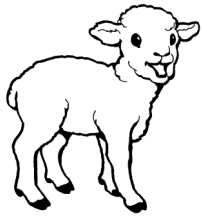


Issue 59



The

# *Villager*



Spring 2021

Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter

Welcome to the spring edition of the Villager. Christmas may seem like a distant memory now, but here is a reminder of the Advent window competition which was so very well organised by Doreen Bertram and Gill Conlon, thanks to you both.

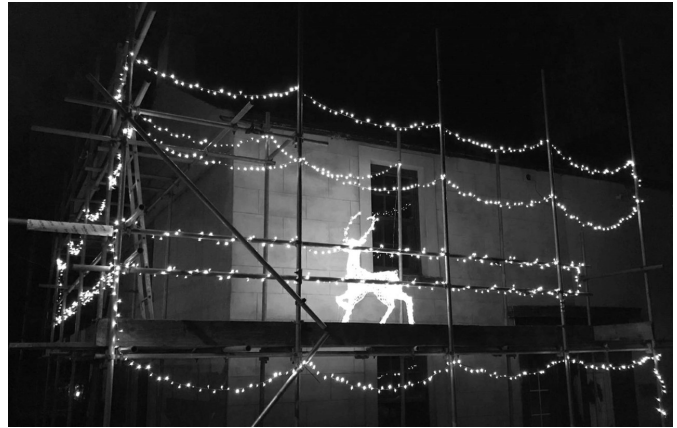


## Advent window winners

The secret judge awarded first prize to Papcastle House for their creative Santa/snow scene and second prize went to Orchard Garth who produced a colourful, religious scene. The judge was quoted as saying "This was a very difficult task as there were so many wonderful windows to choose from, I wish I could have given each one a prize, a fantastic effort all round."



Special mention to Brian Pattinson who stood in his window for the whole of advent and also for the reindeer who had obviously had its 'Ready Brek', on display in Belle Vue.



## Parish Council Snippets

Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 5th January 2021 held via Zoom.  
Nine members attended, along with County Councillor Rebecca Hanson.

### Councillor Hanson reported on

- Local committee and the Covid Response
- Cockermouth Library to stay open - ICT accessible
- Unitary Authority and problems with distances to meetings and workload for Councillors.
- NHS resources fully stretched.
- Covid vaccination programme very well organised in Cockermouth.

### Matters Arising

- Clerk to follow up insurance claim for stolen Village seat.
- Work on blocked culvert now due to start at the end of January.
- The footpath by St Leonard's House has now been cleared of weeds.
- There has been no response from Allerdale Borough Council (ABC) regarding lighting and landscaping at the Pumping Station, Brigham, which is visible from many parts of Papcastle. To be followed up by Clerk.

Pole Mounted Street Light Notice - Papcastle Road.

- Letters have been sent to Electricity North West and ABC asking for clarification, either by letter or by Zoom meeting.

### Planning Applications

- Various planning applications and decisions were discussed.

### Any Other Business

- It was agreed to ask the Borough Council to include The Mount on the gritting schedule. Refills for the salt bins have also been requested.
- The pot holes on the Back Lane are worse than before the last work done on them. Councillor Hanson has agreed to take this up with ABC.

## Village Hall Update

Work has been ongoing in the Village Hall for a while and subsequently it now has new heaters and lights installed. In early March it will get an interior facelift with a modern paint upgrade and will look very inviting for parties and special occasions.

We all have our fingers crossed that we can host a village barbecue sometime in July once we get the *OK* from Boris. We also have plans for a series of social events as soon as we get the go ahead.

We are putting a plea out for new people to join us as Trustees, it's not an onerous task, only four meetings a year, but we need new ideas to keep the hall at the centre of our community. If you are interested please contact Doreen Bertram on 826196, or Gill Conlon on 828360.

**The Village Hall Trustees AGM is at 7pm on 30th June followed by the General Meeting.**

## We had snow! Photographs from around the village in early January 2021

Debbie Thorpe - Roman Camp



Gill Conlon-Back Lane



Alison Pekarek - fields in the village



Michelle Golightly - near Belle Vue



## Memories of Mrs Dorothy Jackson 18/07/1933 – 15/12/2020

Dorothy was born in Dearham to Tom and Sarah Stamper, later moving to Rose Farm, Little Broughton. She married the late John Fisher Jackson at Bridekirk Church, where she remained a regular worshipper, then settled into married life in Little Broughton after a honeymoon in London. This was the first of many holidays they were to enjoy over the years.

When Edmund was born they decided that they would like a larger property with some land. When part of the Leaconfield estate became The Mount, John purchased the stables, outhouses and grooms' accommodation and after renovation it became "High Mount" where they both lived for the rest of their lives.

Helen was born in 1961 and the family was complete, however there were always animals around including hens, dogs, cats, rabbits and ornamental birds.

Many years ago there was a village shop in Papcastle. It was Miss Dover's at the bottom of Dover's Lane. When it closed John and Dorothy decided to convert the end garage at High Mount into a shop, so when the plans were approved Papcastle still had a general store; a place where many lasting friendships were made. In 1979 it also became the Post Office after the retirement of Mrs Ritson and closed in 2003, when Dorothy retired and the service was lost. Dorothy received many accolades over the years and in 1988 she received "Best sub post office" from Cumbria in Bloom, for which she was very proud. She was a keen gardener and excelled at growing both vegetables and flowers. She was also proud of her ability on her ride on lawnmower. The garden provided a great fundraising event many years ago for the refurbishment of the Village Hall when Dorothy hosted a garden party and many cups of tea and coffee and home baked items were



consumed. She was always ready to bake for anyone or any event and you could always be sure there would be some tasty titbits in the pantry. Baking with her grandchildren and great grandchildren was always fun if quite chaotic and messy; she loved every minute of it. Dorothy was very proud of her grandchildren who have many happy memories of her, including homemade chips in newspaper and ice cream floats! Her 12 great grandchildren all filled her with immense love and joy. There were always toys and sweeties at Gran Doris's, as she was known, even if they were not really allowed! She was very proud of her family which makes us the family we are, as we had a great teacher. She taught us manners, respect, to be kind but most of all to look after



Dorothy receiving her award from Alex Docherty, the County District Manager for the Post Office (sponsors of Cumbria In Bloom) in 1988. Also present: CIB chairman, the Hon. St John Kemp and Allerdale District Council Chairman Les Lytollis and his wife Kay.

each other and that if you couldn't do a good turn for someone there was something wrong.

Another of her many talents was sewing, producing patchwork and applique quilts and various ornamental items many of which were given as gifts to friends. If it wasn't perfect it would be taken apart and started again as she had a true eye to detail which also showed in the beaded work she did.

Over the years Dorothy raised money for various causes in the county, without fuss, and one her favourites was The Jigsaw appeal for the Eden Valley Hospice for which they were always truly grateful. She will always be remembered as the strongest mother, mother in law, grandparent and great grandparent anyone could wish for. She is sorely missed, however she will always be much appreciated for the love and guidance we have all received in her glorious life. Dorothy's final journey from High Mount was bathed in glorious sunshine and the family would like to thank everyone who took the time to show their respect by lining the route through Papcastle to Belle View. It was heart-warming for us to see all those many friends she had and who generously donated over £500 in her memory. This has been donated to West Cumbria Hospice at Home.

Helen Johnston (daughter).

## The Census

I have been asked by Gary Brady to include this information about the forthcoming census as there is an emphasis this time to complete the questionnaire online. He explained to me that in normal circumstances he would have come into our community to help in person, however owing to the pandemic this just isn't possible. If you have any questions about the census there will be helpful instructions in the paperwork delivered to you. Still unsure how to proceed? Don't have access to the internet? You can contact me, Jude on 01900 269065 for help.

"Households throughout Cumbria will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021, it will provide a snapshot of modern society.

The census is a once in a decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

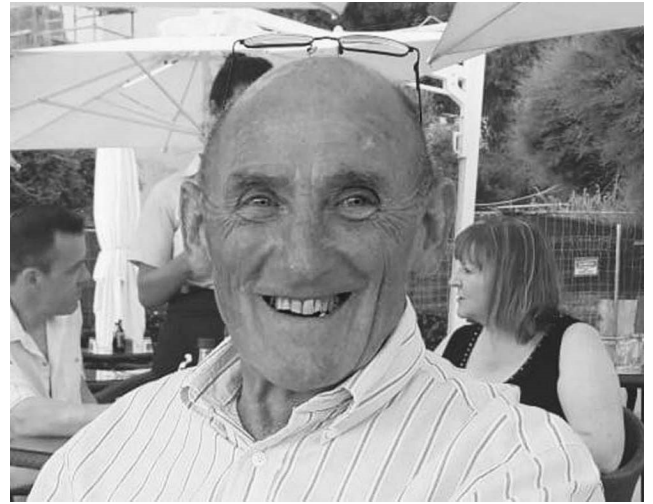
Your local Census Engagement Manager is Gary Brady and if you have any questions about the census you can contact him at [gary.brady81@field.census.gov.uk](mailto:gary.brady81@field.census.gov.uk)

The logo for the 2021 census, featuring the word "census" in a bold, sans-serif font above the year "2021" in a similar but slightly smaller font.

**For more general information on the census, visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk)**

## John Bertram 1943 - 2020

My husband John was born and raised in Whitehaven. He attended St Begh's Catholic School and from an early age showed talent as an athlete, running in the 'All England' Schools' national cross country event, winning a silver medal. He also spent much of his spare time as a boy, with his friends practising on the rugby league ground.



John left school at 16, starting as an apprentice at Chapel Bank steelworks. But he was desperate to move beyond Cumbria and persuaded his parents to let him join the army. He joined as a boy soldier completing his basic training in Wales where he was very homesick.

The army padre, the rugby coach, spotted John's potential skills. Despite John being a skinny teenager he took him under his wing, ensuring he was well fed on army rations and taught him the nuances of rugby union. At the end of his basic training John was transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Tanks known to be the army's rugby regiment. John went onto play at the very highest level through his army career, captaining his regimental team. He spent a great deal of his army life playing rugby and track and cross country running. He spent his early army career in Dorset, Libya, West Germany and Northern Ireland. John and I married in 1972 and had three children (sadly one little boy died as a baby). We were posted to Shropshire, Salisbury Plain and Germany. In 1979 we left army life and settled back in Workington where I resumed my nursing career. In 1982 John took on a permanent night shift job as well as all parental duties to enable me to go away to university to complete my Health Visitor training as Cumbria had no university then.

When we moved to Parsonby, John became depot supervisor for a parcel delivery company. We both took up road running, fell and long distance walking. We completed the West Highland Way, the Cumbrian Way, the Cumberland Way, most of the Pembrokeshire coastal Path and the Dolphin Trail in South Africa's Tsitsikama National Park. John competed in the Cockermouth marathon on 3 occasions.

We moved to Mealsgate in 1995 where we converted an old Cumbrian farmhouse into a Bed and Breakfast, which John ran full time and he was then in his element. John just loved people and through this he was able to talk to folks from all over the world as they enjoyed his hospitality over 21 years. After I retired we downsized to our cottage in Papcastle in 2016, to be near our many friends in Cockermouth. I worked part time at Wordsworth House and Garden and John did his favourite thing – talking to people. From day one the folks in Papcastle made us welcome but John, it appears, knew so many more people than I ever did as he walked our little terrier around the village several times a day. John took on the everyday maintenance for the Village Hall and had a hand in clearing the garden. He also obliged by delivering the *Villager* to nearby houses when called upon by the new editor a couple of years ago.



He loved living here and would often say how lucky we were.

John's illness was totally unexpected and relatively short. I am thankful we were made to spend last summer together due to lockdown for we were able to walk all the old footpaths in the sun. He was always happy and positive and I miss him so very much. I have been so touched by the kindness shown to me by so many of you.

Thank you, Doreen Bertram.

## The Calvert Trust

The past year has been an extremely challenging one for us all, however throughout this time of adversity there have been many acts of kindness and inspiration from both individuals and communities. Here in Papcastle and Belle Vue, with our wonderful community spirit, neighbours have supported each other and the village community has continued to thrive. Recently I have been on the receiving end of our community's support and generosity, through the many donations from people in the village to the Lake District Calvert Trust (CT) where I have worked for the past 10 years.

The CT has been operating on the shores of Bassenthwaite Lake for over 40 years, enabling people with disabilities to participate in outdoor activities. The Trust has been hit particularly hard by the pandemic. With lockdowns and other regulations we have been prevented from operating, resulting in a loss of over £1 million in income.

In December we launched our 'Bounce Back Appeal' and have been incredibly fortunate to have Oliver Voysey as a champion of our cause. Although he doesn't live in the village, Oliver and his family regularly come to the Lakes and I have worked with them numerous times during their visits to the Trust. Oliver is 13 years old and suffered a catastrophic brain injury when he was just 2 days old. He survived but was left blind and with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and learning difficulties. On hearing of the challenge faced by CT, Oliver set out on a fundraising campaign (Oliver's Calvert Army) and he has now raised over £218,000 for the Trust. I think what is more remarkable is Oliver's positive attitude towards life and his desire to make a difference. When you consider the obstacles he faces every day due to his disabilities, I think it makes him truly inspirational. Oliver's fundraising efforts have had a far greater impact than just raising money to support the charity, for me he has reinforced the importance and value of the work of the CT and reaffirmed my belief that disability is not a barrier to what someone can achieve. I also believe that Oliver truly encapsulates the CT's motto "it's what you can do that counts" and I hope that he will inspire others to see what challenges they can overcome.

I know that Oliver has already inspired people in our village to make donations in support of the CT and once again I wish to express my gratitude to you all.

Rob White, Roby Cottage.



## St Bridgets Church, Bridekirk

As the New Year began, the country was in the 3rd lockdown and at the start of the worst peak in the current wave of Covid. In light of this St Bridget's decided to keep the Church building closed to avoid the further spread of Covid.

However, we continue to be a living church family, meeting together, praising God, and encouraging each other, using the wonders of the internet and Zoom. Services are enjoyed in the comfort of our own homes, with a lively chat and banter after worship.

Like everyone else we look forward to being able to meet publicly without restrictions in the Church. Below you will see draft details of our planned services for Easter. These are open to last minute changes depending on the current Covid infection rate and government guidelines.

To keep up to date with the activities and life of our Church please visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stbridgetsbridekirk/> or

e-mail [bridekirk\\_church@icloud.com](mailto:bridekirk_church@icloud.com) for more information.

To join zoom use the link <https://bit.ly/2JF2apP> or scan the QR code



Date	Time	Service
7th March	11am	Agape
14th March	11am	All Age Mothering Sunday Service
21st March	11am	Morning Worship
28th March	11am	Palm Sunday
1st April	7pm	Agape on Maunday Thursday
2nd April	Mid-day	Good Friday reflection / prayers
4th April	11am	Agape on Easter Day

***Note:** these are all planned to be held via Zoom unless the situation with Covid changes such that we can move back into Church in safety.*

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition, particularly Elspeth who was supposed to have retired! If you have anything you would like to go in the next Villager, please email the editor, Jude at [msjmennim@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:msjmennim@hotmail.co.uk) by 31st May 2021.

If you would like to help write articles for the newsletter regularly, or even occasionally, please get in touch as any assistance would be most welcome.

**You can view *The Villager* online at [www.papcastle.org.uk](http://www.papcastle.org.uk)**