

Winter 2015

# The Villager



Issue 36

Papcastle & Belle Vue Newsletter

## VILLAGE HALL AND GARDEN SPRUCED UP

On a chilly, but dry Sunday afternoon in December, an enthusiastic, small group of volunteers gathered at the Village Hall. The reasons for this activity were twofold: to tidy the patch of Village Hall garden and to decorate the hall for Christmas activities.

The eight garden volunteers arrived well protected from the cold and with an alarming collection of loppers, pruners and hedge trimmers. Such was their enthusiasm, that within two hours the garden had been cleared rather than just tidied, the wall was visible for the first time in a few years and Robert Jackson was kept busy removing several trailer loads of prunings.

Meanwhile indoors, the more artistic volunteers were busy decorating the tree and hall and preparing tea and cakes for everyone. The gardeners were pleased to retire inside out of the cold and everyone enjoyed tea and a crack.

Any reader interested in gardening the area in front of the hall should contact Peter Broad (826386).

### VILLAGE HALL NOTICE OF AGM

The Village Hall Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 21st April 2015 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

See Back Page for details



*Warm and happy volunteers after the event !*



*Men at Work !  
Rob and Brian*



View The Villager at [www.papcastle.org.uk](http://www.papcastle.org.uk) - click on 'Newsletter'

## Young Talent

A group of young actors has been using the village hall for rehearsals of their production 'The Blood Between Us' which was shown at The Kirkgate Centre on 6th and 7th February.

'The Wyldwood Theatre Company' is a recently established group of local actors aged 13 - 20. 'The Blood Between Us' is based on the poems of Christina Rossetti and the script was written by Hannah Lewis, aged 18, a student at Cockermouth School, from the story written by Miriam Ulyatt, Imogen Barnfather and herself. Miriam, aged 17, also a student at Cockermouth School was the producer and Imogen, aged 17, an Art student at Carlisle College was the designer. All three directed the project. Costumes for the performances were borrowed from 'The Theatre by the Lake'.

Jonathan Broad of Belle Vue was one of the actors taking part, playing Lord Thomas and a gypsy called Meuric. He said 'It is amazing how a production by young people can come together with such professionalism. We should all be very proud'.

Hannah said 'Our large cast were all wonderful, they've been great to work with and are all so dedicated and charismatic. It has been hard work but very rewarding and incredible fun'.

In the programme for the production the group said 'Special thanks to Papcastle Village Hall for rehearsal venue hire and to Elaine and Peter French for inspiration and encouragement'. The group hopes to use the hall in the future for rehearsals for new Productions



*Some of the cast of "The Blood Between Us" in rehearsal*

## Poultry Prizes for Papcastle

Robert Jackson (Junior) from Lynwood is Secretary of The Cockermouth and District Fur and Feather Society. In addition to judging at local events, he shows and competes successfully all over the UK and recently won twelve prizes at the prestigious Scottish National Show in Lanark, including 'Best of Breed' with a Barnevelder hen.

It pays to start young. Robert first showed an interest in poultry when he was only three, and has been breeding and showing since he was eight, when he won 'Best Soft Feather' at Cockermouth Show!

His favourite breed is the Light Sussex, but because his birds can wander freely around the farm, he says that it's just too difficult to keep them spotlessly clean for showing. The Barnevelder is a Dutch breed, noted for its double-laced plumage, and was originally bred just before the First World War in the search for a bird that was a good layer of dark brown eggs.

Robert's birds live the good life, wandering in the fields near the family farm. Next time you walk past, have a second look and see if you can spot a Champion!



*Robert with some of his prizes*

## Engaged !

Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Alice Eldred and Thomas Chigbo, **(Photo right)** who recently announced their engagement.

Alice, whose family home is Westworth, and Tom who comes from London, met when they were both studying at Cambridge.

They are presently living in Leeds where Alice is working at St James' Hospital and Tom is a Community Organiser.



*Below: Alice (third from left, front, in the village Youth Group, with organisers John Eldred and Gill Greenhalgh*



## Wedding Congratulations!

Our warmest congratulations also go to Sophie French and Liam Warrington, who were married in October at the Merewood Country House Hotel. Sophie, who is the daughter of Peter and Elaine French from Ordgarff, and Liam from Branthwaite, were both pupils at Cockermouth School, but didn't get together as a couple until they met up again at university in Manchester.

They were both keen to come back to Cumbria, and with Sophie now teaching at Keswick School and Liam working at Sellafield, they are happily settled back in Cockermouth.

## DISCOVERING DERVENTIO - update



As the Lottery Funded project enters the final stages of its three years, there are still events to enjoy, although the major digging sessions have now ended.

Many readers will remember the body found in the hypocaust during the 2013 dig at the foot of Sibby Brow. One of the questions about this "mystery" person was where they had been born and brought up, before finishing up being dumped on the edge of Papcastle. The strontium isotope analysis of the young man's tooth enamel and carbon and nitrogen analysis of bone samples have now been completed and the full report is on [www.discoverderventio.co.uk](http://www.discoverderventio.co.uk). Results suggest that he was born and brought up in the Lake District and not from some far off corner of the Roman Empire and that he had lived on a diet typical of Roman Britain.

Volunteers participated in a pot and artefact washing session at Wardell Armstrong's premises in November, and enjoyed the chance to see the many small artefacts from the 2014 dig. Another washing session is booked for Saturday, 21 March, which should complete cleaning and sorting all the items from this Broomlands dig.

Limited places have been reserved on a one day workshop at York University on 6th June, entitled "Magic and Religion in Roman Britain". This is open to all those involved with the project, with details on the website. It will be a very interesting day and relevant to the ritual element discovered at the Broomlands site in 2014.

Mark Graham still has a small amount of funding available for some survey work and possibly a small dig. He has not decided on the target area yet and would need to obtain landowner permission and ensure good archaeological targets before committing. He will be giving an update on the project at his talk on Friday, 24th April (see advert on back page).

## Good news for Papcastle's Parish Church

Due to retirements, the Cockermouth group of Anglican Churches, which includes St Bridget's Church at Bridekirk, has for some time been relying on the goodwill of retired Vicars and Lay Preachers to maintain Sunday Services and other Parish work. A number of people with Church and Civic connections were recently invited to meet The Revd Godfrey Butland and his wife Lesley at Christ Church, for an informal get together prior to his official interview for the post of Team Rector. It was a pleasant evening and favourable opinions were formed, hopefully on both sides!

The following initial announcement was made on 29th January 2015.

*"The Bishop of Carlisle has appointed The Revd Godfrey Butland, at present Team Rector in the Benefice of Mossley Hill Team Ministry in the Diocese of Liverpool, as Team Rector in the Benefice of Cockermouth Area Team. Godfrey's licensing service will take place at Christ Church on 17th May 2015 at 5pm. The Bishop of Carlisle will be officiating".*



*Revd Godfrey Butland, newly appointed Team Rector of the Cockermouth Area Team*

## PARISH COUNCIL SNIPPETS

County Councillor Eric Nicholson and Borough Councillor Nicky Cockburn attended the January meeting.

A written Police report was received, concerning one incident reported in December, of a male behaving suspiciously around a vehicle. Officers attended and found a male under the influence of alcohol, but no offences were committed.

The Council was informed about the Cumbria Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, which needs new volunteers to join the panel who visit detainees held at Workington and Whitehaven Police Stations.

If anyone is interested in joining the scheme, more information can be obtained on [www.cumbria-pcc.gov.uk/recruitment](http://www.cumbria-pcc.gov.uk/recruitment).

Robert Jackson reported that the large potholes in the back lane had not been repaired to a satisfactory standard. County Council to be contacted. Pothole work on the Mount had been completed.

Councillor Nicholson (County Council) reported on the ongoing budget consultations.

Councillor Cockburn (Allerdale BC) was due to attend a Scrutiny Committee meeting regarding street lighting.

David Wood suggested writing to ENW asking for clarification about street lighting as there still seems to be confusion about responsibilities.

Residents are asked to report any problems with street lighting. In the case of columns, the contact number will be on an attached label. However, this information is not on poles, but the number to ring is 702770.

The Recreational Trust meeting was attended by Brian Merris and Robert Jackson and £100 was awarded for the Papcastle Childrens' Party. The next Trust meeting is in May.

Comments were forwarded to Allerdale Borough Council regarding the outline planning application for four houses on land at Belle Vue, detailing the Parish Council's objections.

There were no objections to plans to convert a building at Grey Abbey to a detached dwelling, plus alterations and extensions to the existing dwelling.

The next Parish Council meeting is on 3rd March at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

## A HIDDEN GEM IN BELLE VUE

Jackie Scammell of Clare Cottage, Belle Vue, has lived in Cumbria for a long time but was brought up on the East coast of America, just outside New York City. When she came to England, she studied at Camberwell School of Art and later at Carlisle Art College. She has worked on abstract art for most of her creative life, especially making her own paper. She rarely does work that is figurative, most recently making wildlife images as monoprints on her handmade paper. The places where she has lived are also reflected in her work which mainly focuses on experimenting with the paper pulp itself.

Jackie makes the pulp using a 'Hollander' beater, one of very few of its kind in England. The machine was first designed in the 17th Century in Holland. There was much excitement (in the 1990s) when Jackie's machine arrived at Liverpool from Delhi, India after waiting for it for two years. (Stainless steel was hard to come by in Delhi).

The machine has been used ever since in making pulp from raw fibres such as linen, cotton flax and half-prepared abaca (hemp). The material is cut up into squares and fed slowly into the machine which beats it on a bed plate for approximately three or four hours. Whilst it is being beaten, internal sizing is poured in to strengthen the mixture. It is then diluted into a large vat of water. Mesh screens are dipped into the mixture, flipped over and pressed onto cloth. These can be air dried or put into a press.

Jackie says the beating and manufacture of the pulp is the most exciting part of the process. Some of her work has been displayed in Percy House but she values her privacy and has worked quietly for the last twenty years, selling some pieces privately via the internet and in exhibitions privately, locally and further afield.



*Jackie at work in her Belle Vue workshop*



*One of Jackie's pieces - "Blackbird"*



# STRICTLY FOR THE VILLAGER

In the last edition of The Villager, Gill Greenhalgh and Phil Wood were featured as they prepared to enter the “Strictly Kirkgate” fund raising event, which was held in December. This was a great success in many ways and all the participants enjoyed the whole experience, as did the audience. The Papcastle partnership were winners on two of the three evenings – Congratulations! Phil Wood has kindly taken time to send us a few of his thoughts on the event:

*“It is inconceivable, that with such humble beginnings, I might actually win “Strictly Kirkgate”. However, with the help, guidance and patience (I’d never danced a step before) of my dance partner Gill Greenhalgh, we sallied forth in August 2014 with basic steps for the Tango and Samba.*

*The Papcastle Reading Room floor has never taken such a bashing, not only did it have to cope with my ample frame, but with many other novice dancers using it for practice too. However, before long the basic steps soon changed into full routines (choreographed brilliantly by Gill). Routines which I lived and breathed for many weeks before the fundraising event. Eventually the 16 December dawned and the dreaded day was upon us. The first night was won by local publican Joe Fagan; Gill and I won the following two nights. The thrill of it all! To be able to hold aloft the glitter ball trophy with Gill.....wow! Now I shall never be truly convinced, was it my dancing skills or was it the shiny blue Lycra pants I wore for the Samba that swayed the audience vote? I believe we were all winners for simply taking part. All in all it was a great community event, providing the participants with very fond memories of friendship and laughter. As someone observed at the time, it was “a triumph of daring over common sense”.*

A DVD is being produced of the final night and will be available from the Kirkgate Centre.”



Phil has now recovered and is back to his busy schedule of teaching, composing and preparing the Papcastle Community Orchestra for its next concert during the Georgian Fair in May.



**Do you fancy getting out? A bit of community spirit? Would you like to come?  
Could you help by providing transport?**

How often? Only once a month on a Thursday afternoon.  
How long? From about 1. 30 to approx 3. 30

Every month the Kirkgate Arts and Allsorts programme has some entertainment with tea and cake served to you for a mere £2 for the over 60s. I volunteer there and I think some of our more senior residents may not know of it nor have the means of getting there...It seems a shame and something easy to facilitate so I am willing to co-ordinate this.  
This month the U3A Early Music Group, Alte Musik, will be entertaining the Kirkgate Arts and Allsorts programme with live ensemble playing on Thursday 19th March. In practical terms the Kirkgate does have a ramp to the building and a lift to the theatre for those who may need this. For others the steps add a bit of exercise to burn off the calories !  
Perhaps you yourself are over 60 and would enjoy this in your own right whilst being able to offer transport to someone who would not otherwise be able to attend ? That would be perfect.

**6** If you would like to come along but need transport please contact **Gill Greenhalgh** on 01900 826500  
**If you are willing to be a volunteer driver ....please phone and offer.**

## MULLED WINE EVENING

“....and a good time was had by all”. Villagers gathered in good numbers, for this regular event, despite competition from several other pre-Christmas events on the 13th December.

As last year, the evening was organised by Trustees and their spouses and families. In addition to the mince pies and savoury nibbles, Bill Mavir mixed a very tasty mulled wine and led his team of bar men, in an outfit that certainly brightened the hall. He was resplendent in sky blue suit, printed all over with pink and green tulips and with a tie to match. Bill had hoped to have a more festive outfit, in an all over red and white pattern, but this was already booked! Maybe next year, Bill.....

A “Guess the Spitting Image” quiz, a little gentle party game and the raffle were interspersed with some hearty carol singing. Angela Johnson accompanied on the keyboard and Clare Broad led the singing with a good confident voice. Paula Hale was the lucky winner of the raffle first prize hamper

Thanks to all those involved in organising the evening, those who came and enjoyed the evening, who provided raffle prizes and helped in the clear up. A total of £194 was raised for Village Hall funds.

Although the organisers enjoyed working together for this event, new helpers and new ideas are always very welcome, not only for this event but for others in the Village Hall.



Bill Mavir and Angela Johnson

## CHILDRENS’ CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year the village hall hosted a Christmas party event on Sunday 21st Dec for the children of Papcastle and Belle Vue. We applied for and were given £100 from the Cocker-mouth and Papcastle recreational trust so we were able to put the party on free of charge for all as a Christmas celebration. We had 8 youngsters attend and much festive fun was had by all.  
The entertainment included Christmas crafts, games and a mini bouncy castle. We made decorations and 3D Christmas trees with large amounts of glitter and the marshmallow snowmen went down very well...not many survived to be taken home! We played some parachute games and a round of pass the parcel. After all that fun the children paused for some party food and refreshments for the adults were provided by Joan Merris. After some excellent singing we welcomed in our special visitor. Father Christmas arrived to see all the children and brought them all a gift.  
Everyone seemed to enjoy the afternoon and we hope to host some more events in the future. If anyone would like to get involved in future children's events or have any ideas then please get in touch with Rose Rowlands or the Villager team.

## REGULAR VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

<b>Mahjong</b> Monday 2-5pm	Brian Wilkinson <i>All year except public holiday</i>	01900 829490
<b>Keep fit</b> Monday 6.30-7.30pm	Tony McGorrian <i>School term only</i>	01900 64632
<b>Life Art</b> Tuesday mornings	Susan Fleming <i>Fortnightly all year</i>	01900 823543
<b>Parish Council</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday evening	David Johnson <i>Bi monthly</i>	01900 822163
<b>Words out West</b> Wednesday 7.35pm >	Martin Chambers <i>Last Wednesday each month</i>	01900 823882
<b>Line Dancing</b> 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 noon - 2.30pm in the Church Room.**

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

**Good Friday to Easter Day Services**

**Good Friday 3rd April**

**Churches Together in Cockermouth Procession from Market Place to Memorial Gardens 10am. Theme - The Way to the Cross.**

**Easter Sunday 5th April**

**Holy Communion St Bridget's, Bridekirk at 8am (BCP)**

**Holy Communion St Bridget's Bridekirk at 11am**

## QUIZ EVENING

Village Hall, Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm, pie and peas supper, Tickets £5. Watch the A boards for details.

· DISCOVERING ·  
**DERVENTIO**

*DERVENTIO*  
*Diary*

### Talk by Mark Graham (Grampus Heritage)

Discovering Derventio  
update on the project including Broomlands 2014  
Friday 24th April 7.30pm in The Village hall Tickets required (but no charge) details on A boards nearer the time

## The Village Hall Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 21st April 2015 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Nomination forms for trustees to serve for the following year are available from the Secretary, Joan Merris. Completed forms should be returned to Joan by 14th April 2015.

### NOTES

The Village Hall is a charity for the benefit of residents of Papcastle, Belle Vue and the surrounding area.

The hall is run by a committee of trustees, who can be chosen by Full Members of the charity at the AGM, appointed by Papcastle Parish Council or co-opted by the trustees.

Any resident of the Civil Parish of Papcastle over the age of 18 may become a Full Member at the AGM or by giving their name and address to the Secretary at any time. Residents under 18 may become Junior Members but are not entitled to vote at meetings. There is no charge for membership.

At present there are 10 trustees, with a maximum of 12. They would encourage anyone interested in activities in the hall to become a member or a new trustee. However, it is not necessary to be a member to benefit from the hall and its facilities.

As well as providing the venue for popular events such as the Summer Barbeque and the Mulled Wine and Mince Pie Evening, the hall is currently booked on a regular, weekly basis by several groups and for occasional private events. It could accommodate more bookings, so if you have an idea for a new event or group, or maybe re-instatement of an old one such as the playgroup or youth club, please contact Joan Merris (01900 823282) or the Bookings Secretary, Rose Rowlands (01900 828941).



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 31 May 2015

Clare Broad 826386 Jill Coyle 828625 Elspeth White 821674