

Progress Reports and Action Plans for Working Groups

Progress Reports

Friends of Longovicium Progress Report 2021-22

Geophysical Survey

No further surveying was done this year because of Covid, lack of funds, and because the fields we wanted to do had probably been open casted.

Archive and Catalogue of Artifacts

Various books and magazine articles have been added to our archive whilst a few metal-detector findings have been added to our catalogue.

Talks and Displays

As Covid restrictions eased, we were able to put on a Longovicium Display for Consett Heritage from 5th to 7th May. Another display was mounted for Ebchester Roman Day on 14th May, where Friends were also able to take part in a couple of guided tours of Roman Ebchester. A talk about Longovicium has been arranged for 1st July for the Lanchester Local History Society.

Research into local sites

Some of the Friends are particularly interested in the line of Dere Street and have examined evidence for it in a few nearby places. A visit had been arranged with the local landowner for the Friends to visit the Low Dam, the start of the aqueduct system to the fort. This took place on 9th May. A visit had also been arranged for Friends on 21st May where a well-received guided tour of All Saint's Church, Lanchester, took place.

The Friends have become involved in an initiative prompted by a resident of Ilkley Yorkshire.) to join a group of Friends of the Fort of Roman forts at Aldborough, Castleford, Castleshaw, Ebchester, Ilkley and Ribchester. It is hoped that this will develop to the advantage of all.

Provisioning of the Fort

Little has been done on this since the publication of David Mason's book on Roman Durham. Instead, work has progressed on an eBook about Longovicium, considering what we know about it from Antiquarian writings up to and including the Lanchester Partnership (Friends of Longovicium) surveys. This may be considered "work in progress".

Another "work in progress" is the study of frogs or toads depicted on Roman altars! It seems that Longovicium might have been a Centre for the worship of toads.

Rodney Hawkins

Friends of Longovicium

Lanchester Community Orchard Progress Report 2021-22

This has been a very successful year for the orchard. Not only has the blossom been at its best ever this year, but members have also been really active since returning from the last lock down.

- The group has discussed and written a new five-year plan, with some of the objectives already completed.
- A new committee has been established.
- Regular workdays have been set on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month with members attending as and when possible.
- A new banner has been made which was used in the village for apple tasting at harvest time.

- The task of rejuvenating the raspberry bed has been particularly difficult but eventually after many hours of hard graft the site is cleared and replanted and this time, we have included some vines.
- The site has also been used for other groups in the community including 50 year 5 children from the EP school and a group of refugees from Newcastle as well as the public visiting our Easter Display.
- Something that is difficult to measure is the benefits that are gained, in the form of general health and wellbeing, from being part of the orchard community or from visiting there. But I do not think those benefits should be underestimated.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this beautiful space

Action plan for 2021-2022	Work carried out 2021-2022
Recruit new leadership committee.	New committee set up with new chair, membership secretary and workday leader
Plant perennial vegetables in Forest Garden	Progress made here with artichokes, berry plants and fig trees added
Possibly experiment with use of dye plants.	To be carried over.
Repair compost toilet.	Toilet re-roofed and steps repaired
Improve rabbit proofing	Rabbit proofing around gate improved. No evidence of rabbits on the plot but continued maintenance needed.
Organise grass cutting rota	This didn't work well. New system needed.
Create dead hedges to deal with woody waste and provide a wildlife habitat.	These are set up and working well.
Continue WERS visits 2 each year.	2 successful days held
Review use and maintenance of raspberry bed.	This huge task has been completed.
Investigate electric mower for future purchase to reduce dependency on petrol.	On going
Consider applying for an award (Long term plan)	Long term plan
Continue social events. Wassailing, Earth Hour, Easter art, Midsummer social, Halloween	Mid-winter social, Wassailing, Earth Hour, Easter Display and Midsummer social all planned.

Christopher Davis

Lanchester Community Orchard

Environment Group Progress Report for 2021-2

The Environment Group aims to improve the environment whilst conserving the character of the village and the surrounding countryside, to raise awareness of climate change issues amongst its members and the community and reduce the carbon footprint of Lanchester.

Tree planting

This continues to be a really successful enterprise.

- Over 1500 trees have been planted during the last year in the Lanchester Area.

- Trees were obtained from our tree nursery, donated by Ova Energy, and acquired by group members through links with the Permaculture group.
- Over 20 adults and many determined children took part in several planting days over the winter and early spring.
- Currently there are over 250 saplings in the tree nursery. Many seedlings growing in pots.
- A grant was obtained from DCC with the support of Kath Ivens to buy extra canes and spirals. 500 canes and spirals remain in store

Litter picking

- Annual litter pick was able to go ahead this year, with 40 people coming out to pick litter.
- This year it was organised in conjunction with the Lanchester Wombles.

Plastic Free

- A new collection point for soft plastics and oral products has been set up in the community Centre.
- Plastic free challenge. No new action although several members of the group took part in the National “Big Plastic Count”. This emphasised the shocking truth that less than 10% of plastic in the UK is recycled and so much is still being shipped abroad. Follow up letters to our MP resulted in stock answers that do not fundamentally tackle the issues of Plastic waste.

Improving small spaces

No further action.

Tree Planting along the Village Bypass

No substantial progress with this issue.

Thinking of going Electric Talk

A talk was organised in the community centre to inform residents about the issues of going electric. This was well attended, and a detailed review posted in the Village Voice.

Sonny Shepherd

Environment Group

Monitoring Development Working Group Progress Report for 2021-22

We intend to continue efforts to conserve the character of the village and the surrounding countryside by trying to ensure that any proposed development is in keeping with the distinctive characteristics of its surroundings.

Project	Action Plan for 2021 - 22	Progress during year 2021 - 22
Applications For Planning Approval	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look out for new planning applications • Consult the community where major proposals or matters of principle arise to ensure that we understand the public view • Send any comments to Durham County Council 	The number of planning applications has varied enormously over the years – in 2015 there were 5 applications for big housing estates on the edges of the village (all of which we objected to and all of which were refused) yet this year there have been only three significant applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Housing Estate near Oakwood

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the Parish Council of our comments • Monitor planning decisions made. • Represent the community view at planning appeals. 	<p>We opposed this application which has been “pending consideration” at County Hall for many months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Housing Estate west of Briardene <p>We opposed this application which has been turned down.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Waste Material Tip east of Maiden Law Bank <p>We opposed this application which has been “pending consideration” at County Hall for many months.</p>
Planning Legislation	We will look out for, and react to, changes in planning legislation.	There were no proposed changes.

Mike Gladstone

Monitoring Development Group

Transport Working Group Progress Report for 2021-22

Project	Action Plan for Year 2021 - 22	Progress during Year 2021 - 22
Lanchester Village Link Bus	We will continue to provide support for residents affected by lock-down for as long as it is needed.	We have done this, thanks to superb work by Luke Stone, the driver.
	As conditions return to “normal” we will ease back into our normal service.	During the year conditions did not return to normal.
	We will celebrate the 21st anniversary of the start of the bus service if circumstances permit.	This was not possible.
	We will thank the driver, Luke, for the remarkable job that he has been doing.	He has been thanked informally informally.
	We will look back over the period of the coronavirus epidemic and see what can be learned from it.	This was not done because the coronavirus epidemic was with us throughout the year.
	We will continue to identify grant sources and encourage local fund raising and donations.	We obtained small amounts. After the end of the financial year we were awarded a grant of £11,000 from the

		AAP, so although the annual accounts show the amount in reserve at the yearend was less than our target, the bus account is now healthy.
	We will make a minor route change one day a week, extending the route to Lanchester Nurseries.	This was done

Mike Gladstone
Transport Group

Village Vita Progress Social Activity Progress Report 2021-22

Project	Action Plan for Year 2021 - 22	Progress during Year 2021 - 22
PARADISO CLUB	We aim to get this club back up and running as soon as it is safe and realistic to do so.	This has been achieved. We have monthly showings and club meetings now which are being well attended.
FUN RUN	We have booked a date of September 26 th for the 2021 We plan to stage an event and look at a revised route, some alternative supporting activities and how this can be managed in a COVID safe and secure manner within government guidelines. We hope to have booked the 2022 event before the next AGM report is due also.	We held a successful run last year with a new route and wave times for starting so it was Covid safe. The event was well attended, and we have booked for Sept 25th this year (2022)
CEILIDH	We feel that a Ceilidh is not viable for 2021 but we may be able to attempt an alternative event later in 2021 and the Ceilidh may be able to return in 2022.	We did not hold a ceilidh due to concerns on covid. No other action taken on this to date.
FUN DOG SHOW	There are no plans at present to hold this event this year, but we hope to look again for 2022 – it would be quite difficult to make such an event Covid safe If it is felt that it is viable later in 2021, we will revisit this – we may look at an outdoor variation instead.	We did not hold this event and there are no plans for this to return as yet.
BIRTHDAY	We plan to look at options for a suitable celebration, which could be held outdoors and safely.	No progress on this due to weather restraints and covid issues. The time has now passed to do this event unfortunately

CHRISTMAS EVENTS	We plan to repeat the virtual light switch on and the Santa Stroll.	Both events took place very successfully with financial support from the parish council
FUND RAISING	We plan to consider if a quiz night can be safely held this year as a fundraiser for the Fun Run	We held the quiz, and it was a great success raising approx. £650 for the fun run. We also held a coffee morning which raised £250 for core funds

Michelle Atkinson

Social Activities/Village Vita Group

Welcoming Lanchester (Loneliness Project) Progress Report 2022-23

During the pandemic, work to encourage the use of the guide and encouraging a wider understanding of loneliness was inevitably put on hold. The aim will be to embed the project more thoroughly once circumstances allow.

Marian Morrison

Welcoming Lanchester

Action Plans

Friends of Longovicium Action Plan 2022-23

Geophysical Surveys

It is hoped that we may be able to continue surveys in conjunction with Archaeological Services Durham University. We may go north over Cadger Bank, but preferably west towards the known cemetery area.

Archive

We will continue to collect current printed material and that which has been produced in the past about Longovicium, related sites and topics.

Catalogue of artifacts

We will continue to update our catalogue as and when details emerge of new finds and locations.

Talks and Displays

We will continue to undertake talks and displays upon request.

Research into local sites

We will continue to investigate local and other sites with a relevance to Longovicium. We will build up our relationship with others in "Friends of the Forts".

eBook

The history of Longovicium will continue to be investigated as the eBook develops, providing the Friends of Longovicium with a website.

Rodney Hawkins

Friends of Longovicium

Lanchester Community Orchard Action Plan 2022-23 and Updated Five-Year Plan

During 2021-22 we will:

1. Continue to encourage wider community use of the orchard including schools and colleges.
2. Pursue installation of electric recharging system for mowers.
3. Continue to hold and develop social events.
4. Repair rotting gate post.
5. Re roof sheds
6. Improve monitoring of biodiversity.
7. Make and add new bird and bat boxes.
8. Follow up on selected issues from the updated-year plan (see below).

Christopher Davis

Lanchester Community Orchard

Environment Group Action Plan 2022-2023

Tree planting

- Continue tree planting in the Parish
- Increase number of volunteers
- Monitor trees already planted

- Tend and extend tree nursery

Litter picking

- Organise Annual litter pick in conjunction with the Lanchester Wombles.

Plastic Free

- Maintain collection point for soft plastics and oral products in the community Centre.
- Plastic free challenge Consider a relaunch of programme,

Tree Planting along the Village Bypass

- Continue to pursue this idea.

*Sonny Shepherd
Environment Group*

Monitoring Development Working Group Action Plan For 2022-23

We intend to continue efforts to conserve the character of the village and the surrounding countryside by trying to ensure that any proposed development is in keeping with the distinctive characteristics of its surroundings.

Project	Action Plan for 2022-23
Expertise	We will obtain expert advice whenever desirable.
Cooperation	We will work with the Parish Council, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Lanchester and other organisations as and when appropriate.
Applications For Planning Approval	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look out for new planning applications • Consult the community where major proposals or matters of principle arise to ensure that we understand the public view • Send any comments to Durham County Council • Inform the Parish Council of our comments • Monitor planning decisions made. • Represent the community view at planning appeals.
Planning Legislation	We will look out for, and react to, changes in planning legislation.

*Mike Gladstone
Monitoring Development Group*

Transport Working Group Action Plan For 2022-23

Project	Action Plan for 2022-23
Lanchester	We will continue to provide support for residents affected by lock-down for as long as it is needed.

Village Link Bus	As conditions return to “normal” following the Covid disruption we will try to re-build our passenger numbers.
	We will consider celebrating the 21 st anniversary of the start of the bus service.
	We will thank the driver, Luke, for the remarkable job that he has been doing.
	We will look back over the period of the coronavirus epidemic and see what can be learned from it.
	We will continue to identify grant sources and encourage local fund raising and donations.
	We will consider making a minor route change one day a week, extending the route to Willowburn Hospice.
Proposed New X30 Bus Service	We will ask our County Council officers, to our 2 County Councillors and to the Go Northeast bus company to consider re-introducing an express bus service from Lanchester to Newcastle, non-stop between Stanley and Gateshead, using the recently introduced “X-lines” buses.
Membership	We will try to get more people to join the working group.

*Mike Gladstone
Transport Working Group*

Village Vita (Social Activities Working Group) Action Plan 2022-23

PARADISO CLUB

This club is now back up and running but we aim to improve our advertising and membership numbers over the next year. We also aim to get some more volunteers involved to help with organisation.

FUN RUN

We have booked a date of September 25th for the 2022 event.

We hope to be able to bring some of the summer fair features back to this year’s event. In a limited form.

We don’t feel it’s appropriate to bring it back at full-scale yet due to the commitment of the organisers and the time of year that event is being held this time. However we feel it should be slightly bigger than last year and we can build from there.

We hope to have booked the 2023 event before the next AGM report is due also.

CEILIDH

We are looking into possible dates and bands for another Ceilidh to be held this year. We have a setback of the band that we normally use not being available anymore and this event has not yet been confirmed but we are working on it and hope to be able to bring it back in some form

OTHER

We plan to repeat the virtual light switch on

We plan to repeat the Santa walk around the village.

We plan to host further quiz nights and coffee mornings to raise funds.

Michelle Atkinson

Social Activities/Village Vita

Welcoming Lanchester Progress Report Action Plan 2022-23

We will:

- Reconnect with the community through our County Councillors and Mid Durham AAP.
- Working to encourage the use of the guide format in other communities
- Encourage a wider understanding of loneliness and how to get the community to discuss the subject rather than just acknowledge its existence and move on. The goal is to get people talking about it.

Marian Morrison

Welcoming Lanchester

Appendix Community Orchard Five Year Plan

Lanchester Community Orchard Draft 5 Year Plan V2 January 2022

This Plan has been prepared for Lanchester Partnership and as a mid-term review for Lanchester Community Orchard Group.

Lanchester Community Orchard was established in the winter of 2010/11 on land leased to Lanchester Partnership by Paul and Sonny Shepherd. The Orchard occupies approximately 1ha of land and is located on the southwest edge of the village adjacent to Newbiggin Lane. The lease was signed in 2012 and runs to 2032. The Orchard was established with generous grant assistance from Durham County Community Foundation, Lanchester Partnership, Lanchester Parish Council and hedgerow material provided by the Woodland Trust.

The Orchard Group has over 40 family and individual members and meets monthly throughout the year for working mornings with extra maintenance and working meets as required as well as social meets. The Orchard Group is run by a Steering Group reporting to Lanchester Partnership. Use of the orchard is encouraged for all the community especially for contemplation and walking. Annual full membership is currently £15.00.

The Orchard builds on Paul and Sonny's vision and philosophy to establish an Environmental Group in the village to positively tackle and action the challenges of climate change and sustainability.

The group has established over 340 fruit trees, soft fruit beds, wildflower meadows, nut walk and boundary native species hedge planting. The orchard is laid out on a grid fashion (refer to Plan 1) with linear and boundary walks around community allotments (run by Margery Flatts Allotment Association) and a formal central square space. This grass area has espalier and cordon fruit trees forming a space that is multifunctional and used for events. The Group constructed a drystone and oak seating area within the Forest Garden at the southern end of the orchard.

The Group shares produce which includes apples, pears, plums, greengages, damsons, medlar, quince, rhubarb, raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, cobnuts, Filberts and has planted species for the future including Figs, Walnut and Mulberry. Excess produce is given to food banks when yields are good. The Group's annual maintenance, activities and fruit picking regime is available in Appendix A of the full version.

Our objectives (some are subject to successful grant applications) for the next 5 years include:

Objective 1 Maintain current membership levels and encourage new membership for the future.

How are we going to do this?

How	When
Communication through the Group's Blog, WhatsApp Group, Village Voice and DCC magazine/website	2022-2025
Continue links with other orchard groups	ongoing
Provide ½ price membership for students	From 2022
Provide leaflet and update as required	2023
Provide QR code linking to Partnership website	2022
Publicise Group by applying for awards e.g. DCC Environment Awards, explore inviting BBC GQT/Countryfile	2022/3
Provide courses for members and wider community e.g. willow weaving/hurdle making, grafting, basket making.	2022-2025
Linking with local schools	2022

Objective 2. Ensure use and enjoyment of the orchard for the physical and mental well-being of the community.

How are we going to do this?

How	When
Continue to use the orchard for special events e.g. Wassailing, Easter Egg hunts, Halloween, Earth Hour etc,	Annually
Consider May Day event and Harvest Supper	Review Annually
Continue association with WERS (Newcastle West End Refugee service) and use of the orchard for working meets.	Subject to discussion with WERS
Encourage visits by the village community and associated groups e.g. Guides, Brownies, Boys Brigade, Wildlife Group, Art Groups, Churches.	Annually
Campaign to encourage younger membership, links with all local schools/colleges.	2022/3
Seek grants to provide demountable canopy/marquee for events/investigate purchase of new or second-hand structure ensuring sustainable materials.	2023/24
Seek demountable canopy for Forest Garden seating area.	2022
Provide new seat at the northern end of the main walk.	2023
Make links with local employers who have volunteer days	2023/24

Objective 3. Continue management and maintenance of the orchard to ensure good practice and continued fruit production.

How are we going to do this?

How	When
Continue our annual maintenance tasks as scheduled in Appendix 1.	Annual
Provide in-house 'toolbox' talks and instruction e.g. pruning, scything, peening etc.	Seasonally
Train members in use of scythes and purchase new left handed scythe,	2022
Review condition of apple press/replace, if necessary,	2023
Consider Cider making depending on yields,	Annually
Major revamp/replanting of fruit bed area,	2022
Mulching of fruit beds	Annually
Plant more plum trees	2024
Improve composting system	2022-2025

Objective 4. Improve the biodiversity of the orchard and maximize carbon sequestration

How are we going to do this?

How	When
Undertake a major project to install a wind turbine, inverter and batteries or solar array to provide sustainable power source for the orchard.	2023/24
Replace petrol mowers with electric mowers.	2024/25
Continue to improve the biodiversity of the wildflower meadow areas by continued management and further plug planting, bulb planting and over-seeding. Encourage plug planting by community groups.	2022-2025
Measure carbon footprint – suggest as an opportunity for student project.	2023
Continue establishment of dyeing plants in the Forest Garden.	2022-2025
Establish understory planting of blackcurrants/gooseberries in the northern forest garden.	2025
Seek grant to replace cordon/espalier frames.	2023
Install bat and bird boxes.	2023-2025
Re-build existing bug hotel (potential project with junior members of the wildlife group).	2024

Objective 5 Improve Data Collection, Labelling and Recording

How are we going to do this?

How	When
Review existing tree location plan and tree schedule.	2022
Update labels	2023
Provide methodology for measuring/recording of annual yields	Annually
Seek grant to install weather station	2025