

Winter 2017

The Villager



Issue 47

Papcastle & Belle Vue Newsletter

New Editor needed !

Having edited *The Villager* for nearly four years now, I have come to the conclusion that it's time for me to step down as editor. I'm proposing to complete one more issue after this one (Spring 2018) but then would like to hand over the reins to someone else; when I took over from Greg Greenhalgh I thought I'd do 2 years, the Spring edition will be my fourth anniversary!

There are some changes to the rest of the Editorial team too, Clare Broad has decided to leave the team after many years of sterling service and in the longer term, Jill Coyle will be looking to reduce her involvement. In the immediate future however, I'm sure Jill and Elspeth White will continue to do a magnificent job, unearthing and writing most of the stories and articles we print, and drawing in contributions from villagers. I'd like to extend my thanks to all three of the team for the effort they've put in, and for making the editorial role pretty easy.

I suspect many people might find the idea of editing a newsletter a bit daunting, I certainly did, and was rather concerned about learning to use the publishing software we've been using for the last eight years or so. (called QUARK) In fact, it hasn't proved too difficult, and although I'm sure I'm not using it to its capacity, anyone familiar with a modern text programme like Word or Open Office could easily manage it.

Despite the history, it may however be time for a more radical modernisation of the way *The Villager* is produced, both in the Editorial and practical aspects: splitting the editorial role between one person to guide the compilation and writing, and someone else to do the technical stuff might be an option, certainly the format could be re-designed to make use of a different production programme. The actual printing couldn't be easier, all that's needed is to send the eight pages of text and photos as PDF files to Firpress in Workington, and 200 paper copies arrive two days later and are distributed by the team, - the bill goes to the Village Hall Trustees who fund the production.

I'm happy to talk through the process, and demonstrate how an edition is put together to anyone interested in taking on this worthwhile enterprise.

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4 The Mount

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

BIKING IN THE 1970s by a Village resident

Some years ago, Ted Hayton, who lived at Perth Cottage, wrote an article about riding a motorbike in the 1930s. So what was it like in the 1970s?

In the early 1950s my dad was given a Cyclemaster, a heavy weight push bike with a 32cc two stroke engine in the back wheel. All motorbikes, no matter the size, were classified as “Motor Bicycles”.

After I passed my car test, Dad suggested that I should take the bike test, on the grounds that “it could be useful someday”. It was a farce. Name a few road signs, pot-pot along the road and turn a couple of comers with the hand signals and stop. I passed! I was then legally able to drive a 170mph Vincent “motor bicycle” and go and kill myself!

In 1970 petrol reached the exorbitant price of ten bob (shillings)/gallon (50p)! Folk said “I am not paying that, I’ll give up driving”. My car did about 35mpg. A bike would do 85mpg and as I already had a licence I wouldn’t have to take the new, much stricter, tests. So I bought a new Honda 400/4. Bikes, especially the new Japanese ones, were far more sophisticated than my “pot-pot”. They had electric starters, disc brakes, six gears, indicators, car style headlights and a top speed of 115mph. Oddly, that was the only thing folk asked me - “How fast will the bike go?”. I had no idea as I had never tried to find out.

There were dangers. You had to read the road surface as loose gravel on a corner, raised and wet manholes and even a wet white line could make the back wheel slip. In your car there’s a steel shell around you, but on a bike its just you. The main danger was cars. Riding with my headlight full on all the time, car drivers just didn’t see me, as car drivers look for other cars, not bikes.

At junctions you were always watching the joining road and planning where to go if any cars didn’t stop. One night one didn’t stop. It was at the Whitehaven and Cockermouth/Workington junction, before the roundabout was built. He just drove straight out in front of me and I missed by a few inches, as I went across the road. Luckily there was nothing coming the other way. I came off once, in Maryport, when a large dog ran out of an alley straight into my front wheel. The dog ran off, leaving me with bruises, a dislocated thumb and £400 damage to my bike.

I rode the Honda bike for twenty years, until I retired. Did I ever ride anything bigger? I rode a 1200cc Harley Davidson once, for about two miles. I was very careful as it wasn’t mine and cost thousands of pounds!

On every biker’s headstone there should be the words “Sorry mate, didn’t see you”.

Th’owd Lad.

(the author wishes to remain anonymous but may be contacted via the Editor)



!!! VILLAGE HALL !!!

As a community, Papcastle and Belle Vue has for a number of years supported the Christmas, Summer and other events based in and around the Village Hall. It would be nice to come together more often, to help maintain and promote this community spirit. If you or your family have any ideas how we could use the hall to greater effect, your ideas and/or your efforts would be very welcome.

You can contact any of the hall trustees, or the Villager editorial team who would pass your ideas on, or even offer to help!

The Villager team is aware of several resignations among the Village Hall Trustees: new volunteers will be needed!

Parish Council Snippets

Representatives from United Utilities gave an update on the ongoing pipeline installation, with indications of timescales, it’s expected that the pipeline construction work will be complete by October 2021, with it fully in use by October 2022. More locally, United Utilities expect that the pipes running past the village down to the River Derwent would be complete by March 2018, although the recent wet weather may well have delayed work. There will be a planned closure of Papcastle Road (between Papcastle and Great Broughton) over the period 5th to 9th February 2018.

United Utilities also made reference to a proposed Legacy Fund intended to provide grants to communiites for remedial work resulting from the pipeline works. This is expected to receive the first applications in early December, with the first meeting to consider applications in March.

The meeting was attended by County Councillor Rebecca Hanson and by Borough Councillor Janet Farebrother.

Parish Council Vacancies

A letter of resignation has been received from Peter Broad. This has been reported to Allerdale Borough Council and the vacancy has been advertised. If parishioners have not requested an election by November 22nd the Parish Council can co-opt a new councillor. This is now the second vacancy, and the Chair-man asked Councillors to consider names to put forward as possible replacements.

Peter has also resigned as Vice Chairman and as a Lamplugh Hall Trustee. Huw Morgan was proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman and was duly elected. Ian Trohear was elected as a Lamplugh Hall Trustee.

Brian Merris was proposed and seconded, to serve on the Cockermouth and Papcastle Recreational Trust for the next three years.

Matters Arising

Allerdale Borough Council to carry out work on trees on The Mount, particularly the storm damaged cherry and the low branches outside No 59.

The wall at Grey Abbey has now been repaired.

Belle Vue landscaping area has been tidied by Cumbria County Council.

A book token had been sent to Eric Apperley in appreciation of his work on the village website, and Eric had written a letter of thanks.

The bus shelter at Belle Vue has been vandalised with the removal of perspex and the frame damaged. The Parish Council will arrange repairs

It was agreed to apply to have the kerb dropped at Castle Gardens as part of the Inclusive Mobility Budget. Brian Merris raised the issue of road sweeping in the village on Sundays, because of the difficulty of access due to parked cars.

By-Pass Speed Limit

With the help of Councillor Weston, representatives of the Parish Council have met with Cumbria Highways to discuss improving signage for the temporary speed limit of 40mph on the Papcastle By-Pass. C Highways agreed that improvements could be made, and will be installing additional repeater discs, and a yellow warning notice at both ends of the section of road affected. The restriction is likely to be in force until the end of United Utilities’ drilling operations.

CASTLE GARDENS, THEN AND NOW

Since the early days of the Romans and their Derwentio fort on the hill above the River Derwent, this plot of land has seen many changes. The first Roman fort around AD122 on this site was of timber, and was later rebuilt in stone. Once the the Romans left the site became derelict apart from a hermit said to have lived among the ruins for several years! (The old Norse word for hermit is 'papi' which may be the origin of the name Papcastle) With the arrival of the Normans the stone from the fort is believed to have been used in the building of Cockermouth Castle.

Many hundreds of years later the old fort site was used as a market garden and allotments and in 1912 and 1961 archaeological digs were carried out locating the Commandants quarters, the bath house and the entrance gateway.

It was in 1962 that the 16 bungalows for retired people, now known as Castle Gardens, were built by Cockermouth Rural District Council.

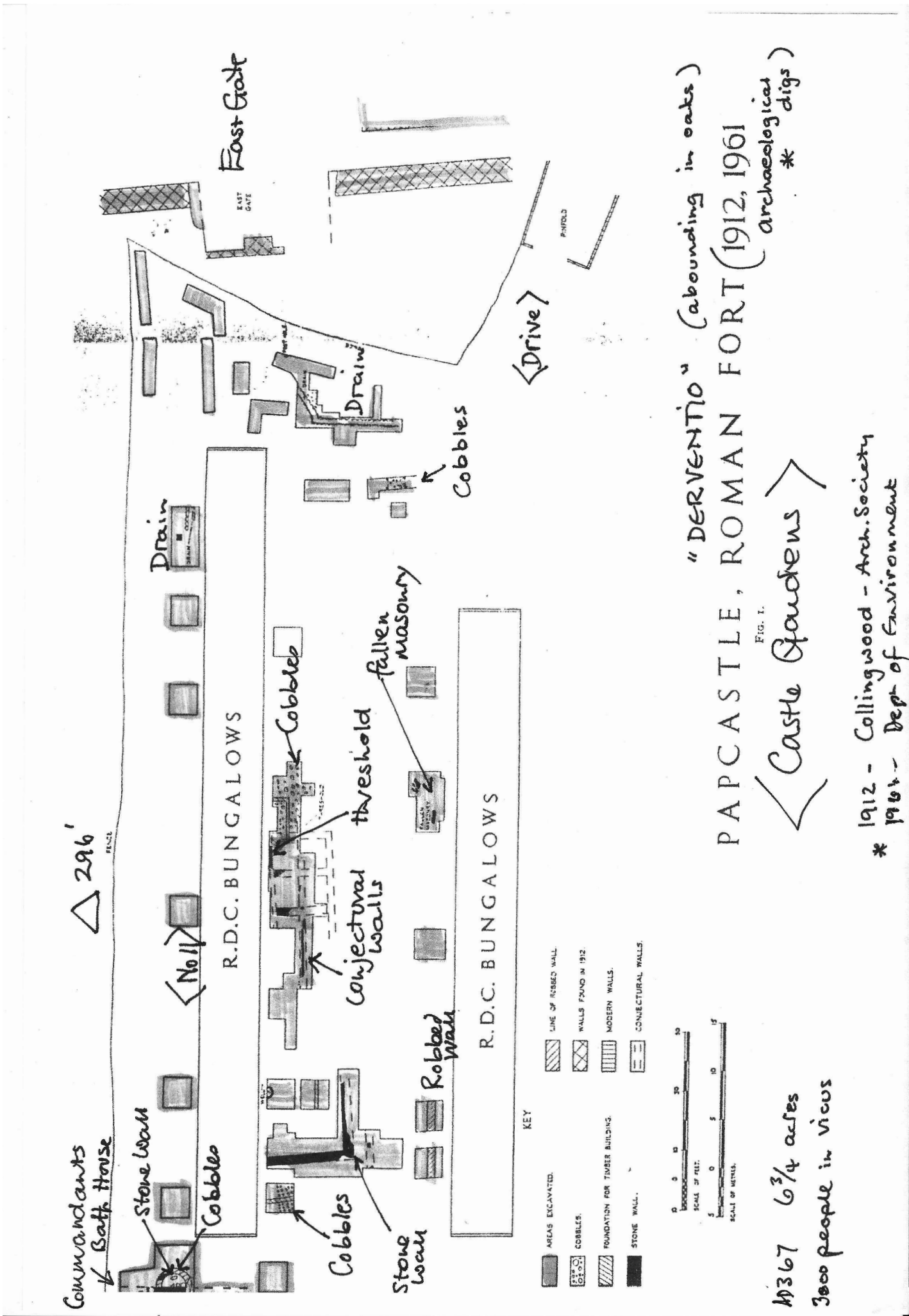
These bungalows have been managed by the local housing association @Derwent and Solway' in the past but from summer 2017 management has been transferred to a newly-formed organisation 'Castles and Coasts Housing Association' based in Carlisle.

A resident

See the hand-annotated map on Page 5 for the major finds made in 1912 and 1961



Castle Gardens now



Emergency only

The landmark telephone box on the corner of the Mount isn't what it seems. O₂ (nee British Telecom) has for several years been undertaking a programme of removing 'phone boxes where usage has been so low as to not justify maintenance. Unfortunately, our only box in the village, at the corner of The Mount alongside No 59 was deemed surplus to requirements, there having been no significant calls made from it for some time. After considering that it should be converted to house a Heart Defibrillator, the Parish Council have persuaded O₂ that it should be retained as an Emergency Only call box. So, whilst it won't take or make routine calls, and won't accept money, it **can** be used for 999 calls for emergency services, just in case that mobile doesn't work.



Pauline Martin



The magazine was very popular, and Polli made sure the pensioners were involved as much as possible, by printing articles which they had written and by setting quizzes. A Cockermouth post office box number was used for replies and on one occasion a letter addressed to 'The Fishy Quiz, Cockermouth' was delivered correctly as Polli was very well known locally.

The last two years of her life were difficult due to illness and pain, but she showed tremendous fortitude and spirit throughout. Polli had a kind and caring nature both for people and animals, and will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

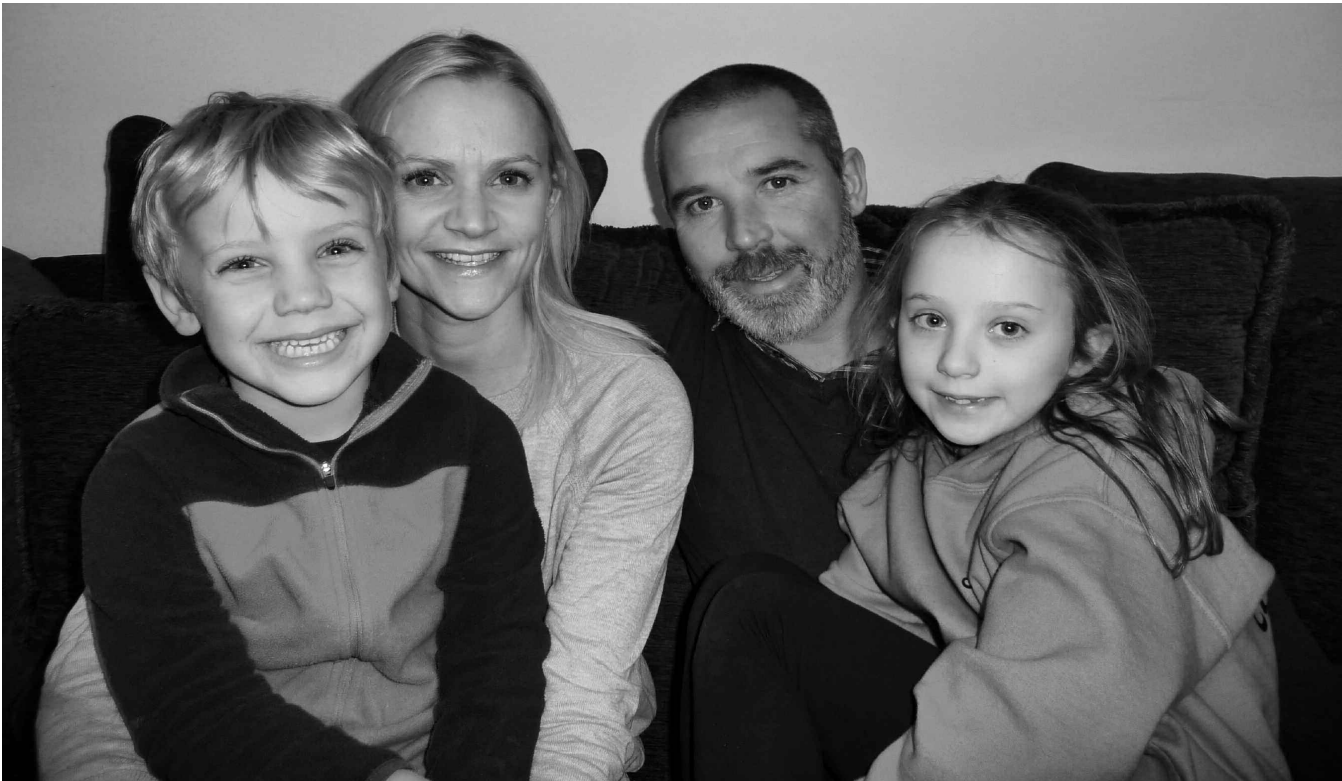
Once again we are sad to report the recent passing of another longstanding Papcastle resident, Pauline Martin of Fellbarrow, and extend our condolences to her husband John and their extended family.

Pauline (known to many as Polli) and John met while working for the same company in St Albans and they married in 1968.

They moved up to Cumbria in 1991 to enable John to take up a position with a local company, Fischer and Porter, for whom he was already working out of their London office. Polli was still working for the London based wine company, Diageo, publishing a quarterly magazine for their Pensions Department, a job she was able to continue doing from home.

New Cumbrians in the Village

New residents in Ordgarff



The Hewitson family moved into Ordgarff during the summer. They have come from across town at Caldecote Avenue where they had spent the last 8 years, have settled in nicely and are enjoying the peace and quiet and lovely views across the river. Tony works at Direct Rail Services in Carlisle and Nichola at West Cumberland Hospital. Molly and Henry both attend Fairfield school where Henry is in Year 1 and Molly in Year 4. Molly is a keen Cheerleader and spends most of her time upside down or back to front. Henry enjoys Rugby and most outdoor activities. The family were lucky to know several villagers before the move and have been made extremely welcome by all of their neighbours. They look forward to many happy village years ahead.

Photo shows from Left to right: Henry, Nichola, Tony and Molly.

Milestone Restoration



Terry Moore, a member of the Carlisle and District Civic Trust, has undertaken a restoration programme of milestones on roads between Carlisle, Wigton, Cockermouth and Allonby. Local parishes have authorised this programme, and donated funds for the cleaning, restoration and painting. In the 1750s, Turnpike Trusts which controlled toll roads, were required by law to erect milestones indicating the distance between the main towns on the road. The legacy of these Trusts is the network of roads that still form the framework of the main road system in Britain. In addition, many roadside features such as our milestone have survived. Terry has restored at least twenty milestones, many of which are Grade II Listed. This summer he restored the Papcastle Grade II Listed milestone, which would have been erected in the late 18th or early 19th century. This sits on Gote Brow, which would have been part of the old road going past the pub at Belle Vue. Our stone is not particularly easy to spot, and sits back near the hedge, a little below the bus shelter. In a letter to the Parish Council, Terry said that he had enjoyed the work and hoped that it would be respected and enjoyed by the community.

47 The Mount

After 2 years spent transforming 47, The Mount, the Fennell family moved in earlier this year. James is at Sellafeld and Gail a Reception/Primary school teacher. They are also kept busy with 2 year old Rowan and Boris, the labrador (who had not a blond hair on him!). The family is delighted to have found a home in the quiet and convenient cul-de-sac and look forward to developing their gardening skills when spring arrives. They are getting to know the neighbours and Gail has already been invited onto the village BBQ group.



REGULAR VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

Latin Formation Monday Morning	Gill Greenhalgh <i>Weekly</i> (http://u3asites.org.uk/cockermouth)	
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
Parish Council 1 st Tuesday evening	David Johnson <i>Bi monthly</i>	01900 822163
Yoga Thursday 6.30-8.00pm	Pat Irving	07962127812
Line Dancing Friday afternoons	Carol Smith <i>Weekly</i>	01900 821590

Village Hall Bookings:
Rose Rowlands
01900 828941



Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

The Mulled wine evening will be held on 10th December, 7.30 pm at the village hall. Tickets are priced £6 (including a free glass of mulled wine, mince pies and nibbles) and are available from Derwent Lodge Cottage (821478).

Village Hall Trustees

Peter Broad 826386	Carolyn Otley 821204
Joan Merris 823282	Ian Trohear 823680
Rose Rowland 828941	Bob Henderson 821478
Robert Jackson 827071	Carol Henderson 821478
Doreen Bertram 826196	



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

Age UK lunch every Monday 12 noon - 2.30pm in the Church Room

Bell ringing practice every Monday at 7.30pm. Details from Richard Green 01900 824311

Baby to pre-school club every Wednesday 1pm-3pm in the Church Room. Details from Mary Stothard 01900 823395.

Usual Monthly Services

Services at 11am

1st Sunday	Holy Communion and Sunday School
2nd Sunday	All Age Service
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion and Sunday School
4th Sunday	Morning Prayer and Sunday School

Additional Services

Christmas at St Bridget's

Sunday 17 th December

Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm

Christmas Eve

Crib Service 4.30 pm
Midnight Communion 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Holy communion 8.00 am



The Villager is compiled and edited by Huw Morgan e-mail: morgansjh54@gmail.com
please contact any of the editorial team with your contribution for the next edition before 28 February 2018
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