

Spring 2015

The Villager



Issue 37

Papcastle & Belle Vue Newsletter

Editorial:

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Villager! In this edition we've contributions from Phil Campbell on a new circular walk which can start and end in the village, from David Bromley on the second volume of his book about the Duke of Wellington and connection with the village, and sadly, from Bill Mavir, remembering his mother Elsie. Instead of the usual Parish Council Snippets, we've an extract of the Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report and appropriately for this time of year, some reminiscences of VE day in Cockermouth, - look out for the snails! Unfortunately, this all means we've been a bit pushed for space, and so the report on Mark Graham's final talk on the Derwentio finds has had to be held over until the next issue. Thanks as always to the writing team of Jill Coyle, Clare Broad and Elspeth White.

VE Day Remembered

The 8th May 2015 saw the 70th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War in Europe - VE Day.

In Papcastle, Mary Strong recalls how her school years were disrupted by the war, as her school in Cockermouth had to be shared with evacuees from the Newcastle area. This meant that half the day was allocated for local children's education and half for the evacuees.

Strict rationing was very much a part of life, and villagers would come to the farm door with jugs, into which Mary would carefully pour their ration of milk.

The milk was separated every day and the cream kept for a week to make butter, which they sold throughout the war years along with margarine and lard. Each had to be strictly weighed before being exchanged for ration coupons, which in turn had to be passed on to the Ministry of Food.

Every Wednesday without fail, the butter churn would be dragged into the yard and Mary tasked with its constant turning. In the hot summer months, Mary remembers collecting ice from the hospital to put under the slate on which their dairy produce stood. Petrol was rationed too and the twice daily deliveries were all done on foot.

Bernard Bradbury in his 'History of Cockermouth' has an interesting story about Italian POWs who collected snails to eat whilst working on farms in the Papcastle area. Papcastle was apparently the only place they had found the kind of edible snail which was familiar to them in Italy. Bradbury suggests a link with the Roman occupation in Papcastle and mentions Whellan's comment of 1860 that:

The large edible snail (Helix Pomatia) is said to be common in the adjoining hedges and may have been introduced by the Romans as an article of diet.



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The following extracts are from the West Cumberland Times:

9th May 1945:

Surrender of Germany, by Land, Sea and Air. Our duty now is to those who gave us Peace in Europe. After years of waiting, of praying, years for many marred by bitter losses, at long last our faith and fortitude are rewarded by news which heralds the re-establishment of peace in Europe.

12th May 1945:

At a Town Hall meeting on 9th May, a 'Welcome Home' fund was opened for the benefit of local Servicemen and women.

A resolution was passed on the 9th May by Cumberland County Council, that the problem of shortage of manpower for our harvest could be solved by employing the German Prisoners of War in Cumberland.

Shelter as a Bandstand.

Cockermouth did not celebrate VE Day so much as, on Monday night, they celebrated the fact that the morrow was to be VE Day! Mr 'Billy' Bowman, the dance band leader, with his piano accordion, made one of the air-raid shelters in the Main Street his bandstand while until nearly midnight, a crowd of young folk danced on the roadway below. On Thursday afternoon Mr Bowman led a parade of singing, dancing, flag-waving children with a few soldiers and older folk up the street.

With thanks to Eric Apperley, Gloria Edwards, Mary Strong and the Cockermouth Heritage Group.



Helix Pomatia - the Roman snail

VILLAGE HALL AGM

Peter Broad (Trustees) chaired the meeting that was attended by the grand total of eleven trustees and members.

He reported another good year although there was a £530 deficit in funds this year. This was due to essential repairs to the roof at the rear of the hall, which cost more than the original estimate, as the rot was found to be more extensive than originally thought.

There is a small amount of wet rot near the door of the disabled toilet, that will require repair in the coming year. Income was boosted by use of the hall for rehearsals for the "Strictly Kirkgate" event and by the ever popular summer barbeque. More regular bookings would be a great benefit.

The new cleaning lady is proving satisfactory and reliable. The trustees have agreed to purchase a defibrillator, pending additional funding for it to be fitted in an outside box.

All the present trustees were re-appointed unopposed: Peter Broad, John Burrows, Bob Henderson, Carol Henderson, Robert Jackson, Joan Merris, Carolyn Otley, Rose Rowlands, Ian Trohear and Michael White.

David Johnson thanked all the Trustees for their excellent work, during the year.

Quiz night at the Village Hall

On Saturday, 21st March around 60 people attended the 'Pie and Peas and Quiz night' at the Village Hall. It was great to see many familiar faces but also some newcomers and people from outside the village, including several children.

The Quizmaster for the night was Peter Broad with Carol Henderson and Debbie Rushton serving food, Bob Henderson and David Rushton on the bar and Clare Broad on the raffle.

To start with there was a picture round of "Celebrity Chefs" and a "Name the Wainwrights" round which was a mixture of anagrams and clues.

After this the food was served, including some delicious desserts made by willing volunteers. Then on to the quiz proper with three different rounds including general knowledge and "what's in the news ?".

The overall winners of the quiz were "The Uppers and Lowies" made up of Peter and Elaine French, Adrian and Jill Coyle and Brian and Anne Watson. They achieved 70 points out of a possible 100, closely followed by the runners up on 69 and a half points and third place on 68 and a half points, a very close-run thing!

The winners were presented with a prize of bottles of wine and the runners up received Easter eggs.

The first prize in the raffle was won by Peter French with another won by Elaine (a good night for them!) and several other prizes followed.

A really good night was had by all, ending at about 11pm. One person did say it was more challenging than University Challenge! But generally everybody was happy.

Thank you to all those involved, for coming and supporting this event and providing delicious desserts and raffle prizes.

Elsie Mavir 1921 - 2015

Elsie was born at Broughton Moor to Miles and Mary Wright. Soon after, the family moved to Smithy Yard Great Broughton. There Elsie grew up with her parents and elder brother, Jack. Miles was a coal miner at Buckhill Pit but any spare time he had was spent growing fruit and vegetables in his garden and rearing poultry and the occasional pig at his allotment. Money might have been scarce, but there was no shortage of good food.

Elsie was an out-going child and became involved with the church, the Methodist chapel, the Baptist Chapel, various Sunday Schools, the Band of Hope (a temperance society), amateur dramatics, the carnival, and several choirs – in fact anything and everything that was going on in the village.

She was a bright enthusiastic scholar but at age 14 her school days ended. Grammar school was out of the question, she had to earn her keep and start looking for work – hard to come by in the mid-thirties. Along with over 30 other hopefuls she applied for a job as a shop assistant at the Co-op in Cockermouth. Elsie was successful; the only one to get 100% in the mental arithmetic test!

In November 1939, she met Kenneth Mavir, who lived in Brigham. Six weeks later, in January 1940, Ken was called up to the army, and soon after Elsie enrolled as a nurse. She spent most of her nursing career looking after wounded service-men and the victims of air-raids on Birmingham. Elsie and Ken were able to meet up for only two half-days before Ken was shipped off to serve in West Africa, and from there, 15 months later, to Dakha in India (now Bangladesh). It was January 1946 before he could return. Elsie and Ken hadn't seen each other for almost six years. They were married within three months and set up home in Brigham. Daughter Judith was born in 1947, son Bill in 1949, and the family moved to Papcastle in 1957.

Elsie was very active in the Papcastle & Belle Vue Women's Institute, served as President for a number of years and was the local delegate at the WI Annual Conference at the Albert Hall in London on several occasions. She and Ken both sang in choirs and were enthusiastic ballroom dancers. They loved the Lake District and the west coast of Scotland, their favourite holiday destination. They supported Cockermouth Hospital League of Friends helping with the Garden Party each year and for over 15 years Elsie worked most Saturday mornings as a volunteer at the Save the Children shop in Cockermouth. Within a five year period, between 1977- 82 they were blessed with six grandchildren.

When Ken died in 2001, despite her grief, Elsie presented a brave face to the world, did what she always did, and 'just got on with it'. She maintained a strong social network, in later years without moving far from Beech House. She was a prolific letter writer and received a steady stream of visitors and phone calls. Great-grand-children gave her a new lease of life. The first arrived in 2007, and there are now nine.

Elsie managed to stay more or less completely independent, in her own home, until the week before she died, just a few days short of her 94th birthday.



Elsie's 90th Birthday celebration in the village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL - EXTRACT FROM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015

The Council held six meetings during the year and addressed some of the following issues:

Planning Applications: Out of ten applications considered, there were no objections to seven, with comments and observations and three refusals. Allerdale Borough Council have approved six and one is still pending. Of the three refusals, one was withdrawn by the applicant before a decision, resubmitted and refused with the remaining refusal still pending. The Council had six applications for felling/pruning trees, some in a Conservation Area. There were no objections to five and one was refused. Allerdale BC agreed with the Council in all cases.

Allerdale Local Plan (Part 2) Site Allocations Issues and Options Consultations:

This was looked at fully, and seven areas that were either in or would affect the Parish, were commented on. Information regarding this was circulated to every household.

Village Lighting:

The Council has again spent much time regarding the threat of lights on electric poles being taken down by Electricity North West and not replaced, as they are deemed to be an electrical hazard to people working on the poles. So far, the Council has succeeded in preventing any being taken down and are monitoring the situation with ENW, Allerdale BC and Cumbria County Council. This last year, the decision was taken to precept for the cost of erecting and connecting columns if there was no other alternative to losing street lighting. This has been done again for 2015/16. If this proves to be unnecessary, further Precepts will be lowered to take this into account.

Parish Notice Boards:

These have been in constant use, and repaired when necessary by Robert Jackson.

Public Footpaths:

The annual walk by the Parish Council took place in September.

Salt Bins:

The six bins at various locations around Papcastle and Belle Vue, did not need an extra salt allocation this year.

Wind Farms:

The Council has a policy of opposing the expansion of Wind Farms in West Cumbria, after due consideration of the plans and of support for other Parish Councils in this respect.

The Chairman thanked the Parish, District and County Councillors for their attendance at meetings and for their contributions during the year.

Councillors John Lightfoot and David Wood, who were standing down after ten and fifteen years respectively, were particularly thanked for their services to the community.

Also deserving of special thanks was Barbara Lamb, our Parish Clerk, who has now completed thirty two years service to the Parish Council.

Footnote

At the Annual Papcastle Parish Council meeting of 19 May 2015, village residents Peter French of Ordgarff, and Huw Morgan of 4, The Mount, were co-opted as new members of the Parish Council. Peter Broad was elected as Vice Chairman, replacing David Wood



David Johnson, Chairman of Papcastle Parish Council with David Wood, left and John Lightfoot

Walk from Papcastle - 'Famous Georgian Sons'. - by Phil Campbell

Cockermouth Civic Trust has been reviewing its publication, 'Walks from Cockermouth' by Bernard Bradbury, by walking all of the walks and checking the accuracy of the descriptions. They have concluded that it is time to revise the book and a new edition will appear later this year. One of the existing walks has accessibility problems and it has been decided to replace it with a new walk entitled 'Famous Georgian Sons Walk'. Although intended to start and finish on Cockermouth Main Street, the walk can as easily start in the village.

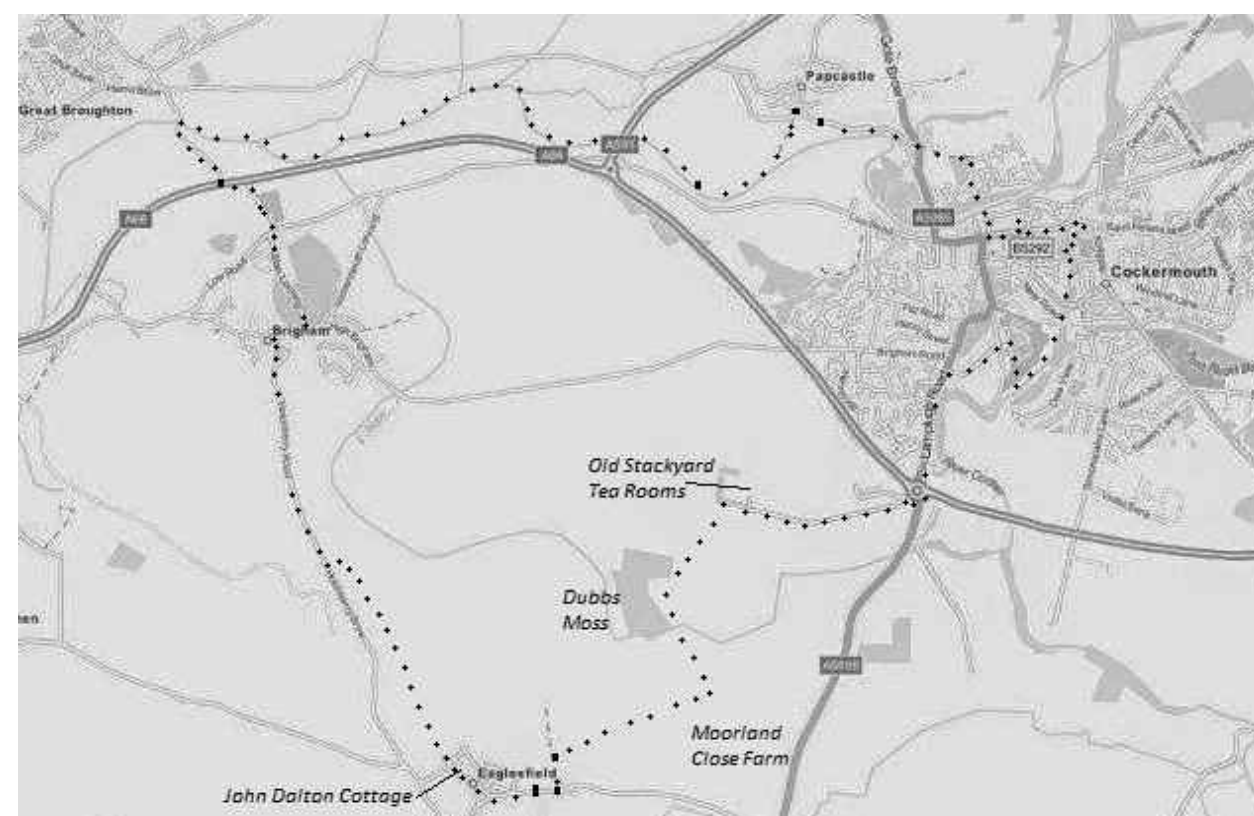
The walk has been so called because it passes the birthplaces of William Wordsworth, Fearon Fallows, Fletcher Christian and John Dalton. It could equally be called the Rivers Walk because it heads out along the River Cocker and comes back along the River Derwent. It also passes through the villages of Eaglesfield and Brigham as well as Papcastle and goes through the Dubbs Moss Nature Reserve. It is around 9 miles in total and represents an excellent day out. Don't forget the boots for Dubbs Moss!

From Papcastle, walk down into Cockermouth and pass Wordsworth House, birthplace of William Wordsworth, (1770). Next door, the weaver's cottage, now part of the Trout Hotel, was the birthplace of Fearon Fallows, (1789), who became the King's Astronomer in South Africa. From Market Place, cross back over the River Cocker by Quaker Bridge & follow it up to Harris Park. Climb into the park at the far end and exit onto Parkside Avenue. Now follow road and track up to the Old Stackyard Tea-rooms for timely refreshments. From here, follow their nature trail into Dubbs Moss Nature Reserve, owned by Cumbria Wildlife Trust. It has a diverse range of habitats. Keep to the left hand perimeter and exit in the direction of Moorland Close Farm, birthplace of Fletcher Christian, (1764), an infamous son, famed for the mutiny on the Bounty. Turn right here and proceed into the village of Eaglesfield. At the far end of this picturesque village, on the right hand side, is John Dalton Cottage, birthplace of John Dalton, (1776), best known for his pioneering work on atomic theory.

Just past the cottage, take the footpath that continues ahead in the direction of Brigham, taking the road for the latter part. From Brigham, cross back over the A66 towards Great Broughton, cross the River Derwent and return to Papcastle along the riverside path.

A full description of this walk will be available in the ninth edition of 'Walks from Cockermouth', available later in 2015.

Papcastle itself of course had a couple of famous Georgian residents. Dr William Woodville, (1752), was born in Cockermouth and lived in Papcastle for a period whilst practising as a GP. He infamously shot an intruder outside his house and then left the area, later becoming famous as Physician to the Small Pox Hospital and member of the Royal College of Physicians. Thomas Knight, (1775), was a mathematician and astronomer and contemporary of John Dalton. He built 'the Mount' in 1816 for his large family.



Wellington's Men Remembered: volume 2 published

- by David Bromley

David Bromley was the original editor of the Villager, or newsletter as it was then. He has found time to tell the Villager about the research for this book, which has just been published to coincide with the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815.

“Janet and David Bromley have been researching memorials to soldiers who fought in the Peninsular Wars and at Waterloo between 1808 and 1815, since retiring to Papcastle fifteen years ago.

Their work has finally come to fruition with the publication of the second volume of Wellington's Men Remembered in April. The two volumes contain records of memorials in churches, churchyards, cemeteries and battlefields to 3,200 men who fought in these campaigns which had such an important effect on the history of this country during the opening decade of the nineteenth century. Additionally each record provides biographical details of the service records and personal history of each man.

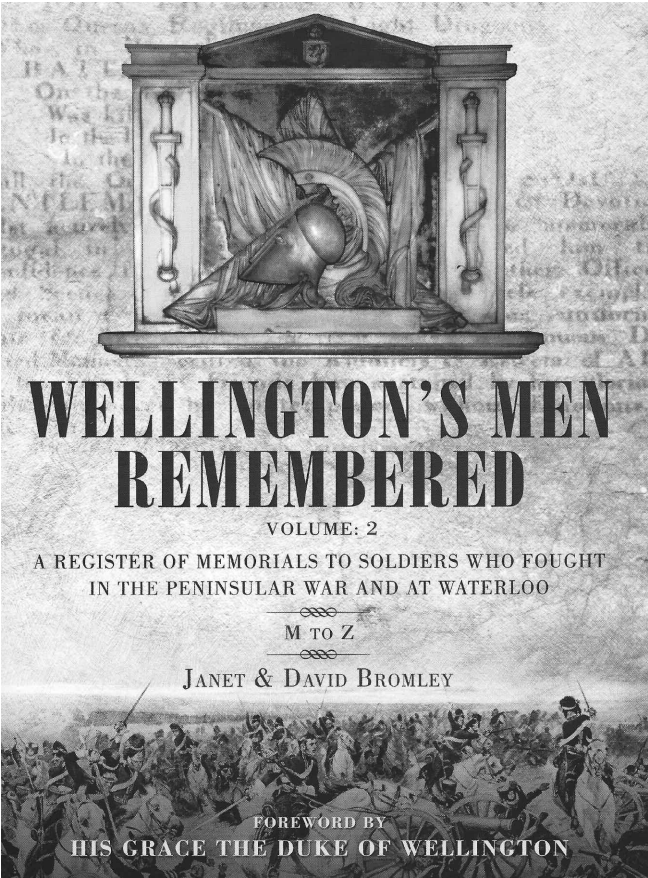
Their research starts in libraries and record offices, looking for documentary evidence of memorials, followed by visits to locations to record and photograph memorials, which have been located in no fewer than 28 countries world wide. They have travelled throughout England and Scotland as well as Portugal, Spain, the south of France and Belgium, to find and photograph memorials, which take the form of tablets in churches, headstones, obelisk, statues and other marks of remembrance. In the course of the research, over 4,000 photographs have been taken, which are inserted in a DVD in each of the published volumes.

Their work has been carried out on behalf of the Waterloo Association, and been assisted by more than 400 members and other interested individuals. Locally David Hallowell contributed with some fine photographs of an obelisk to Colonel William Light who served as an intelligence officer in the Peninsula, eventually being appointed Surveyor General of South Australia where he laid out the settlement that was to become Adelaide.

The world wide coverage is a consequence of the service of soldiers who continued in the Army after Waterloo, and served in places as diverse as Canada, South Africa, Australia, India, Sri Lanka and even in Venezuela where former British soldiers who were recruited as mercenaries in Bolivar's army fought in his army for the independence of Columbia.

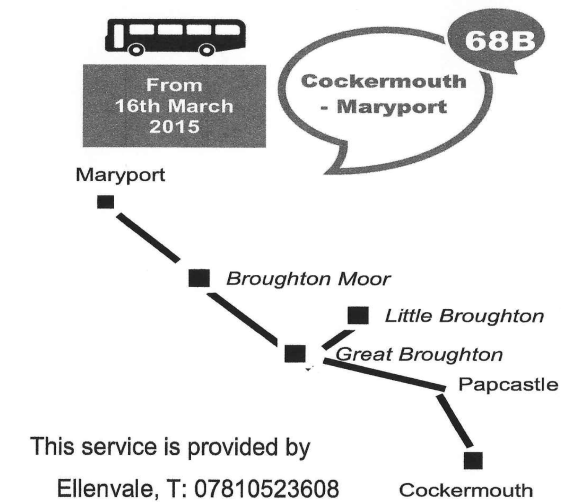
Locally there is a fine brass memorial tablet to Colonel Henry Wyndham in All Saints Church in Cockermouth. He lived in Cockermouth Castle and served in the 18th Hussars in the Peninsula and at Waterloo, finally becoming MP for Cockermouth. A worn headstone in the churchyard is to Lt John Haggar who served in the Peninsula Wars.

At Bridekirk there is a box tomb to Captain Daniel Skelton of the Royal Artillery who fought in the Peninsula, and whose family once owned Westworth in Papcastle. Carlisle has two memorials at St Cuthbert's Church, one to Private William Scott who was killed at Talavera in Spain in 1808 and Lucas Pulsford who was an Assistant Surgeon who served in Portugal and Spain. Another Surgeon, John Grant, rose to the rank of Inspector General of Hospitals and was laid to rest in the Cathedral grounds. Major General John George Woodford is commemorated on a family headstone in the St Kentigern's Churchyard at Keswick. He served throughout the Peninsula War and at Waterloo. In 1835 he campaigned against the practice of flogging.” David and Janet are still working on a supplement to these volumes, to include more recently discovered memorials. With the main work completed they now hope to enjoy more time in their garden.



New Bus Service for Papcastle !

Ellenvale travel advise that this new service will run through the village from the Broughton road, past Castle Gardens and the Mount, and out via Belle Vue. It will stop ON DEMAND at the bus stop opposite Castle Gardens, and on Gote Road at Belle Vue.



This service is provided by
Ellenvale, T: 07810523608
Stagecoach, T: 01900 874 040

Copies of timetables for all bus services throughout Cumbria can be found at :
www.cumbria.gov.uk/buses
For up to date journey details ring
traveline : 0871 200 22 33.
(Daily : 07:00 to 20:00)

Cockermouth - Great Broughton - Maryport						68B
<u>Monday to Friday except Public Holidays</u>						
				Sch		Col
Workington, Bus Station	-	-	-	1530	-	1655
Camerton	-	-	-	1540	-	1705
Maryport Co-op	0930	1130	1340	-	1600	-
Hillside Estate	0933	1133	1343	-	1603	-
Broughton Moor, Miners Arms	0938	1138	1348	1548	1608	1713
Great Broughton, Main St	0942	1142	1352	1553	1612	1718
Little Broughton, Village Hall	0945	1145	1355	1557	1617	1722
Papcastle	0950	1150	1400	-	1622	-
Cockermouth, Main Street	0953	1154	1403	1610	1626	1735
Cockermouth Hospital	0955	1157	1406	-	1629	-
	Col					
Cockermouth Hospital	-	0955	1157	1406	1629	
Cockermouth, Main Street	0715	1006	1158	1415	1630	
Papcastle	-	1009	1201	1418	1633	
Little Broughton, Village Hall	0729	1014	1206	1423	1638	
Great Broughton, Main Street	0732	1017	1209	1426	1641	
Broughton Moor, Miners Arms	0738	1021	1213	1430	1645	
Hillside estate	-	1026	1218	1434	1649	
Maryport Station	-	1029	1221	1437	1652	
Maryport Co-op	-	1030	1222	1438	1653	
Camerton	0746	-	-	-	-	
Workington, Bus Station	0805	-	-	-	-	
Sch - schooldays only (Stagecoach, service 47)			Col - College days only (Stagecoach, service 47)			

Papcastle's Doctor of Music brews up a fine Georgian Tonic

Phil Wood does it again! This time working his magic with an arrangement of music for the recently performed Beggar's Opera at the Kirkgate Centre. The music, specially commissioned for Trellis Arts Cumbria, underpinned the whole show and was flawlessly performed by an ensemble of very talented local musicians. The ensemble, who are members of the Papcastle Community Orchestra, are well used to Phil's guidance and focused musical direction, and were joined in appreciation of this by the cast of the show. Beggar's Opera played to a capacity audience on the Saturday evening of the Georgian Festival and included some star performances. Of special note was Sarah Woolcock who sang and acted beautifully and was totally convincing as the ingénue. The whole made for an evening of entertainment that was both enjoyable to listen to and to watch.

Phil will soon be in action again, leading a concert on the 28th June – see below

Papcastle Community Orchestra - by Phil Wood

Once again the Papcastle Community Orchestra will close the "Cockermouth Live!" music festival, with a concert given at Christchurch on Sunday 28th June at 2:00 p.m. The concert has no theme as such, but will be a rattle bag of all types of music, from Beethoven to Show Boat and the Magic Flute to the Ugly Duckling. We shall also be joined by the Papcastle Wind Quintet, who will be performing sections of "Pantomime" (penned by yours truly). Also, following the success of The Beggar's Opera in April at the Kirkgate Centre, we have asked some of the cast members to reprise some of the choruses. The overture will also be performed, in which the quintet will be joined by accordion player Bridget Hilton. The concert will end with a collection of WWI songs, so be in good voice, you may even be asked to join in! Tickets will be available from the Kirkgate Centre, and Billy Bowman's

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
Line Dancing Fridays afternoons	Carol Smith <i>Weekly</i>	01900 821590



Village Hall Bookings:
Rose Rowlands
Telephone 01900 828941

Derwentio Information Boards

During his final talk on the findings from the Derwentio dig, Mark Graham mentioned that funds had been set aside from the Lottery grant for one or two interpretation panels for the village. These could contain more recent history in addition to any information on the Roman presence. Peter Broad has volunteered to organise a small group of residents to discuss the content and design of these panels, with support from Mark Graham.

Anyone wishing to join these discussions should contact Peter on 01900-826386



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

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

Baby to pre-school Club every Wednesday 1pm - 3pm in the Church Room.

Barbeque Announcement

The Village Hall will once again be the venue for the annual Village Barbeque.

4th July

Tickets £10 from Bob and Carole Henderson (821478) and Debbie Rushton (824831)

Watch the A-boards !

Defibrillator

With financial assistance from the Parish Council, the village hall will soon acquire a state-of-the-art heart defibrillator, - more in the next edition !



Here's another of Simon Holding's sketches of the village, - can you work it out ?



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Please contact any of the editorial team with your contribution for the next edition before 23 August 2015

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