

Issue 60

The *Villager*

Summer 2021

Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter

Welcome to issue 60! Hopefully since the last *Villager* most of you will have had your Covid-19 vaccinations and life will have started to feel normal again.

Occasional plant sales in the last couple of months, in aid of the Village Hall, have raised over £150 and there may be more sales to come so watch out for them around the village. Enjoy the summer and renewed freedoms (when/if they come). Jude

Village Hall Refurbishment

There is no truth in the fact that the trustees of Papcastle and BelleVue Village Hall deliberately arranged lockdown to enable us to upgrade our village hall but it did provide us with an ideal opportunity to start and complete the work. Hopefully all of you will soon get the opportunity to see the finished job.

The most dramatic changes are obvious in the new decoration. Gone is the dated cream and brown colour scheme and it has been replaced by a lovely contemporary white and grey. To enhance the ambience in the hall we have also replaced the ancient and expensive spotlights with modern LED lights that are able to be adjusted by any group to create a bright, lively or very intimate atmosphere depending on need.

The heating has also been upgraded with installation of modern storage heaters and wall heaters that can give instant warmth. We have commissioned a new set of curtains to complement the new colour scheme.

Currently we are awaiting refreshment of the paintwork on the outside doors, the installation of new windows into the porch to prevent rain leaking in and a new notice board. We are also exploring the purchase of a new public address system with modern microphones, screen etc. Continued overleaf.....



So now we need the hall to be used. We are hoping to take bookings from late June and it can be booked by contacting Gill Conlon, Tel: 01900 828360.

We know we do not have the biggest village hall and we know that we have a problem with parking but we really are in possession of a little gem so please consider if you would like to book your birthday party, meeting, special get together or class in this special place so that we can keep it in the heart of our community. We already have our first booking for a wedding reception!

Look out for details of ladies' special nights and village barbecue in the future (Fingers crossed!).

Doreen Bertram



*****Zumba Gold*****

1pm Friday 9th July

Papcastle Village Hall

45 minutes - £5

Instructor: Danielle Carter

Tel: 07975521789

A Little Ditty by Jean Hann

Today I get my second Pfizer
Will that make me any the wiser

Will I become a great musician or have my very
own art exhibition
Whatever it is I'll have a great day
And then I'll soon be back in play!

My two hobbies are art and music so I was dreaming!!



New To The Village

Murray and I have moved from Glasgow and have lived in Cumbria since 1989.

Our family were all born at Whitehaven. Stuart and his wife Nikki now live in Manchester, Jack and his girlfriend Imogen, live in Newcastle and Kate is working from home at Papcastle at the moment. We have lived in Greysouthen and Cockermouth, so Papcastle gives us the perfect combination of living in a village and near town.

We are both retired and enjoying walking, cycling and pottering in the garden. We are looking forward to being part of village life.

Jacqui



Ladies Night!!

'Prosecco and Pudding' 7pm Friday 30th July 2021

£2 on the door, proceeds to Village Hall

Bring prosecco or pudding

Enqs to Debbie Rushton 01900 824831

Or by 'Papcastle Ladies' WhatsApp group

Please note this is subject to change if Covid restrictions remain.

Parish Council Snippets

Papcastle Parish Council Annual Meeting 4th May 2021

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nicky Cockburn and Janet Farebrother, Allerdale Borough Council (ABC)

David Johnson and Huw Morgan were re-elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year.

Village Seats

£300 has been received as an insurance settlement for the stolen village seat.

It was unanimously agreed that Richard Pickering had done an excellent job in restoring the remaining seats in his own time.

Riverside Footpath

Robert Jackson gave an update on the problems caused by erosion and expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of progress by the County Council regarding signage and proposed repair work.

Defibrillator

New pads will be needed within the next twelve months.

Virtual Meetings

It was agreed that from July, all meetings would be held in the Village Hall, following applicable social distancing rules.

Street Lighting

ABC to be contacted re update regarding quotations for the installation of underground cable to 10 lights in Papcastle.

Planning Applications

There were no objections to applications at M Sport, Dovenby and land near Bonny Hill Farm, Bridekirk.

Openreach

Reminder to be sent to Openreach, as there had been no response to the flooding of the chamber at Belle Vue.

Parish Audit

The Clerk reported that the account books etc., would now go for internal audit, and then to the District Auditor.

Next Meeting 6th July 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Village Hall Trustees AGM - 7pm 28th July 2021

Public attendance subject to Covid restrictions

Langton Highton 1937-2021

Langton was born in Tynemouth in April 1937, though his father and grandfather came from the Lorton Valley area. His childhood during WWII was spent in that area having free reign of hills and mountains.

He went to school in Newcastle and Sedbergh, where he played rugby, ran and boxed too.

He was offered a place at Oxford but his father decided that he should follow family tradition and go into the steel industry, so from the 1950's until 2001 he did just that.

He did his National Service in the Navy around Malta at the time of the Suez Canal troubles. During this time he again played rugby and boxed, on one occasion successfully against a big American 'GI'. He was a member of the field gun crew and performed in front of the Queen in 1955, building a field gun from scratch.

Following on from National Service Langton had a spell at IBM as a sales rep, before joining Durham Steel. He was young and unsettled though and wanted to be back in Cumbria, so after meeting me (Coco, a French girl in England studying the language), we got married and lived in various lovely houses in Lorton and the surrounding area, where we brought up our children Corinne, Marc and Stefan.

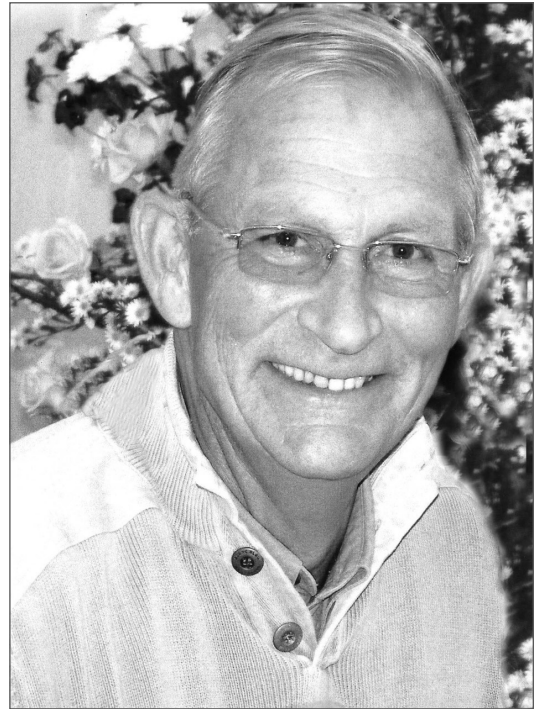
Langton loved steel and was instrumental in saving 'Skinningrove' steel works, which still exists today. He was forced to make tough and drastic decisions during the strike of 1980, but he was well respected for his principals and achievements and at the age of thirty he became the youngest General Manager. He was then appointed chairman of IRMA (International Railway Makers Association) and later given the honour of being made Deputy Lieutenant of Cumbria.

When Langton retired in 1993 we shared our time between Cumbria and France. We moved to Manor House, Papcastle in 2010 and made a few very good friends, never missing the annual Christmas evening at the hall.

Even with all the accolades, Langton was a very humble man who had a love for reading (especially historical books), gardening, walking, talking steel (naturally), living in France and speaking the language, but most of all he loved people.

Langton developed cancer eight years ago and had been battling it ever since. Thanks to lockdown it meant we were able to spend precious time together. We have ten grandchildren from our three children and he will be terribly missed by us all.

Coco Highton



Neil Campbell 1936-2021

Neil was born at Joppa, Edinburgh on the 8th April 1936. He was educated at George Heriots, a private school in Edinburgh, from the age of 4 through to 16. Summer holidays for Neil and the family were typically spent at Dunbar seaside enjoying the bracing sea air on the Scottish east coast.

The family were all golfers and Neil's love affair with the game started at Portobello 9-hole course where he became the boy's club champion. He also reached the quarterfinals of the Scottish Boys golf championship. He attended his first Open Golf Championship with his father at Muirfield, Gullane in 1948 and would keep up his open visits up until 2002.



After leaving school, Neil joined Craig and Rose paint manufacturers based in Leith and met his future wife Doreen whilst travelling into work on the train in 1958.

Whilst at Craig and Rose, Neil completed his two years national service being stationed at Bielefeld in north-western Germany. He liked to regale us with stories of how he was on the front-line defending Queen and country from the "marauding Russian hordes".

In 1959 Neil joined the Inveresk Paper Company in Musselburgh and was subsequently promoted to the Manchester office as a sales representative.

Doreen and Neil were married in 1962 and in 1963 bought a house at Handforth, near Wilmslow. Michael was born in April 1964 and Euan followed in December 1965.

In 1967 Neil moved to the paper convertor 'Smith Brothers' based in Whitehaven. He always recalled that at his interview he wore a bow tie, checked suit and brown suede brogues. The then MD opened the interview by making it abundantly clear he was unhappy with Neil's choice in business apparel. Nevertheless, despite allegedly not being able to understand his accent, he saw something in the sharp-dressed Scotsman and Neil was appointed to sales representative.

Our family moved to The Mount, Papcastle in 1971 to enable Neil to work at Smith's office in Whitehaven. He became General Sales Manager in 1974 and then Sales Director in 1986, a role he continued in until his retirement in 1992.

It is fair to say that through the 1970's -1990's Neil along with friends and neighbours contributed significantly to the profit margins of the Roundabout pub! (Now the Belle Vue).

Neil suffered a potentially fatal aneurism in 1991 and decided to retire aged 56, enjoying the next 29 years in retirement. He researched and put together the Cockermouth Golf Club centenary brochure for the 1996 celebrations. In 1993 he became the inaugural Senior Club Champion.

He retained a keen interest in all aspects of amateur, professional and junior golf. He also became a keen collector of golfing antiquities and memorabilia.

Neil was Vice Captain of Cockermouth Golf Club in 1979, Captain in 1980 and President in 1985 – roles which he fully embraced and filled with great distinction. Neil played a significant role in the successful development of the junior section at Cockermouth through the late 1970's and into the 1980's.

Following retirement, Neil developed a passion for cooking and, for a time, became the resident chef at 11 The Mount. He also took up fly-fishing, which, although enjoyable, was a rather less successful venture than his other pursuits. More than once he ended up at the local hospital sporting a fly hook stuck in one of his ears.

In later years, he worked as a guide for 15 years at Wordsworth House, a volunteering role he took very seriously.

The role allowed him to display his historical knowledge of the Wordsworth family.

Despite being a private and quiet man, Neil was an excellent public speaker able to pitch his tone and articulate his words to fit most occasions.

Neil has been blessed with three grandchildren: Erin in 2000, Jessie in 2002 and Daniel in 2009.

Reading was, until his last 2 years, a great enjoyment in his life. Until the end he retained his mental agility, interest in his appearance, his family and whatever was going on locally and in the wider world.

His favourite golfer and boyhood hero – was a man named Ben Hogan. Hogan once remarked: *“As you walk down the fairway of life – smell the roses, for you only get to play one round.”*

Neil always took time to smell the roses along the way, to sample the nice things of life.

Neil became ill in early March and after brief stays in Whitehaven and Carlisle hospitals then spent the last 5 weeks at home surrounded by his family. He passed away peacefully on the 29th April aged 85 and will be sadly missed.

Doreen, Michael and Euan Campbell

British Newspaper Archive

Jill Coyle found this piece online. Oh for a knife and fork supper!

THE WEST CUMBERLAND TIMES, SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1893.

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PAPCASTLE READING ROOM.

A social gathering, under the auspices of the above institution, took place on Friday evening. A knife and fork supper was provided in the Reading Room, to which 64 members and friends sat down, the tables being presided over by Mrs J. Carruthers, Mrs R. Skillen, Mrs Jos. Tolson, and Miss Campbell, assisted by Mrs Clarke, Mrs Salmon (Gilcrux), and Miss Campbell (Brigham). Mr Jos. Tolson acted as carver. A dance followed, the music for which was supplied by Messrs M. Carruthers (concertina), Jon. Wilson (concertina), and T. Hunter (violin). Mr D. Millington (Bridekirk) was M.C. During the evening songs were contributed by Messrs W. Hodgson, Jon. Wilson, T. Hunter, John Carruthers, and Allan Graham. A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev A. Sutton, M.A., vicar of Bridekirk, who granted the use of the schoolroom. Contributions for the gathering were given by Mrs Dodgson, Mrs Lloyd Wilson (Westworth), and Miss Gibson (Cockermouth). The committee having the arrangements in hand were Messrs J. Carruthers, R. Skillan, Allan Graham, T. Hunter, A. McNaughton, Jos. Tolson, D. Ellwood, and J. Richardson, the hon. secretary.

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St Bridget's Church

Life with St. Bridget's Church continues to change, meeting the needs of the current times. As the COVID lockdown restrictions begin to ease we have moved some of our services back into the building whilst others continue online. The current patten of worship is detailed below, all services start at 11am.

1st Sunday Holy Communion in church

2nd Sunday All Age worship online

3rd & 4th Sunday's Hybrid morning service of the word

Everyone is welcome to join us for any or all of our services. When joining in person in the church please remember to wear a face mask and follow current social distancing guidelines. To join us online simply scan the QR code or follow the link.

OR <https://bit.ly/2JF2apP>



You may also like to follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stbridgetsbridekirk>

A thank you from The National Census

Good afternoon Jude

Now that the public facing elements of the Census are complete we are thanking those who provided help and support. Attached to this email is the formal letter of thanks.

However, this official wording does not express my personal thanks to those in the community who really went 'above and beyond' to support this project and who gave their time and effort so selflessly.

I am very grateful for your help in getting our message out to the people in your community and The Papcastle Villager was one of only a few printed routes that were available.

Your commitment to your community (and those others like you who have shown the same spirit) is one of the key reasons we have delivered the best Census results ever and I am very thankful for all your hard work. (It is at this point that the law of unintended consequences come into play, because you have made me look a lot better than I really am).

I wish you all the best for the future.

Very many thanks

Gary Brady

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition, not forgetting those working in the background helping to proof-read and deliver *The Villager* to your door.

If you have anything you would like to go in the next Villager, please email the editor, Jude at msjmennim@hotmail.co.uk by 31st August 2021.

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