up until 2021. This is an incredible length of service and we thank him for his dedication, work and commitment.

Councillor Ossie Johnson was accompanied in the switch on by James and Iona from Lanchester EP Primary School and Max and Esme from Lanchester RC Primary School.

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

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

The Christmas lights shone bright this year bringing joy and happiness to all. We hope you all enjoyed them.



## Queens Green Canopy Platinum Jubilee Tree



Lanchester Parish Council has planted an English Oak to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The tree was planted in December on the village green. A plaque identifying the tree was made by Royal British Legion Industries.

A grant of £100 was received from Durham County Councillor Douglas Oliver from the Neighbourhood Budget Small Grants Platinum Jubilee Fund. The remainder of the cost was funded by Lanchester Parish Council.

### Precept

The Parish Council considered its precept requirement at a recent Council meeting and set the precept for 2023 / 24 at £73487.21

A property in band D will see an annual increase of £1.99 in 2023 / 24. This equates to less than 4 pence per week. The Council will continue to work hard to realise efficiencies and to develop projects for the community.

### New Clerk/Outgoing Clerk

After almost 15 years Sally Laverick has retired as Clerk to Lanchester Parish Council.

The new clerk is Laura Dodd.

Laura is looking forward to her new role as Clerk and taking up the reins.



### Lanchester Parish Councillors

Jude Considine		07920 798403	
David Friesner	56 Briardene,	529982	
Alison Gray	14 Lee Hill Court,		
Keith Harrison	Colepike Home Farm,	529522	<b>CHAIR</b>
Eric Hepplewhite	13 Deanery View	521323	
Paul Jackson	Stonebeck, Front Street,	521208	
Vicky Jackson	25 Ashdown Grove	07885 700968	
Ossie Johnson	Stella House, Durham Road,	521937	
Trevor Jones	Willow Green, Ford Road,		
Barrie McDermid	21 Kitswell Road		
Lorraine Montgomery	18 Lee Hill Court,	07866 414363	
David Smith	53 Humberhill Drive,	529880	
David Toner	Talys, Smallhope Drive	07818 151309	
Ian Tute		529286	
Stuart Walker	2 St Bedes Court,	520790	

<b>Staff</b>	Clerk	Laura Dodd	520146
	Handyperson	David Maddox	

