

Summer 2014

The Villager



Issue 34

Papcastle & Belle Vue Newsletter

Editorial:

Welcome to the Summer edition of The Villager. We've something of a Roman flavour this month, with an update on the Derwentio dig plans and the spectacular images of the finds from Grampus Heritage, Phil Campbell's article about proposed improvements to the course of the Roman road path from Derwentio towards Maryport, and the notices about the Heritage open days in September.

Elsewhere in the edition we've updates on the activities of the Papcastle Community Orchestra, Red Squirrel watch and the village barbeque, as well as a precis of Dr Fiona Edmonds' Bridekirk lecture.

We had hoped to bring you a current update on the plans for development at the M-Sport site at Dovenby, on which many in the village have been consulted. Unfortunately, the timing of the planning application for the development means that M-Sport, understandably, feel that public comment at this stage would be inappropriate. They are keen to engage fully with the community though, so watch this space !

As this is my first edition as editor, I couldn't finish without expressing my thanks to all our contributors, and especially to the editorial team of Clare Broad, Jill Coyle and Elspeth White. Thanks also to Greg Greenhalgh, our previous editor, for all his technical help !

Finally, we're always on the lookout for good stories and news for The Villager, - either pre-written, or if you don't feel up to that, as notes or a conversation, which we'll happily write up. See the back page for how to contact the Editorial team.

· DISCOVERING · DERVENTIO



Reconstruction done by Sion Davies of a shallow cooking pot with its lid which was discovered in the Mansio at the foot of Sibby Brow in Autumn 2013

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

DERVENTIO UPDATE

The Village Hall was packed again for another of Mark Graham's talks on Roman Papcastle (Derwentio). Mark (of Grampus Heritage) and his colleagues gave an update on findings from the autumn, eastern Vicus (civilian settlement) dig, together with results from surveys and exploratory digs to the west of Papcastle. The autumn dig confirmed the route of the road from the fort, heading off east and the western road heading towards the river, through the grounds of Derwent Hall. This may have joined with the Sibby Brow track to the river. Several buildings were discovered including a strip-house beside the road, with evidence of a hearth, cobbled lane and substantial ditches. The few artefacts included pottery, gaming beads and part of a small clay statue of the goddess Venus.

In the spring, the project carried out geophysical surveys in two fields west of Papcastle, where there was previous evidence of buildings. There was evidence of occupation around 300 AD and a D shaped enclosure probably from an earlier date, possibly Iron Age and early Roman. There are no plans for further investigation at these sites.

The last "big dig" of the Derwentio project will return to the Broomlands site, south of the river and will run between 26th August and Saturday 11th October. In the post-flood excavation in 2010, many interesting buildings, including a Roman watermill, were found on this site. Mark hopes that the proposed excavations will really help to understand the vicus activities at Broomlands and maybe discover roadside houses and Roman bridge foundations. As before, all volunteers will be most welcome, whether or not they have any experience (on site training)! The dig will be accessed from near the Lakes Homecentre and working hours will be from 9.30am until 4.00pm. If you are interested in helping please contact **Mark Graham or Joanne Stamper Tel: 016973-21516.**

Elsewhere in this issue, the Civic Trust reports other events connected with this dig.



Part of a small clay statue of the goddess Venus found at the Vicus site



Volunteers at the 2010 Broomlands dig struggle to clear the mill race against the river flow



The decorated Samian ware bowl, Broomlands 2010.

PARISH COUNCIL SNIPPETS

The July meeting was also attended by District Councillor Nicky Cockburn, who reported that the Wellington Farm wind turbine appeal had been turned down.

She also reported a new 800m setback distance from a wind turbine to the nearest home.

Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County Council are going to prioritise which street lights should be replaced.

Police Report - No incidents had been reported in the village since the last meeting, but residents are asked to be aware of 'sneak in' and distraction burglaries and to make sure that doors and windows are secure.

Planning Decisions:

Tree works at Fellbarrow approved.

Building works at 23 The Mount approved.

Planning Applications:

Full application for M-Sport Evaluation Centre.

Tree works on land at Belle Vue.

Planning appeals:

Wind turbine at West House Farm, Dearham. Pending.

Clerk to write to County Council for urgent action regarding large pothole in Back Lane. Also pavement at Bellevue which is breaking up and is potentially dangerous. County Council also to be informed that not all the gullies are being cleaned and that the culvert at the top of the Gote Hill needs attention.

Squirrel Lady ! Nuts about Squirrels



Clare Broad, second left with members of the Allerdale Red Squirrel Group

Clare Broad of Low Wood, Belle Vue is the representative from our village in the Allerdale Red Squirrel Group. This is a group of local volunteers who share an interest in the conservation of the native red squirrel in the Allerdale area of Cumbria. They aim to raise awareness about the threat to the red squirrel's survival and work with other members, the local community and other groups to eliminate those threats and maintain and increase the population of red squirrels in our area.

Clare is pictured with other group members at 'Woolfest' recently when they had a display and stall to raise funds and awareness. Over £1000 was raised, which will be used in squirrel conservation in this area.

We are very lucky here in Papcastle/ Belle Vue to have red squirrels coming into our gardens on a regular basis. Allerdale Red Squirrel Group would like to hear from you, if you would like to be a volunteer, require any information regarding squirrels and particularly if you see any greysquirrels in the area.

You can contact Clare on 01900 826386 or you can report sightings on the www.allerderedsquirrels.co.uk/

Who's Huw ?

As revealed in the last edition of The Villager, Huw Morgan of The Mount kindly 'volunteered' to be the new Editor of the newsletter (he says himself he is not too sure it felt like volunteering!).

Huw was born in Rossett, North Wales and as a child was taught entirely in Welsh until after his 11-plus. He then had to learn English as a foreign language at Grammar school. He moved to Papcastle in 1991 with his wife Jane and their two boys David and Rob. The family moved from Preston, Lancs where they had lived for twelve years. The boys went to Bridekirk-Dovenby School and Cockermouth School before going on to university.

Like many people in this area, Huw followed the job, having worked in the Nuclear industry all his working life. Most recently, he worked as Strategy Director for the UK's National Nuclear Laboratory. He is now retired and enjoys gardening and has re-started an interest in woodturning, scavenging wood where he can find it !

Walks from Cockermouth – Roman Road and the Derwent Valley

Bernard Bradbury taught at Cockermouth Grammar School and became Head of the Maths Department. He also developed a keen interest in local History and collected information about the various factories, mills and other historical activities in Cockermouth. In the 1960s, he produced his first booklets, including 'Walks from Cockermouth'. Once he retired in 1975, he put his efforts into writing his 'History of Cockermouth' which was first published in 1981. Following this, he produced his series of 'Cockermouth in Pictures'. Bernard was a founding and leading member of Cockermouth Civic Trust and subsequent to his death in 2002, his widow, Mary, asked the Civic Trust to take over responsibility for the management and publication of Bernard's books.



All of Bernard's books remain subject to review and updating. 'Walks from Cockermouth' was last reviewed and reissued as the 8th edition by the Civic Trust in 2003. Having responsibility for this publication, the Trust recognise that they need to ensure that not only the directions remain accurate, but also to monitor the condition and safety of all of the paths contained in the book. This year, we are walking all of the paths in turn, noting any needed changes to directions, and reporting any access problems to Cumbria County Council, with whom we have an agreed arrangement.

Walk 7 in the book starts and finishes in Cockermouth but is essentially centred on Papcastle. It follows the route out of Papcastle along the old Roman Road from Derventio, (Papcastle), to Alauna, (Maryport), until the footpath reaches the current Dovenby to Broughton road. Our path then crosses Priest's Bridge and takes the footpath to Broughton Bridge, following Broughton Beck. We return to Papcastle along the River Derwent. In June this year, three members of the Civic Trust walked this path as part of our periodic inspection. Perhaps not unexpectedly, we found the Roman Road section extremely overgrown and very uneven underfoot. We duly reported this to Cumbria County Council and also commented that it is a shame that the footpath is not marked in any way as the former Roman Road.

Cumbria County Council immediately agreed to clear the undergrowth from the footpath and this has already been done. However, they said that they do not currently have funds to repair the surface which has previously been stone pitched but has suffered water erosion. They offered to undertake a survey of the footpath and to put together a Bill of Quantities to estimate the cost of installing a flagged walkway, improved drainage and improved access furniture if we as a Civic Trust would then apply for external funding through such as 'Awards for All' or Friends of the Lake District. We have subsequently agreed in principle to this approach and the council are currently undertaking their survey work. We suggested that piping the stream might be a good idea and a gravel path might be easier to walk on.

We as a Civic Trust, and I as a Papcastle resident, would very much like to see this footpath improved. However, we also feel that we need at least the moral support of the Parish Council and of Papcastle residents, particularly when we come to apply for funding from external sources.

Phil Campbell
(Chairman, Cockermouth Civic Trust)

ANNUAL BRIDEKIRK PARISH LECTURE

On Friday 6th June, Dr Fiona Edmonds delivered the fourth St Bridget's lecture to a large audience in St Bridget's church, Bridekirk. Dr Edmonds is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic at the University of Cambridge. Her topic was: 'Gaelic-Scandinavian Influence in Bridekirk and the Surrounding Area, from the Tenth century to the Twelfth', and this is her précis of her lecture below.

Michael Rollison

The term 'Gaelic-Scandinavian' relates to the 'Viking' groups who influenced north-west England. Most of the Scandinavian settlers came to these shores from Gaelic-speaking areas: Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Hebrides. I would argue that Gaelic-Scandinavian influence endured in Bridekirk and the surrounding area until the twelfth century.

The start of the tenth century witnessed the first phase of Gaelic-Scandinavian influence in north-west England. By this time, the once-great Northumbrian kingdom had collapsed, leaving the coasts of the north-west vulnerable and undefended. The expulsion of the elites of Scandinavian Dublin destabilised the political situation around the Irish Sea and the Isles, and it seems likely that some of these powerful Dublin warriors came to north-west England. Their presence helps to explain the deposition of several hoards that contain Hiberno-Scandinavian bullion. However, furnished burials, such as those recently discovered at Cumwhitton, have more parallels in the Isles than in Ireland.

In the period 914–18, the Dublin exiles forged a new polity by conquering the Isle of Man, Dublin and York. The kingdom was intermittently disturbed by the English kings of Wessex, who conquered York definitively in 954. Nevertheless, the coast of west Cumbria does not seem to have become part of the English kingdom at this stage; rather, it remained connected with the Gaelic-Scandinavian world until the mid-eleventh century. Individual peninsulas (such as Furness) and river-valleys (such as Allerdale) were ruled by semi-independent lords. These magnates converted to Christianity and became patrons of the Viking-Age sculpture that is so prolific in west Cumbria. Bridekirk has one item of sculpture from this period: a tenth-century cross-head.

Place-names and personal names shed further light on Gaelic-Scandinavian influence in Bridekirk and the surrounding area. Some of these names may date to the era of the first Scandinavian settlements (the early tenth century) but others may have been coined as late as the twelfth century. Dovenby is a Norse place-name that features the Gaelic personal name Dub(h)án, plus Norse býr ('settlement'). The place-name Bridekirk was also coined in Norse, and features the name of Brigit (an Irish saint) and Norse kirkja ('church'). This place-name is also found near the Solway Firth in the form 'Kirkbride', which was coined by Gaelic-speakers.

*Medieval Brigittine dedications are unusual in an English context, but a cluster can be found in western Cumbria. The place-names 'Bridekirk' and 'Kirkbride' demonstrate that the cult was flourishing in a Gaelic-Scandinavian milieu. It is clear that the cult was already strongly rooted in Bridekirk and the surrounding area before the Anglo-Norman writers developed an interest in Irish saints. I have analysed other Brigittine dedications, such as Beckermest St Bridget, in a recent article: 'Saints' Cults and Gaelic-Scandinavian Influence on the Cumberland Coast and North of the Solway Firth', in Jón Viðar Sigurðsson and Timothy Bolton (eds.), *Celtic-Norse Relationships in the Irish Sea in the Middle Ages 800-1200* (Leiden: Brill, 2014), pp. 39–63.*

Bridekirk's church received significant patronage in the Anglo-Norman era, as witnessed by the splendid twelfth-century font. The font reflects contemporary influences, as witnessed by the elaborate carving and the choice of Middle English for the inscription. Yet the inscription is incised in the runic script, which is testimony to the area's enduring Scandinavian heritage.



Fragment of a cross head at Bridekirk church

Annual Village Barbeque

A cloudy but dry day dawned for our BBQ this year and we kept our fingers crossed for a dry evening.

Over 80 attended our annual event with the inclusion of children and it was lovely to welcome some new faces to the throng. It was great to hear the buzz of chattering voices as friends, neighbours and families caught up with each other and built up an appetite for the feast to come, our gallant chefs Bob, Peter, Paul & David deftly flipped meat and entertained the crowd whilst wafting mouth watering aromas around the village. Thanks guys!

Our thanks must also go to the many that kindly provided salads to accompany the BBQ fare. Many multi talented ladies year on year create a mouth watering array of sumptuous puddings, enabling us all to taste and try a variety of sweet delights. The bar staff in the form of Brian Merris and David Halliwell are now expert in their bar skills and kept us lubricated throughout the evening all served up with cheery smiles. Also thanks to the many other helpers behind the scenes, the generous contributors to the raffle prizes and lastly not forgetting you the attendees



who helped to make the event a success. It is lovely to get our village residents together and hear children playing in the lane whilst families catch up with each other. All in all a very happy and successful event.

Total money raised for the Village Hall was £675.75.

Hopefully see you all next year!

Debbie Rushton

Inspector says “No” !

Many residents will be Interested to know that the proposed wind turbine at Wellington Farm, has been turned down at appeal.

The Planning Inspector considered that.... *'the main issue is the effect that the visual impact of the proposed turbine, including its cumulative visual impact with other existing turbines, would have on the character and appearance of the area'.*

He also noted that at nearly 80m to the blade tip, the proposed turbine is more typical of the size of turbine to be found in wind farm clusters. It would be a tall, engineered structure, owing nothing to the crafts and traditions of the locality and would be much taller than anything that might occur naturally in this environment. There are no other existing tall structures such as electricity pylons already compromising the attractiveness of the local landscape. The turbine would have a major adverse impact on the character and appearance of the local landscape and this would outweigh the benefits of the scheme.



Papcastle Community Orchestra



Further Triumph for Papcastle Phil

Papcastle Community Orchestra goes from strength to strength. Not only does it recruit new players, but at each appearance the sound which its director Philip Wood persuades from its members is richer, more varied, more controlled. Their most recent concert at Christ Church, Cockermouth on the afternoon of

Sunday 29th June delighted a capacity audience of all ages. The band (47 of them by my counting) were equally diverse, an octogenarian amongst the second violins playing alongside a teenager.

Sir Malcolm Arnold's ballet suite Sweeney Todd was full of melodrama, humour and high spirits, with the bonus of Toby Gaffney's magnificently declaimed narration. The programme was topped and tailed by Meyerbeer's Coronation March, Ketelbey's Bells Across the Meadows, and the original version of American Patrol. But the centrepiece was Dr. Wood's own suite, Postcards, commissioned by Cockermouth Music Society, with the support of the Arts Council of Great Britain. Its four movements (which include an important piano part, played by Susan Allison) take their inspiration from aspects of Cockermouth past and present – the castle, a folk band at the Kirkgate, moonlight on the river, the former bandstand in the park. They further revealed Phil Wood's extraordinary ability to write really interesting and rewarding music for the combination of players he happens to have available, and their ability to rise to the demands he makes on them. We the audience felt not only the uplift of musical delight, but also a sense of privilege that such an event was taking place amongst us.

David Lindley

Papcastle residents who played in the concert were Mary Bague, flute; Jill Douglas, violin; Graham Frudd, clarinet; Jean Hann, flute and Frances Leigh, recorder. Along with conductor Phil Wood, the village was well represented.

People News

Welcome to Simon Holding who has moved into Oak Cottage and is busy renovating. Simon is a Master Mariner on the Holyhead-Dublin ferry and is keen to hear from anyone who can offer advice on replacement early 18th-century windows ! Simon's (very impressive) hobby is sketching in pen and ink, and painting in acrylics, - we're hoping to include some of his work in future editions of the Villager



Congratulations to Clare and Richard Webster of Rose Bank on the birth of their first child, Rory William on 14 May.

Congratulations also to Simon and Alexa Mandale of Dovers Lane on the arrival of twin boys, - Benjamin Isaac and Harry Robert to join their brother Lucas.



Returning to live in the village is Helen Glover, who previously ran the Bellevue pub with husband John. Helen has established a new Holistic and Complementary Therapy business in Cockermouth

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



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

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

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

Seaside Songs of Praise.
31st August at 11.30am
Meet in the car park opposite Christ
Church, Allonby.
Bring a packed lunch, chair or rug.
If wet, the service will be held in church.

Harvest Service at Bridekirk
Sunday 5th October at 11am followed by a
light lunch
in aid of the Bishop's Harvest Appeal.

Sunday School
Every Sunday at Bridekirk (except during
August)

Heritage Open days

Heritage Open Days have now been running for 20 years throughout England and Wales and are designed to encourage people to visit places or attend activities of heritage interest, free of charge. They always occur over a long weekend in September and this year run from Thursday September 11th until Sunday September 14th. For the third year in succession, the Derwentio Roman Dig features in the Cockermouth activities which are organised by Cockermouth Civic Trust. On Saturday 13th September, there will be an open day at the Derwentio Dig, which this year will be at Broomlands. The main objective in 2014 is to investigate "enclosures" revealed by geophysics and to investigate the nature of the Roman activity on the south side of the river. The work will also look for evidence of a foundation for a Roman bridge. Visitors will be able to visit the site to observe the work in progress and ask questions. On the afternoon of Friday 12th, there will also be an open interpretation session of finds from the excavations at the Town Hall exhibition.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
Annual Parish Walk
Sunday 14th September

14.30 start at the Village Hall,
followed by refreshments

It's with sadness that we heard of the
death of village resident Helen MacLeod.
We extend our sympathies to her family
and friends.



The Villager

is compiled and edited by Huw Morgan e-mail: huw@4-the-mount.fsnet.co.uk (826112)

Please contact any of the editorial team with your contribution for the next edition before 20 October

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