

Issue 56

The Villager

Summer 2020

Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter

Welcome to the summer edition of the *Villager*. As everyone keeps saying, we're in strange times and what to include in this Villager has proven that. As there were no events as such to report on I decided to ask for anecdotes and have subsequently received a number of pieces, some of which have been included.

If you think back to the last edition I included a slip of paper asking if anyone in the village would like help with shopping etc. Well, there were a few enquiries following that but I was mainly overwhelmed with offers of help! I must thank you all, it shows that we have a very caring community here and we should be comforted to know that.

One ladies 'WhatsApp' group has been buzzing - swapping photos, recipes, plants and books, not to mention the discussions on lost cats! You may have noticed the decorated windows for Easter and the bears peering out for the bear hunt?



Alex Nicholson during his 'holiday at home' at The Hawthorns.

The jigsaw exchange also saw activity at the onset of lockdown and during the poor weather - it's still operating if anyone is interested?

By the editor,
Jude



Back Lane

Neighbours came together on Friday 8th May to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day with 'Afternoon Tea and Cake' with a glass of wine to follow, all in glorious sunshine.

Ray & Jackie Day, Mike & Elspeth White, Diana Tillman with Mum, Joyce, Margaret and Keith Smith, Dave Dunlop, and Frances & Stan Leigh are pictured during the celebration - ensuring that the social distancing measures were in place throughout the afternoon.

The event which was organised by Elspeth White, took place in the driveway that was the garden of Burroughs Cottage upto 1984'. Images provided by Stan & Richard Leigh.

Incidentally - following VE Day, British troops occupied much of Germany. Stan Leigh [my father] was in the Irish Guards and they were based in Gummersbach North Rhine-Westphalia. While on duty there, he met Renate Hollenberg - they married in 1947..... need I say more. I'm the eldest of 3 children, born in 1949.

By Stan Leigh



Mary Strong 1928-2020

Mary was born at Grove Cottage, the eldest child of Robert and Ellen Jackson, her siblings being John, Dorothy and Robert. They later moved to Croft House, where Mary would continue to live with her husband Joe for 65 years. Together they had one son, Jackson, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mary left school aged 16 then went on to help out on the family farm selling milk and making butter later delivering milk around the village twice a day which she did for 71 years until foot and mouth stopped production.

Mary was an excellent baker and passed all her exams with distinction. She sat her Judges test and passed with first class marks. Mary showed her prize-winning cakes at all the local shows and became an honorary life member of Cockermouth Show, giving over 50 years of her service. Together with her sister Dorothy, they made wedding cakes. Mary made the fruit cakes and Dorothy decorated them, the cakes were very much in demand.

Christmas, celebrated at Croft House, was always full of extended family, the table laden with Mary's cakes. Mary could often be heard saying her favourite phrases 'Reach up' and 'Ooh, what a good tea they had'.

At Harvest time Mary's picnic baskets were always well received in the fields by the workers and she enjoyed having the menfolk come for a proper meal when the work was done.

Mary enjoyed china painting, whist drives and going out for meals. She was very proud of her garden, being able to name every plant and their origin. It was also opened to participate in the village 'garden trail'. The fruit trees provided her with enough fruit to make year-round jam.

Her home had long been an open house, with visitors from dawn to dusk, calling for milk, a cup of tea, a chat, or her favourite tippie, sherry. Everyone was welcome and fond memories made, each noted in a diary Mary religiously kept.

Mary rarely suffered anything though had a tincture for every ailment, her preferred being Vicks and Ralgex.

Mary never wasted anything, if it could be mended, it was - something we could all learn from.

Until recently Mary was still baking and doing the farm accounts. She devoted her life to her family and her farm, she will leave a gaping hole in our hearts.

Taken from the remembrance pages, written by Robert and Joyce Jackson's daughter's Suzanne, Elaine and Carolyn.



New To Papcastle

A few weeks before lockdown on the wettest day in the wettest recorded February ever, my removal van pulled up in front of the cottage I'd fallen in love with in the beautiful village of Papcastle. I was looking forward to my new life, to the coming spring, to meeting new people, to joining my new community. Then lockdown happened! However, the weather improved, I met neighbours on the doorstep, I was invited to the ladies WhatsApp group and I immediately felt included. I'm happily communicating with people I've never met! I've loved the exchange of plants and books, advice about where to find wild garlic and the funny memes people are sharing. I've spent most of lockdown on my sunny terrace, listening to the happy sounds of the children opposite and the many birds and animals. Who would have thought Papcastle to be so noisy! So many cockerels, sheep, cows, garden birds and even screeching guinea fowl! Never a dull moment!



I'm a Teaching Assistant at Keswick School, going in once a week on a rota basis looking after the children of key workers and those with Educational Health Care Plans who cannot stay at home. My youngest son Tom is a maths student at Aston University. He came home for lockdown and has been doing his exams online. We've had a happy time in our new home, much cooking, playing cards and going for walks. I'm doing the Couch to 5K running training. This sees me struggling along the lane to Broughton then I jog/walk back along the beautiful river. What a lovely route! I can safely say Tom and I are very happy here. The sunniest ever recorded May has definitely helped! What a change from that rainy day in February!

I come from Oxford originally. I was Head of EAL (English as an Additional Language) at the Dragon School and a Drama teacher. I have three grown-up boys, Sam, Danny and Tom. We moved to Keswick in 2013. I worked at Theatre by the Lake in the box office and ran the Youth Theatre until 2018. I now work as Teaching Assistant at Keswick School as well as continuing in the box office at Theatre by the Lake - until lockdown. I'm recently divorced. I am starting my new life at Well House Cottage Annexe at the top of the hill. I'm loving it so far! By Marion Ward

Reflection



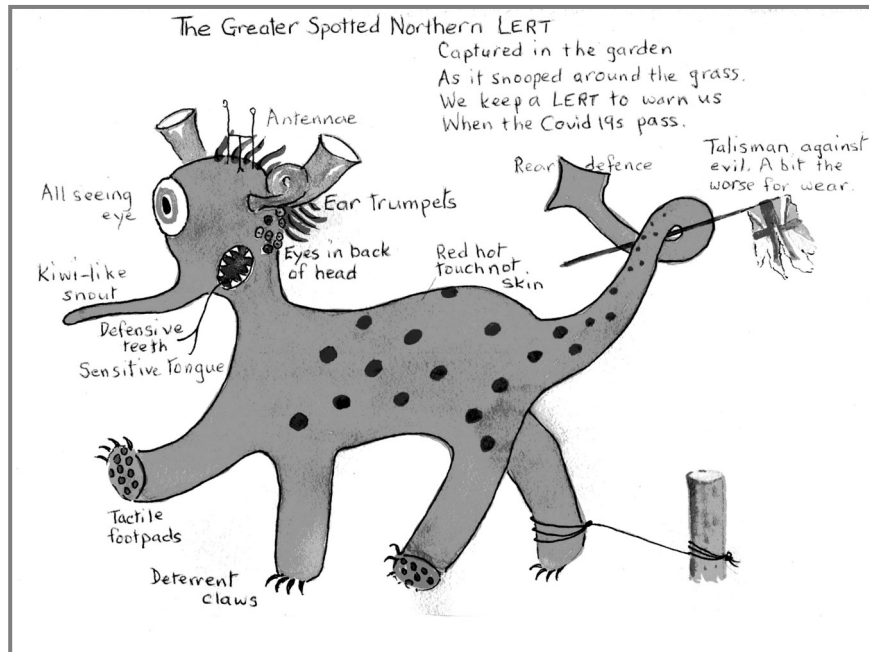
The positives of lock down, amazing weather - a mini summer in fact! Enabling us to venture into gardens giving them more attention than they have ever had for the time of year. Garden centres may not be open but the village garden swap shop has seen a surplus of plants being offered at the end of peoples driveways to be collected on daily walks. Chatting with neighbours over fences. Being able to walk along the river and spot wildlife emerging through spring in to summer with no awareness of the pandemic the human race is managing. One can only be thankful for the beautiful area in which we live, looking longingly towards our fells which keep a watchful eye over us - one day we will be able to walk you again.

By Debbie Rushton (Pictured on VE Day).

FREE!

I have recently been clearing out large quantities of documentation accumulated over many years. Consequently, I now have many surplus storage devices, box files, lever-arch files and magazine filing boxes. Rather than put them in for landfill, if anyone can make use of these, you are welcome to them for free. Well-used but perfectly serviceable.

Eric Apperley 01900 823420



'The Greater Spotted Northern LERT' by Pat Apperley of The Mount.

(with acknowledgement to a Guardian cartoon)

What Lockdown Has Meant For Us...

Street coffee mornings

After receiving an email from a friend in New Zealand describing how she met with neighbours, at a distance of course, for weekly coffee mornings and a chat we decided that with the nice weather we were having we could perhaps do the same. With our neighbours and friends doing the circuit around the village we arranged to have a coffee morning each week located at the end of our driveway. This has helped to alleviate the isolation felt by the lockdown.

Walks

The excellent weather has allowed villagers to explore their local area like never before - walking, cycling or running. We have enjoyed walks around the village, along the banks of the Derwent to the old railway line and longer walks taking in the old Roman road to Priest's Bridge then along Broughton Beck to Paplava returning by the river. Our senses have been heightened by the signs of Spring - the antics of the newborn lambs, wild flowers, blossom in the hedgerows and lively cows!!



Caterite

Click and collect of our weekly groceries has become a 'way of life' for us and no doubt for many others. This excellent service has been a fantastic, safe way of shopping during these unprecedented times.

By Phil & Mary Bague, The Mount

Favourite Tree

The coronavirus lock-down has focused our minds on outdoor exercise and we judge ourselves extremely lucky living in Papcastle, with regular walks around the village and along the river. Meeting fellow villagers is a highlight, social distancing of course. With my Civic Trust hat on, we have taken the opportunity to produce a new booklet detailing a 5 mile walk round Cockermouth, visiting hidden



places that you might not normally see. The Woodland Trust have asked people to nominate their favourite tree to compete in this year's 'Tree of the Year Award', and we have been on the lookout on our daily walks. Perhaps not a national winner, we really like this Hawthorn Tree on the west side of the village. It may be small, but it is aged and full of character. It sits on its own in the middle of a field grazed by cattle with Skiddaw as a backdrop.

The new Civic Trust booklet is not generally available yet, but I would be prepared to provide villagers with a copy, price £2.50. Please phone in the first instance,

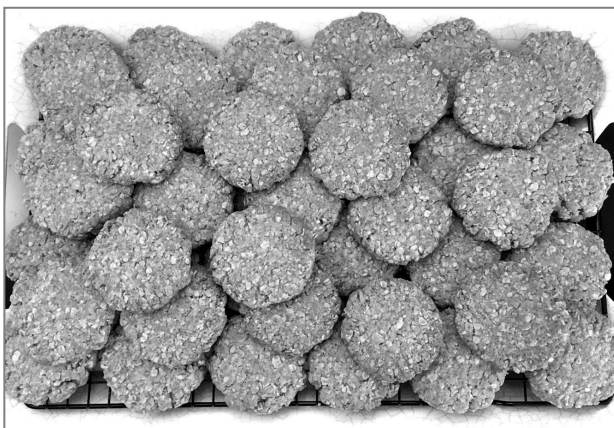
Phil Campbell 01900 823485.

Our Lock Down Anecdote

Anzac Day is the 25th April, it is the Australia and New Zealand National Day of Remembrance. Rosemary's 'Cumbria WI Cookery Book' has a recipe for Anzac Biscuits. They include oats and ginger and are so named because they travelled well to the Front Line.

During Lock Down, these biscuits, carefully wrapped in grease proof paper have also travelled well. They have been a thank you to a neighbour for helping to re-start our car, and to another for strawberry plants. They have been a gift to a regular walker on the road to Broughton met during early morning runs.

Rosemary has packaged sets of 8 in reusable containers with rainbow coloured lids for family and friends we cannot see and miss in Surrey, Yorkshire and London.



These are posted from Cockermouth Post Office on Monday mornings after weekend baking, where they know 'Biscuits' is the answer to what the package contains.

Sharing the biscuits has given us a lot of pleasure in baking, presentation, packaging and posting and helped us 'stay in touch' during lockdown.

By Andrew and Rosemary Hewett, Hill Cottage.

Castle Gardens In Lockdown

Built back in the 60's on the site of the Roman Fort, the sixteen dwellings on this small complex caters for the over 55's, most of whom are quite active and independent. There is a community lounge for the use of residents although little used but pre-lockdown a small number of residents would meet two or three times a month in the lounge for a cup of tea and a chat, write a poem or two or try a new craft. Since unable to meet there due to lockdown we keep in touch via a 'round robin' A5 booklet in which each writes about a memory, a favourite place, or adds a photo, poem or recipe or two. This we have done weekly and we are now on booklet 10! As most of us do not have access to the internet this has proved to be a way of keeping in touch with our neighbours without leaving our homes. Although only a small number participate it has been a welcome distraction in these early days of the lockdown. The booklet has evolved into a 'scrapbook' of memories and thoughts and will be something for residents to look back on when this is all over!

By Judy Rochester, Castle Gardens.

Joys of spring



Premier House

Each Thursday Belle Vue neighbours have been out clapping for the NHS and all other Front Line Workers. I have been recording a tune each week on our Yamaha Clavinova



then accompanied myself with the Ukulele.

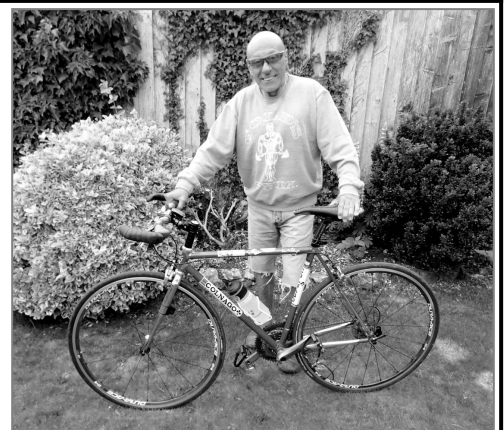
Today we had Ella from The Belle Vue pub. She accompanied me playing her drums.

By Angela Johnson



Magdi Greiss pictured with his bike (plus sore posterior and tight hamstrings!), having cycled more than 500 miles over April and May this year.

The whisky tasting Magdi was organising and mentioned in the last edition of the *Villager*, will go ahead when the lockdown is over and functions in the Village Hall re-commence.



St Bridget's Church Bridekirk

The church building is closed, but our morning services continue.

Your local churches have responded to the Corona restrictions by going on-line, and, for those who have no internet, you can join us on the phone.

Bridekirk church service is held at 11:00am on Sunday, it is held using "Zoom" and is interactive, or you can simply watch and listen. Join from 10:50am by scanning this QR code or e-mail davidhallowell@sky.com and I will send you a link.



Your e-mail will not be used for any other purpose.

Or By phone: David - 01900 823514

Call: 0131 460 1196 (Edinburgh Normal UK call charges apply)

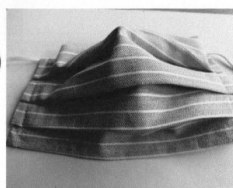
Meeting ID: 830 8026 2196, Participant ID: # (press hash)

Password: 916712

You can also join a service run by Cockermouth Area Churches at 10:00am each Sunday. (Join from 09:50am) Go to cockermouthareachurches.org.uk where you will find the link.

Face Masks

(with internal pocket for a filter)
Filter not supplied!



£2.50 each

**All profits
to**

Sarcoma UK and BHF



Contact Carole on
07787704330
The Mount

Remembering Joan Ellis from the Pump House, Papcastle, who died recently:

Joan was a vibrant member of Cockermouth School. As Development Manager (1998 to 2014) she was instrumental in securing a number of significant investments for the school, the Eco Centre being one example. She was passionate, determined, caring and full of fun and laughter. She will be sadly missed. I am happy to put my name against this on behalf of Cockermouth School. She truly was one of a kind and I am honoured to have worked along side her as a colleague and a friend.

By Elaine Nicholson, Admissions and Marketing Officer Cockermouth School.

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition. If you have anything you would like to go in the next *Villager*, please email Jude at msjmennim@hotmail.co.uk. by 31st August 2020.

Thanks also to Jill Coyle who has 'hung up her pen', she has been an enormous help to me

You can view The *Villager* online at www.papcastle.org.uk