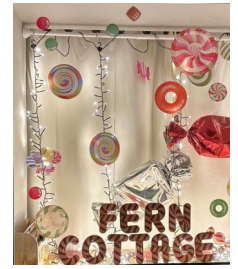




The Villager

Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter



You can view The Villager in online at www.papcastle.org.uk

After such a damp and dismal Christmas holiday it's lovely to hear the birds singing and see the first snowdrops poking up through the soggy soil. We wish you all a wonderful 2024, as we look back on the many events in the Village last autumn. The Village Hall has been buzzing with sales, events and parties, and the Village looked amazing during Advent with so many beautiful windows to admire. Keep an eye out for the A-boards at the entrances to the village for up-to-date information on future events. If you are new to Papcastle or Belle Vue and wish to introduce yourself, please do contact Jilly or Jacqui via papcastlevillager@gmail.com. If you would like to read back copies of this Newsletter, visit the website above and click on Newsletter.

Creative Papcastle!

On Sunday 15th October, Carol hosted one of her popular Craft Fairs in the Village Hall. Some of her new items included dog Christmas stockings, so there really was something for everybody! Trade was busy and many villagers purchased beautiful craft items for themselves and for their friends and family for Halloween and Christmas.

Debbie and her team did their usual tasty teas and cakes to keep all the visitors happy.



Then on Saturday 25th November our first ever Wreath Making Workshop had the hall buzzing with Christmas cheer. Sixteen ladies gathered to make their Christmas Wreaths.

The course was run by Debbie and Judy in a beautifully decorated hall, with Christmas music playing in the background. Judy had made some delicious warming soup with crusty bread which fortified us all for an afternoon of activity. Debbie gave a demonstration and then all got started putting wreaths together with greenery brought from their gardens around the village. It was interesting to see the variety of wreaths produced throughout

the afternoon ready to decorate Papcastle front doors for the festive period. The afternoon was concluded with cups of tea and a glass of mulled wine together with mince pie slice and festive flapjack. A lovely start to the festive season.

Meanwhile Pip and two of her talented friends held an exhibition and sale of their work at the Village Hall on Saturday 9th December. Despite the atrocious rain, villagers braved the elements and were rewarded with beautiful artwork and the satisfaction of purchases for themselves and their friends.

Thank you for sharing your talents with us all.





Scary Young Papcastle!

Around 22 youngsters enjoyed an excellent Halloween party, organised by Tai, Neil, Carolyn and other helpers. The props and decorations were fantastic, as were the costumes, "tattoos", sand spell bottles, art and mummy creations, raucous games and special dishes.



The best dressed costume prizes were won by India as a rainbow unicorn and Seb as a ghost buster. And of course they still had Tuesday's trick or treating round the Village to look forward to. Many thanks to all.

Merry Meet at the Belle Vue

The weather couldn't have been much harsher on the evening of Saturday 2nd December with sub-zero temperatures causing all access-ways to the Belle Vue to be frozen over and hazardous.

For those of us villagers who chose to make the journey, however, our reward was to be given a very warm welcome to a lovely cosy pub where we were greeted with delicious mulled wine to chase away the winter chills. A joyful, noisy and good humoured atmosphere ensued making the evening a wonderfully cheerful and enjoyable experience for all of the friends and neighbours who were present (not forgetting Stanley, the spaniel). Towards the end of the evening, Leah appeared with an enormous platter piled high with warm cinnamon scones which were specially prepared for us by the chef. Delicious!



Thanks to Leah for organising such an excellent reception for the intrepid villagers. This surely calls for a repeat performance! *J Conlon*



Santa's visit and Carol Singing

The weather could hardly have been worse on Sunday 17th December! The rain soaked the song sheets carefully prepared by Gill and John, it watered down the mulled wine provided by Vicki and her family and the wind cooled down the warmed mince pies! Nevertheless there was a big turnout from all the villagers and we sang a few carols before the very welcome arrival of Santa on his sleigh, accompanied by his cheery elves. Many thanks to Gill, John, Vicki, her family and of course, Santa and The Round Table.



Children's Christmas Party

Many thanks to Tai and her merry band of helpers for organising yet another party for Papcastle Kids on 10th December. It was well attended by the under 11s of the village. There was amazing effort on the Christmas crafting table, yummy food and a talented entertainer who had them dancing, doing circus skills, a limbo competition and crazy things with balloons!

THE PAPCASTLE ARMS

Friday 6th October

Sorry to see our local pub closing, the villagers decided to hold a 'Virtual Pub' in the Village Hall. Debbie and Michelle sorted it out, and the doors opened at 7pm for craik, drinks and bar snacks for all. Many of the locals arrived and there was a lovely, lively atmosphere. Even better, we found out that our local pub, The Belle Vue, would be reopening! Thanks for a great gathering!



Village Garden Tidy

Sunday 26th November had a working party gathering for the annual village hall garden tidy. Armed with spades, forks, loppers and chainsaw they attacked the overgrown vegetation in the village hall garden and the banking beside the hall, which was in urgent need of a haircut. Many thanks to those who grafted throughout the afternoon: Robert and Robert Jackson, Les Barker, Brian Pattinson, David Rushton, Simon Holding, Robert and Janie Jones were all among the hardy helpers.



Fancy a spot of Gardening?

If anyone would like to take over gardening the space in front of village hall - on the understanding that the land remains the property of the Village Hall - please Contact David on 07709281289.

Joan Mary Merris

4th May 1944 - 9th November 2023

Joan was born in the Midlands, trained as a dental nurse, and moved to Cumbria in 1966 when she married Brian. Ten years followed at Dovenby Hall Hospital firstly as a student to become a RNMS nurse, ward sister and then nurse tutor. She then moved to the West Cumbria College to be a lecturer to Health and Community Study students. It was during this time that Jocelyn and Andrew were born. In 1984 the family moved to Papcastle.



Family holidays were spent in the UK or camping in Europe until 1985 when long haul holidays were started to places like Kenya, Sri Lanka, Florida, Egypt, India, Thailand, South America and Russia. After leaving university Jocelyn spent over two years in Kathmandu and Joan and Brian visited her there. She later toured Australia with Jocelyn. Travels continued with Brian to China, various African countries and Spain. Ocean and river cruises then became a regular feature of her travels.

With a busy family life she also managed to spend some time as clerk to Bridekirk, Dovenby, Tallentire Parish Council and served on the Village Hall committee. From 1984, Joan was fully involved in the life of St Bridget's church, Bridekirk. She played the organ for two years and fund-raised for the bells restoration. Every Sunday she would take three elderly ladies from Castle Gardens to church and helped them with their daily lives.

The next stage of her life began with the birth of two grand-daughters and then the only Merris boy, Jonathan. It pleased her no end that they all will be carefully watched over with an eagle eye by proud Auntie Jocelyn!

Joan died at home on Thursday 9th November of blood cancer after a long illness.

Community Energy

The Parish Council hosted a successful and informative event in the Village Hall in November. The entire village had been invited to this event about Community Energy and the Cockermouth Solar Made Easy launch. We were delighted over 40 residents of Papcastle and Belle Vue attended. We heard about Community Energy and the various ways it could be generated by speakers from CAFS (Cumbria Action for Sustainability), Cockermouth CAN Climate Action Network), Community Energy Cumbria and Little Clifton and Bridgefoot Climate Change Group. Three areas of potential interest were identified. These were setting up a company to generate renewable power using a proxy site, identifying land that could be used for a wind turbine or solar panels and looking at installing solar panels on the roof of the Village Hall, which is the sole community building asset. A Working Group was set up to look at these ideas in more detail and at our first meeting before Christmas we decided to focus on the Village Hall. Thank you to everyone for coming along to this event. If you missed the Solar Made Easy event and are looking for more information and advice on how you, as an individual householder can make your house more energy efficient please contact CAFS. Do remember that Papcastle is now included in the Cockermouth Solar Made Easy scheme:



<https://cafs.org.uk/solar-made-easy/>



Papcastle & Belle Vue Advent Windows 2023 (continued overleaf)

For a fourth year we have created a fantastical trail of lighted windows through our village, which started in the dark days before Christmas and ended as the New Year beckoned. The skills, talent and imagination that emerged were almost unbelievable. The variety of themes was mind boggling, from beautiful traditional Christmas trees, flying Santas, cross-eyed cacti, cheeky elves, and a first this year: interactive windows in the form of dingbats (answers below) and hooting cars! The secret judge (we've had a different one every year) chose Ordgarff's Christmas Main Street scene as the winner and Fern Cottage's Papcastle Sweet Shop as runner up. But it's not about the competition. People find great pleasure in following the trail - in spite of the rain this year. Those of you who took the trouble to light our village with such wonderfully imaginative displays all deserve our thanks. Well done!

Doreen

The winner Ordgarff



The Honking Window!



DINGBATS answers (number 18 at Roby Cottage). Reading left to right: midnight mass, grinch, snowball, frankincense, white Christmas, 3 wise men, peace on earth, rocking around the Christmas tree, tinsel, left over turkey, mistletoe kisses, last Christmas, opening presents, pigs in blanket, wrapping paper, presents under the Christmas tree, little donkey and 3 French hens.



Village Pub under New Management

Ben Henderson, the new owner of the business, comes to the Belle Vue from The Swinside Inn in Newlands Valley near Keswick, which he and his wife Sharon ran for 12 years. Manager Leah and most of the core staff have moved across to The Belle Vue. "We are also very lucky to have built up a team of local young people from Papcastle who are a lovely bunch and are a great help to us at The Belle Vue," says Leah.

Ben and Sharon also own a Pie Shop in Penrith, where all of the pies sold in the pub are homemade from scratch. (They currently offer a special Pie and Pint for £11.95 on a Tuesday night, which your Villager Editor can highly recommend!) They also have their own farm where they rear rare-breed Tamworth pigs. They place a big emphasis on farm-to-table produce and are proud to offer their own pork on the menu. They source their ingredients from local independent businesses such as Watson's Dairy and Harrison's Butchers.

"We wanted to make the shift from a restaurant to a local pub, which is a hub for the residents of Papcastle," says Leah. It's going well. They hosted our Christmas Merry Meet on 2nd December and took part in the Advent Window Trail. "The Christmas period was a big success for us and we certainly saw more locals popping in for a couple of drinks which is absolutely what we love to see. We've also hosted a few private functions since we opened which have been great."

Following the success of the Pub Quiz on the 28th December, they are keen to make it a regular event, possibly alternate Fridays. They are also planning a regular folk night (1st Wednesday of every month), where a group of talented local musicians come and play over a couple of beers, starting on 7th February.

Up to date information can be found on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bellevuepapcastle>.



Papcastle Advent Windows - the complete collection, in case you missed any. You could make this page into an advent calendar for next year! For a larger version—download a digital copy from the website www.papcastle.org.uk.



Parish Council Snippets

Your parish councillors met on 31st October 2023 and 2nd January 2024. Clearing of gullies, weeds in the village, cleaning the phone box/defibrillator, Fibrous installation, tree planting and green energy initiatives were discussed. Our County Councillor Helen Tucker was present and is always willing to liaise with Cumberland Council on our behalf in case of queries. A response from the Village residents to the following discussion point would be welcome:

Community owned Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Papcastle Parish Council have been contacted by a not-for profit community benefit society, Charge My Street (www.chargemystreet.co.uk), to promote their concept of community-owned electric vehicle charging points placed within communities for public access. Whilst they aim to part-fund installations through grants and matching sponsorship, much of the funding comes from the community through the purchase of shares in the company. One essential requirement is an accessible, public space on which to install the charger(s).

The Parish Council have considered this proposition, and although no suitable public space is immediately obvious in Papcastle or Belle Vue, it was decided to consult residents to gauge interest. Please pass any views and comments to David Johnson (jdj20@btinternet.com), Huw Morgan (morgansjh54@gmail.com) or any other Parish Councillor.

Full minutes with actions agreed are posted on the village notice boards once they have been approved.
Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. All welcome.



ST. BRIDGET'S, BRIDEKIRK
People of hope and love

All at St Bridget's wish Papcastle and Belle Vue a very Happy New Year!

Our regular monthly service pattern (all at 11am)

1st Sunday: Holy Communion
2nd Sunday: All Age worship
3rd Sunday: Morning worship
4th Sunday: Family worship
5th Sunday : Morning worship



We have encouraging news to report: Reverend Roy Anetts has recently retired from full time work, and moved, along with his wife Kate, into the Cockermouth area. He has joined the Grasmoor Mission Community team, and feels particularly led to ministering to us at Bridekirk. He will therefore be regularly, though not exclusively, leading our worship. Kate will be contributing to re-establishing our children's work. Roy has previously served God in the Birmingham area, and also St Andrews in Fife, and now feels very welcome here. We trust that God's peace will watch over us all in the coming times.

We'd love to see you at one of our services, which are typically up to one hour in length. We always do our best to make everyone feel welcome. All services are followed by a time for light refreshments and an informal chat.

You may also wish to try coming along to one of the following groups, who meet regularly in our church room, which is kept warm and comfortable throughout the year.

Bridekirk Craft Group:	Alternate Tuesdays 1.30-3.30 pm (call Margaret on 01900 821128)
Bridekirk Friendship Group:	Every Monday 10.30 am-12.00 pm Refreshment and fellowship for the more mature
Bridekirk Baby and Toddler Group:	Every Thursday 1.00-3.00 pm Activities for the children and time for a chat for parents.

Keep up to date with all our activities by following us on social media:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/stbridgetsbridekirk/>
Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/stbridgetsbridekirk/>
Or by e-mailing us at bridekirk_church@icloud.com

New to the Village and making a Splash!



Some of you may remember Basil and Hazel Sedgwick, who lived at Hillcrest, Belle Vue for over 60 years. Last summer, their grandson Duncan Fawcett and his wife Emma moved into Hillcrest, along with their children Ella (7) and Charlie (5). Duncan teaches PE at Keswick School, and Emma teaches at Jericho School in Whitehaven. Ella and Charlie have settled in well and are enjoying meeting other children at the village events and at Brownies, cheerleading and rugby. Duncan has wasted no time in getting out into the Lake District, fell running and swimming the Lakes to raise over £7,000 for charity. He shares this amazing story with us:

Last January, I made my New Year's resolution to swim all of the 14 swimmable lakes in the Lake District - Windermere, Ullswater, Derwentwater, Bassenthwaite, Coniston, Wastwater, Crummock, Buttermere, Grasmere, Loweswater, Rydal Water, Elterwater, Devoke Water and Brotherswater - to raise money for a charity which was assisting a friend of mine in his recovery from Leukemia. Harvey had required a bone marrow transplant and Anthony Nolan were able to find him a donor in America and arrange for the collection and transport of this donation.

Although I'm a confident swimmer, I'd only learnt front crawl 6 months earlier, so I knew it would be a challenge. At the time we were living in the south, so I trained in the pool a couple of times a week, with my long swims being in the Thames. We travelled up in March and April to do a couple of the smaller lakes such as Grasmere and Elterwater. Although the distance wasn't too difficult, the cold water was! Elterwater was made more difficult by me irritating a Swan, which took its irritation out on my head!!



By June, I had managed to increase the distance I could swim, completing Bassenthwaite in 1½ hours and Coniston Water, which took me about 2½ hours. By August, I'd completed Ullswater (a very cold and choppy 5½ hours) and Windermere (8 hours!!) and finished the swims up at Devoke Water along with my cousin Richard Bodecott. Windermere was the hardest, because it was difficult to take on enough nutrition to keep going for 8 hours. I also injured my shoulder 6 hours in which made it a pretty painful final 2 hours. The most beautiful swim was Buttermere, with Fleetwith Pike and Haystacks ahead and the High Stile range on the side I was breathing.

I had never really appreciated just how much of a team effort it would be. Without a team of kayakers (my brother Jamie and friend Rob), drivers (Mum and Dad) and my ever tolerant wife, I literally would not have got further than the pool! That's without mentioning the remarkable generosity of all of those who kindly gave their money to this charity. If you'd like to add to the money raised so far then thank you very much.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/duncan-fawcett-1682358527172>

Thanks to all of you for making us feel so welcome. We love it here and look forward to being a part of this community.



"The secret to a long life is chocolate!"

Congratulations to Ali's Grandmother Peggy who was 102 on Christmas Day! Peggy has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandsons, 2 of whom live on the Mount - Finn and Eli!

"The secret to a long life is chocolate, laughter and my family," says Peggy. And don't we all agree?!



Village Hall Diary Dates

To book contact Gill Conlon 01900 828360



The newly refurbished Village Hall is popular and well-used for parties, gatherings, sports activities and rehearsals. We now also have a table tennis table for village residents - book a session in the hall to use it.

Every Monday
6.30 - 7.30 pm

Keep Fit group recommences on Monday 8th January 6:30 to 7:30 all abilities and genders welcome, mostly working at your own place. Venue Village Hall. Please contact Tony for further details - tony.magorrian@googlemail.com

Every Friday
2-2.45 pm

New Year's Resolution! Keep fit with our brilliant **Zumba Gold** class held in the village hall on Fridays from 2pm until 2.45pm with Danielle Carson, who makes our classes fun and enjoyable. Phone 07975521789 for more details. £5.00

Every Saturday
Class times vary

Divas School of Dance. Classes for all ages in Ballet, Modern & Tap. Please contact M Williamson on 07512804184 for further details or email mandywilliamson72@yahoo.co.uk

Friday
19th January 2024
7.30 pm

Papcastle Lectures - The Antikythera Mechanism
By Mike Hind, former lecturer Lancaster university.
£3 on the door. BYOB, hot drinks available

Friday
23rd February 2024
7.00 pm

Malt Whisky Tasting 2024 hosted by Stephen Walker.
£25 per head, to include nibbles and exclusive whiskies. Numbers limited. Book via 07919 174788

Saturday
23rd March 2024
7.00 pm

Quiz and Chilli Supper Night
£10/head contact Hannah on WhatsApp: 07956780252 or hannahbradshaw1@gmail.com for tickets.



Fundraising event for Zak's expedition to Ecuador Saturday 23rd March



We'd like to invite anyone to come along to the Village Hall for a quiz and supper evening on £10/head for entry to the quiz, chilli supper and welcome drink. 7pm with quiz to start at 7.30pm. Teams of up to 6 people. Cash bar. Tickets by emailing Zak's mum: hannahbradshaw1@gmail.com or contact us through WhatsApp: 07956780252

The Papcastle Lectures

The Antikythera Mechanism

Our next Village Hall Talk will be on Friday 19th January - given by Mike Hind, former lecturer at Lancaster University. Mike will be introducing us to the Antikythera Mechanism - an ancient Greek hand powered orrery used to predict astronomical phenomena and believed to be the earliest example of the analogue computer! Do come along and join us. £3 on the door (includes cup of tea/coffee & biscuits) or bring your own booze. Starts 7.30 pm.



This colour copy of The Villager and the production costs for the year have been kindly funded by The Cockermouth & Papcastle Recreational Trust. Thanks go to all who contributed to this edition, especially Yvette for her work on the photos. If you have anything you would like to go in the next *Villager*, or a story you would like us to write for you, please email the editorial team, Jilly and Jacqui at papcastlevillager@gmail.com by 31st March.