

Autumn 2014

The Villager



Issue 35

Papcastle & Belle Vue Newsletter

Editorial:

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Villager. Sadly, a rather sober pair of centre pages this time, where we report the passing of two stalwarts of village life, Hazel Sedgwick and Joe Strong who will be much missed.

Elsewhere in this edition we've Elspeth White's "Derventio Diary" - recording the progress of the third and final Derventio Dig on the Broomlands site, I anticipate that we'll be able to bring you an overall summary of the entire Derventio project next year. I apologise for the smaller than usual size of the text in this article, but we didn't want to lose any of the details !

Despite chasing, we've nothing new to report on the M-Sport developments at Dovenby, other than that there seems to be growing opposition from Dovenby residents, pimarily about potential noise issues.

Strictly Kirkgate - with a little help from Papcastle



The 'Strictly Kirkgate' fundraising event which is being staged from 16th - 18th December, is significantly boosting Papcastle Village Hall bookings, where many of the rehearsals are taking place. The show, which is based on the popular TV series 'Strictly Come Dancing', will be the same on all three nights, but with a different audience voting for a winner each night.

Six local 'celebrities' (all novice dancers), have been paired with six experienced dancers and each couple will learn one Latin American and one Ballroom dance for the event. They will be showing off their steps in front of a panel of four well known local dance 'judges', before each audience chooses its favourite 'celebrity' dancer. The six couples now frantically learning their dance routines are - Papcastle's Phil Wood, composer, conductor and music teacher, who will be dancing the Samba and Ballroom Tango with Papcastle dancing instructor Gill Greenhalgh. (Photo left)

Cockermouth pub landlord Joe Fagan, will be dancing the Merengue and Waltz with Salsa instructor Julie Marcano-Olivier, from Club Latino.

Brigham based screen and TV actor Emma Rydal, will be dancing the Jive and Ballroom Tango with Barry Stoddart who, along with his wife Lori, run the Lake District Ballroom Dancing Studio in Portinscale.

Cockermouth School language teacher, Ali Millne, will be dancing the Jive and Foxtrot with Theatre by the Lake actor, dancer and choreographer, Keith Martin.

Retired Head Teacher, Laurie Mansfield, will be dancing the Cha Cha Cha and Foxtrot with Portinscale dance instructor Lori Stoddart

Finally, the Kirkgate General Manager, Kate Parry MBE will be dancing the Salsa and Waltz with Club Latino instructor Manuel Marcano.

View The Villager at www.papcastle.org.uk - click on 'Newsletter'

At the end of August, arrangements were in place for the last large scale dig of the Discover Derventio project with the digger beginning to remove top soil from a selected area of the Broomlands site. Mark Graham of Grampus Heritage and project leader for the three year lottery funded investigation, chose to return to this area to examine it in more detail than was possible in the 2010 dig. Notes from the third and final chapter in his diary appear below.(from Elspeth White!). Although this site is south of the river, it is still an important part of the Derventio vicus and fort and there would have been a river crossing somewhere at the foot of Sibby Brow.

27th August The glorious weather continues for the start of this dig, so mud is not a problem at present. Let's hope this continues. The digger will continue today, while our large band of 28 volunteers begin work on site. There are many familiar faces but it's great to see new ones and visitors from further afield as well. We are starting on an area close to the old railway line and where we have evidence of ditches and walls, from our earlier surveys.

A successful start, with one young visitor unearthing two Roman coins in his first dig! We have some 50 Roman coins already amongst the spoil heap from the top soil.

28th August. Dark lines in the soil, indicating some of the ditches, are beginning to show, together with the tops of some walls or stone structures. A wonderful and significant find today was a sandstone slab with a carving of a local deity (Genius loci). We found it face down on a pile of stones, which may be waste or remains of a building. The god will have been for the immediate area of either Broomlands, Derventio or Cockermouth.

1st September We have an area about 40m square to work on at present, with a gravel topped track running through it and evidence of a good ditch beside this. There are also large post holes beside the ditch on one side and a slope down to other buildings on the other side. Still wondering what all this means, we hope it will become clearer in the following weeks.

More pottery discovered, including a beautiful, decorated Samian (terra cotta pottery) ware bowl, mortaria and part of an amphora (large storage jar). It is interesting that much of this household ware is quite decorated, more so than items from the earlier digs.

3rd September The base of an amphora today, containing 4 coins. The area to the north of the track is showing several sites with red and black soil, evidence of burning, but probably domestic fires.

5th Sept A very successful first week, with good weather, good progress and many artefacts (including a glass bowl, in pieces and a penanular brooch with pin) – more than we found last year.

Sat 6th Sept New finds, on the western side of the site, include two possible cremations and indications of small, walled enclosures with burning, which could now be connected with funerary ritual rather than domestic. Busy week next week, with visitors booked on most days and the Open Day next Saturday.

10th Sept Part of a stone with inscription today. This is another significant find and one of the oldest pieces of writing found in Cockermouth. This could be part of a memorial or altar stone and mentions the IV Cohort.

Representative from the Lottery Fund visited today and was very impressed by the site, organisation, volunteers and finds – money well spent!



A significant find of a carving of a local god

12th Sept Group of dig volunteers from Eastern Europe on site today. They are part of the match funding connected with our Lottery Fund. They enjoyed helping with the dig and hearing about the project.

Beautiful carved rosette discovered, probably part of the cornice of an altar stone. Here we are at the end of week three and we have produced more questions than answers! We can be sure that the area closer to town, with the mill and iron workings was under military control, but not sure about the western area of the site. There is certainly evidence of ritual here.

Next week we plan to search for the river crossing towards Sibby Brow.

16 September. Digger busy today and, as hoped, we have found evidence of a stone structure that may be the foundation of a bridge. Really great news! The mill race is there (no timber evident) together with a stone wall, several large stones, an engraved stone and part of a statue. All will become clearer as we clean up this site.

19th Sept We are finding many ditches on the main site, but no real evidence of buildings. We will try to connect some of the ditches and examine them more closely.

23rd Sept We start the school visits, with two groups, this week. Lots of routine work continuing on the bridge site, hoping to find more bridge evidence either side of the initial abutment.

26th Sept We now have three enclosure ditches on the main site and a large pit consisting of broken roof tiles and window glass. This is evidence, at least, of a high status building, such as a temple, that has been lost under the old railway line or Low Road.



Potential base of bridge pillar

29th Sept We have had some exciting finds today – a small bronze deer and axe head and little oil lamp – all probably votive objects.
1st Oct We had the digger back today to look for more evidence of the bridge and have found stones that indicate a bridge pier. There are also post holes, containing wood and a large stone with shaped holes for pier supports. The use of parts of altars and statues as rubble, suggests that this bridge may not be the original one. There could be an earlier bridge site a little further west and away from the mill race. We probably won't have time to investigate this, unfortunately!

4th Oct. We had well over 50mm of rain overnight! So the bridge site is now filled with water and we can't reach the wooden post holes to take samples, as hoped, for dendrochronology.

8th Oct. This is the last week of the dig and we are busy drawing the site plans. I have a pump ordered for tomorrow and we hope to clear the bridge site to reach the wooden post holes for samples. We have not found many artefacts this week.

10th Oct Wet weather for the end of the dig, unfortunately. We have the pump working, but not sure if it is winning!

11th Oct Managed to reach the post holes and take wood samples. We then had to back fill this site before more rain or river water filled it. A soggy end to a successful dig, with 573 volunteer days, 280 school children and 100 visitors on Open Day. More information will appear on the Derventio website.

PARISH COUNCIL SNIPPETS

County Councillor Eric Nicholson and Borough Councillor Tony North attended the September meeting.

There was no Police report.

Councillor Nicholson reported on the withdrawal of bus service subsidies and the road works on Main street.

Councillor North reported on the Allerdale Local Plan and was due to attend the full Council meeting the following week.

No response received from the County Council regarding gulley emptying. Councillor Nicholson to follow this up.

Allerdale BC has had the dead tree on the Mount cut down and the Parish Council has been given permission to replace this.

Correspondence

The Parish Council has written to Allerdale BC in response to an application to fell all the remaining trees bar one, in the copse at Belle Vue. The trees are already subject to a Tree Preservation Order and their removal would have a considerable visual impact on the hamlet. They are also the habitat of a variety of wildlife, including red squirrels, owls and bats.

Planning Applications

Addition of porch to house at Garden View

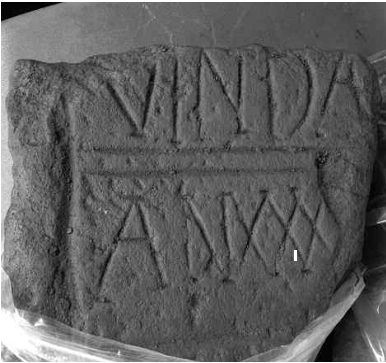
Planning Appeal

Wind Turbine at West House Farm, Dearham, has been allowed on appeal.

The planted wheelbarrow near the notice board in the centre of the village is falling apart. Robert Jackson has offered to replace this with a tub.

Parish Audit

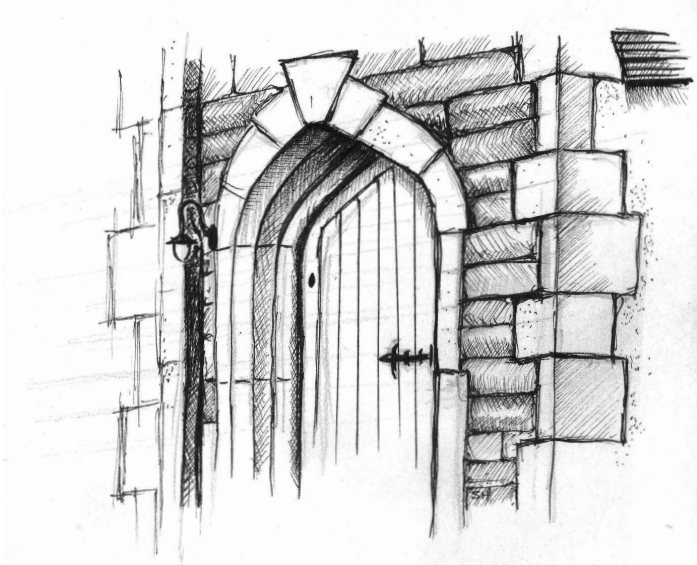
No issues have been highlighted in the District Audit.



Some of the smaller finds from this year's Broomlands dig

Can you Identify this ?

In the Summer edition of the Villager, we reported on some of Oak Cottage resident Simon Holding's work in pen and ink drawings of buildings and features around the village. Reproduced below is one of Simon's studies, can you spot where it is ? - no prizes, just some satisfaction !



Hazel Evelyn Sedgwick 1929 - 2014

Hazel was born in 1929 at Wordsworth Terrace, Cockermouth. She was an only child. She went to Fairfield School and then to Cockermouth Grammar School in 1941. Hazel and Basil knew each other at school but they went their separate ways – Hazel to Edge Hill Teacher Training College and Basil to do his Army service.

Hazel came back to Cockermouth to teach at Fairfield, Isel, All Saints and Broughton Moor Schools. She went on to become a Deputy Head.

After Basil was de-mobbed, they met again at The Grammar School's Old Scholars' Reunion. He remembers that she was the first person he saw and she was wearing a blue and black taffeta dress. She taught Basil to dance and they danced every dance that night. They fell in love and were married at All Saints Church in 1951, settling here in Belle Vue.

Hazel will be remembered for many things – she was a regular church-goer at Bridekirk, providing lovely baking for any of the social events. She was a wonderful cook; her deep-freeze would be stocked with hot pots and soups before anyone came to stay. She would be there at almost every event at the Village Hall with a tray of meringues or some other delicious sweet. Hazel was the Secretary for the Papcastle and Belle Vue Conservative Association, arranging their annual 'do's'. She was also Secretary of The Grammar School's Old Scholars' Association, arranging annual reunions and hockey and tennis matches for former pupils. She loved flowers and flower arranging and was a talented seamstress – sewing, knitting and quilting. She also had a great love of sport – badminton, swimming (she was a life-saver), hockey and tennis and followed cricket and rugby.

She will also be remembered for her style. She had very good taste in clothes and always looked immaculate. Basil remembers going to the races at Carlisle with the picnic table set out with champagne to the fore and in particular the preparations before going to the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. The search for 'the' hat to match the blouse took them all over Cumbria but she found the right one eventually here in Cockermouth!

Hazel was a devoted wife to Basil for nearly 64 years and she took great delight in her daughter Lesley and grand-children Duncan, Rebecca and Jamie. She will be remembered for her smile, her words of encouragement and for her friendship and dedicated teaching.

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Joe Strong 1926 - 2014

Joe was born in Dovenby where he lived with his parents and elder brother Willis. His mother died when Joe was nineteen and when his father eventually remarried, the twins Ian and Gillian were born. Joe's father and stepmother emigrated to Australia in 1964 and his father died there in 1966.

The Strongs were a farming family, and this saw them living in Eaglesfield and then Langrigg. It was on a bike ride from Langrigg through Papcastle that Joe met Mary Jackson for the first time. This first meeting was the start of a relationship of some 70 years and Joe and Mary were married in St Bridget's Church 65 years ago. They began their married life together in Mary's family home, Croft House, where their son Jackson was born and brought up.

Joe had farming in his blood. He was a good stockman, who showed and judged Friesians and had the honour of being invited to Judge at the Royal Show in Cambridge. He was also a keen gardener, as anyone who had the pleasure of seeing his garden would testify. Being very much part of the Papcastle community, Joe happily opened his and Mary's garden to the public, as part of the garden trail to raise funds for the village hall.

He and Mary always supported local events, such as the summer barbeque and the Christmas mulled wine evening, and until the outbreak of Foot and Mouth, they delivered milk throughout the village, even on the morning and evening of their wedding day!



Joe was a Mason and a member of the Skiddaw Lodge for 48 years. He thoroughly enjoyed his time there and the long standing friendships which were made.

Papcastle is a poorer place for the loss of Joe's friendship, neighbourliness and dry sense of humour.

Castle Gardens Tuesday Group

Castle Gardens residents and friends meet every Tuesday morning for coffee and a chat in the communal lounge. One of the Tuesday mornings in July was organised by Dorothy Jackson from High Mount, as a fundraising event for Jigsaw, Cumbria's Children's Hospice and the BBC Radio Cumbria Appeal. The Appeal was hoping to raise £80,000 to fund three life changing projects for children across Cumbria. Dorothy and her friends raised the grand total of £250 and it is thanks to support such as theirs that the target was reached in half the time, hopefully allowing the outreach programme to care for more families across Cumbria.

Another fundraising coffee morning took place on Tuesday 14th July, this time as part of the Macmillan Appeal. Residents and friends again showed their generosity by raising £100 for this worthwhile cause.

If you would like to call in for a coffee on Tuesday mornings, you would be made very welcome.

Save our bus! -

Residents of Castle Gardens along with other villagers, have sent a letter and petition to West Cumbria Bus Users Group, concerning the possible loss of a service through the village, due to withdrawal of fare subsidies by Cumbria County Council.

Parish Walk

This year's Parish Walk took place on Sunday 14th September. Led by David Johnson of Belle Vue, 11 walkers set out on a route that followed the old Roman Road north out of the village (see the Summer edition of the Villager) towards Priest's Bridge. Phil Campbell was able to show us the section of sunken road that it's hoped can be restored and re-paved.

Returning down the course of Broughton Beck and crossing the Papcastle-Broughton road at Paplava, we continued down the line of the old railway embankment to the Derwent, following it upstream on the north bank back to the centre of the village.

Despite mediocre weather, we didn't get wet, although the permanent threat was enough to keep the pace brisk !

Thanks to Brian Merris for bringing a camera, and to Ray Day for actually standing behind the lens.



Parish Walkers - courtesy of Brian Merris' camera, and Ray Day's finger on the button !

Off To Uni !

This year, three students living in Belle Vue/Papcastle will be heading off to university!

Emily Douglas of Dovers Lane is off to Lancaster to study Medicine and Surgery.

Clare Mooney of Belle Vue is going to Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen to do Adult Nursing.

Matthew Beresford of The Mount is going to Imperial College, London to study Mechanical Engineering.

Congratulations and best wishes to all three.



Changing Places

This summer the village has welcomed several new families/residents

Claire Travis and Mike Edgar recently moved into Dene Cottage and are enjoying being in Papcastle after living in South Street. For many years the cottage has been part of Riverdene, so is causing some headaches for delivery men as it does not feature on the village map! Mike is manager of JD Sports in Workington and Claire is based at Westlakes Park, but in their spare time they look forward to getting to know more of Papcastle and their neighbours. Their two cats Lilly and Grace are still settling in.



The Pekarek family has moved into 49, The Mount. Ben, Ali and three year old Finley are enjoying their sunny garden in addition to being in Papcastle, having moved from Seascale. Ali will be starting maternity leave in December and hopes to have time to meet other mothers and toddlers - a growing number in the village!

There are two more under tens living at The Cottage, opposite the phone box. Jim and Suching Jordan have moved in from Bristol, with their two children, daughter Xiao and younger son Wen-wen.

The Johnson family have not left the area. Robert, Diane and daughters Lucy and Katy (featured in the Villager last summer), together with their Czech wolfdog, Kochise, have just moved up the road from 49 to 31 The Mount.

A Family Tradition !

Sophie Wilson who lives on The Mount was continuing a family tradition when she was appointed Head Girl of Cockermouth School this year. Her brother, Sam, was Head Boy three years ago and her father was the first Head Boy of this school, thirty years ago. Sophie is already busy with her duties which include school council meetings, the sixth form committee, open evenings for primary school children and Governors' meetings. She is also involved in a project to encourage brighter primary pupils to improve their Maths and English. She is enjoying all these duties in addition to her A level studies in English Language, Geography and Performing Arts. Next year, she hopes to continue her studies in English Language at university.



REGULAR VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

Mahjong Monday 2-5pm	Brian Wilkinson <i>All year except public holiday</i>	01900 829490
Keep fit Monday 6.30-7.30pm	Tony McGorrian <i>School term only</i>	01900 64632
Life Art Tuesday mornings	Susan Fleming <i>Fortnightly all year</i>	01900 823543
Parish Council 1 st Tuesday evening	David Johnson <i>Bi monthly</i>	01900 822163
Words out West Wednesday 7.35pm >	Martin Chambers <i>Last Wednesday each month</i>	01900 823882
Sewing Group Thursday 2-4.30pm	Marilyn Pickthall <i>Weekly</i>	01900 828944
Line Dancing Fridays afternoons	Carol Smith <i>Weekly</i>	01900 821590



Village Hall Bookings:

Rose Rowlands
Telephone 01900 828941

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

MULLED WINE, MINCE PIES AND MORE

Papcastle Village Hall, Saturday 13th December at 7.30pm. Tickets £6.

If you have any donations of raffle prizes in advance, please contact Peter Broad on 01900 826386.

TIDY / PRUNE THE VILLAGE HALL GARDEN

Sunday 7th December, 1 pm, followed by tea and cakes at 3.30 pm.

Everyone welcome, especially new arrivals in the village. Please bring tools and gloves.

CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Sunday 14th December, a party will be held in the village hall for under fives and their parents from 2pm - 4pm. There will be crafts, singing and games and a visit from Santa !

Tickets are free and can be obtained by calling Rose Rowlands on: 01900 828941.

What's on at St Bridget's Church, Bridekirk:

Age UK lunch every Monday 12.00 - 2.30pm in the Church Room.

Baby Club every Wednesday 1.00 - 3.00pm in the Church Room.

Christmas Services.

Nine Lessons and Carols.
Sunday 21st December at 6.30 pm.

Crib Service.
Wednesday 24th December at 4.30 pm.

Service of Holy Communion.
Wednesday 24th December at 11.30 pm.

Service of Holy Communion.
Thursday 25th December at 8.00 am.

Castle Gardens.

Carol Service at Castle Gardens.
Sunday 7th December at 3.00pm.

Bridekirk Dovenby School.

Nativity in Church.
Monday 15th December at 6.00pm.

Red Squirrel Update

Those of you who regularly see Red squirrels in your garden may have seen fewer of them recently. This is because there has been so much natural food readily available to them. However, it is important to top up the feeders through the Winter months.

Sadly, there have been three reported deaths of reds in the village in recent months as a result of being run over. Please be aware and extra vigilant when driving through the village.

There have been several reported sightings of greys in the village which are being dealt with by Allerdale Red Squirrel Group.

If you would like to help support the local group in any way, please contact **Clare Broad** on **01900 826386**. Red squirrel calendars for 2015 are also available to purchase by calling this number.



The Villager

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Please contact any of the editorial team with your contribution for the next edition before 31 January 2015