

Issue 62

The Villager

Spring 2022

Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter

It is with a heavy heart that I write this final introduction as editor. As a number of you will know Jonathan and I are moving out of the village. We have had a wonderful ten years in Papcastle, being privileged to share it with you lovely people.

I would like you to welcome Jill Douglas as the newly appointed editor and her sidekick 'Roving Reporter Jacqui' (Spiers). I'm sure they will continue to receive support from you all to keep the newsletter going. Look after each other, Jude

Papcastle and Belle Vue Advent Window Trail 2021



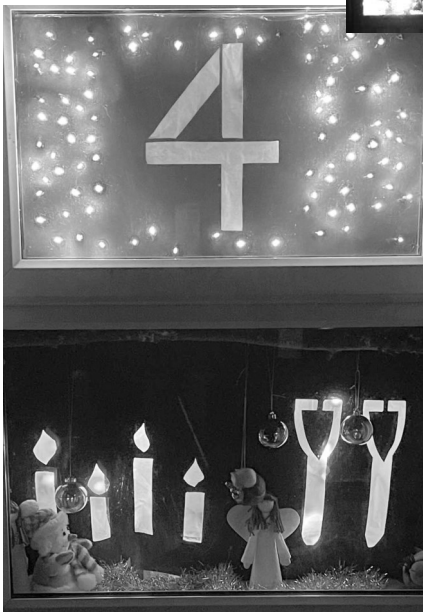
The original window trail was introduced in 2020 as a bit of fun and to fill a gap in Christmas festivities caused by 'lock down'. It was embraced wholeheartedly and a new trail was requested for 2021.

The trail has gained a reputation and we have had groups trailing around the village peering into the windows. I met many dog walkers seeing what was new every evening. I believe one resident put catering on for groups doing the trail one night. The windows were magnificent. They were funny. They were colourful. They were spectacular and so much work had gone into them. They were so difficult to judge.

To ensure that all tastes were catered for we had a brand new judge to do it this year and the judge had to go around several times in order to make a decision.

Well done all of you for joining in and embracing the fun and making our village so bright and cheerful for Christmas. Doreen Bertram

More Advent windows



Children's Christmas Party



Another successful Christmas party was held for the children on 4th December in the village hall. They played lots of games and the younger ones were transfixed by the sight of Santa!

Thanks to all the helpers and for the children for coming too.



Parish Council Snippets

Meeting held on Tuesday 4th January 2022 in the Village Hall.

Present: Councillor Catherine Bell (CCC), David Johnson, Huw Morgan, Robert Jackson, Robert Jackson Jnr, Jackie Day, Brian Merris, Ian Trohear, John Conlon and Jill Coyle.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nicky Cockburn (ABC).

Openreach has yet to respond regarding chamber flooding at Belle Vue. To be contacted again.

Huw Morgan confirmed that the salt bins had all been filled as requested.

There has been no response from Electricity North West regarding street lighting.

The blocked drain has not been cleared. Councillor Bell has agreed to contact the Borough Council.

Riverbank: Robert Jackson reported that the County Council thought this work had now been completed, and he informed them that this wasn't the case.

Councillor Bell confirmed that tenders had gone out for the work. She has also spoken to Mark Jenkinson MP, who has also agreed to contact the County Council.

Robert Jackson also reported on erosion under the bridge and has contacted the Environment Agency. Councillor Bell will also contact the Agency.

Defibrillator Pads: Huw Morgan confirmed that cut up defibrillator pads can be disposed of in domestic waste.

Various planning applications and planning decisions were discussed.

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Croft House Time Capsule

A set of 61 documents (or scraps of) in poor condition found encased in a stud wall (as a time capsule) were discovered during renovations and alterations at Croft House, Papcastle in May 2021.

They are a set of bills and receipted payment of them, some in so poor a condition as to be illegible.

The earliest appears to be –

August 15th 1737: Jn Simpson £46 to Eliza Rumney,
witnessed by Ann Simpson *

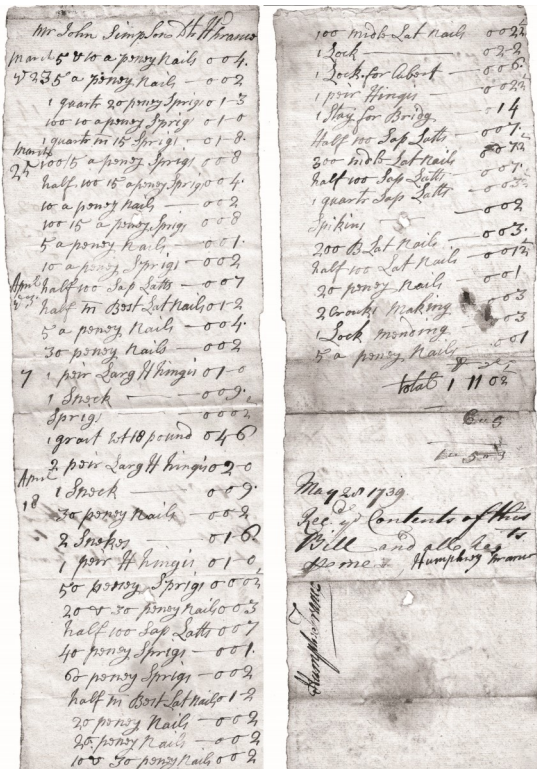
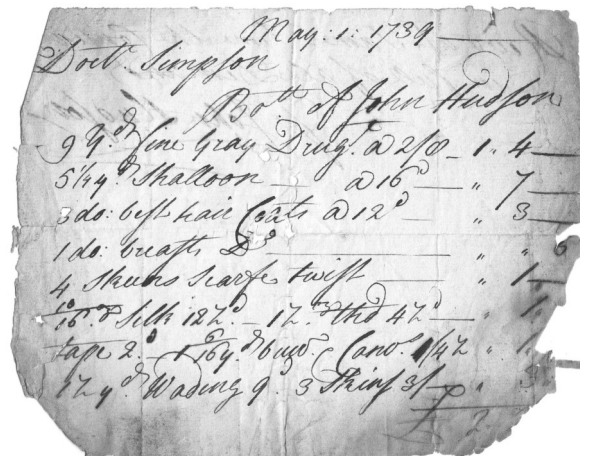
November 15th, 1737: Mr. John Simpson, 5 guineas for my of Anatomy to C. Hawkins

The last in the set is – 5 Oct 1741 to John Simpson.

A few of special interest are those addressed to Doctor Simpson. Most of the others are addressed to John Simpson.

Sep 26, 1738 Dr. Simpson (some haberdashery items 5s..6d., to Hans Frier)

(month unclear) 9th 1739 Doctor Simpson Dr to Wm Thompson to Jacob Sibson



Totalling £10.17.6d for various building supplies (12 items) and including £9.12.2 (unidentified) for possibly labour? Paid in full Novr? 11th 1739

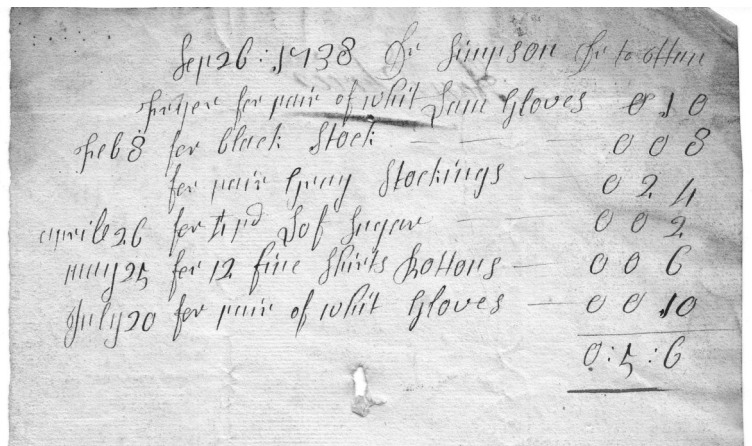
7th June 1739 Doctor Simpson 5s.9½d to Mr Hudson

13th June 1739 to Daniel Richardson.

1st May 1739 Doctor Simpson to (John Hudson)

July 7th 1740 Doctor Simpson – to Jacob Sibson –
seeds etc 12s..7d

Jan 28 (no year given) - Doctor Simpson.



It seems unlikely that a tradesman would drop the designation

“Doctor” so a possible scenario

might be Doctor Simpson was the owner of the house, lived there in 1739 but either soon after a) died or b) retired and moved away.

Subsequently his son also called John took over the house; he had been the purchaser of some stuff before this, addressed as Mr. John Simpson. He then continued the renovations, concluding by 1742 when this cache of documents was encased in the wall. The work on the house seemed most prolific in 1739 perhaps in preparation for Doctor Simpson moving out.

Although it is not necessarily the case that Dr John Simpson was born in Cumberland, there was a John Simpson baptised in Cumberland (parish not found) 13 Nov 1670. This would have been the right time for him as a doctor reaching 69 in 1739. Also there was a John Simpson baptised in Pardshaw 17 Sep 1703 with father John Simpson – this would fit for JS taking ownership of Croft House in 1739-ish.

Deaths recorded about this time include John S death in Cockermouth 7 Aug 1743 John S death in Pardshaw (Quaker?) 7 Feb 1746

[John Simpson is a common name in Cumberland.]

*In 2017, this is worth approximately: £5,438.00

In 1740, you could buy one of the following with £46: Horses: 6 , Cows: 9 , Wool: 97 stones, Wheat: 28 quarters Wages: 460 days (skilled tradesman)

[The National Archives Currency Converter]

May Mr John Simpson Dr to
1739 Wm Thompson to 1 Girt 12 foot 2:0
to 5 Red Sails for Stiles for partition: 2
to man one day Lifting Girts and
fixing up Stiles for partition — 1:2
22 to 3 window Bottoms — 3:0
to pieces of Girts for Lifting
girts — 1:0
to 33 Sails for floor — 1:18:6
to Sawing Sails — 0:5:6
to Laying floor — 0:12:6
to 3 Door Cases — 0:5:6
to 12 Sails for Eldon Girts 0:14:0
to Sawing and fixing the same 3:6
to 4 Doors — 1:0:0
to Stile for Door same 0:0:6
2 to 2 Sliding Casements — 0:6:0
to Sash window — 0:9:0
to making up Little Subert 0:1:0
7 to boxing old Door Checks — 0:1:0
17 to spring and screws for
Sash — 0:1:4
to mending Chair and Pole Ben 0:0:6
30 to Desk — 1:11:6
May to a Scatter Bed — 1:10:0
22 to Shells in pantry — 0:2:6
30 to Shifting for you — 0:0:6
June to Shifting for you — 9:12:2

Mr John Simpson Dr to Joshua Baines
May 21 5 paire Joyns and Nails at 10 — 0:4:2
1739 2 bolts and 2 keys — 0:0:6
1 paire Dove-tailed Joyns — 0:0:2 1/2
22 1 Curtian rod Nails (locks) } 7 1/2 — 0:3:9
and screws
June 7 mending 3 Locks — 0:0:6
1 Hammer — 0:2:0
13 1 Set Casters — 0:4:0
1 Lint box — 0:0:0
14 2 Sorne Nails — 0:0:1
15 mending 2 Casements — 0:1:2
16 1 key — 0:0:6
£ 0:18:0 1/2
June 20 1739
Receipt of the Bice
to the Acc. of June 20 Baines —

Cockermouth June 7 1739
Doct Simpson
Boat of J. Hudson
39 Dr Dimithy @ 15 — 3:9
12 9 Dr Linn (Co. — 12 — 1:6
W. thro — 1:2
20 butt. @ 22 — 0:5:5 1/2
0:5:4 1/2

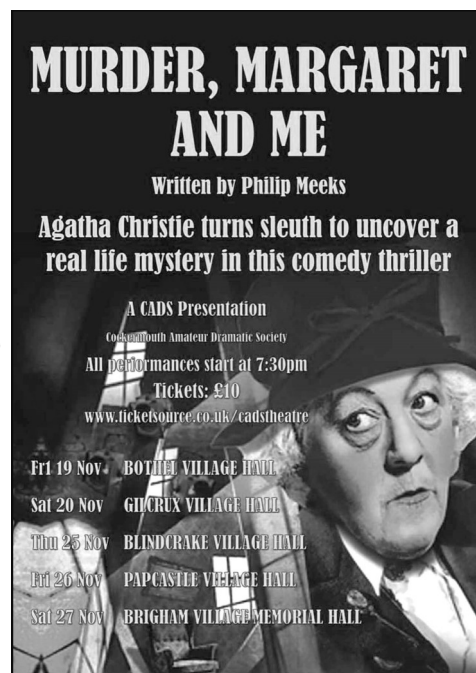
By Eric Apperley, May 2021

Miss Marple at the Village Hall

A fantastic tale of the connection between the writer of Marple and the actor Margaret Rutherford who played the character against the author's wishes.

The three actors held the audience in their grasp as the tale unfolded over the cold November evening in the hall. Minimal props were used, carried on and off by two soft-soled unassuming assistants (seen below flanking the actors - does anyone recognise the man stage left?).

This was an inspired idea by Cockermouth Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS), to tour the local village halls and has shown just how versatile our village hall can be. We look forward to further performances.



Papcastle and Belle Vue Village Hall Caretaker

Our lovely little hall needs someone to keep an eye on it. We want someone who might walk past the hall regularly.

Have you the time to pop into the hall 2 or 3 times a week to check the hall is defect free? Has there been any leaks? Has a hall user left the wall heaters on or switched the night storage heaters off? No practical skills needed just a wander around the building and report any faults to the Trustees.

If you think you can help please contact David Rushton at derdar@talktalk.net

Retired, Unemployed, Quarantined and Bored

This was a piece of writing given to me at the beginning of the first lockdown from David Thomas, who unfortunately passed away that year aged 98yrs. He didn't quite understand Covid 19 and when the call for volunteers came, he was there willing to pitch in and do people's shopping for them if needed! Ways of this world confounded him at times and I think he yearned for less complicated times. The tale below reflects that simple life. As this will be the last Villager I will edit, I wanted to include it, as in life David often contributed and it would amuse him to know that he is still doing so in death.

'I always get a kick out of looking in shop windows. When I was employed I never gave my attention to them... I was like a shuttle in a loom, home to dock, and engagement to engagement, no time to stand and stare. But with the inheritance of leisure I now find them as interesting as once I found them frivolous, without exception they are sanctuaries of refuge and last resort bolt holes! But even such a blameless frivolity is now proscribed and I have to seek new pastures to furrow with my trusty plough. So firstly allow me to relate an amusing story that to my mind defines, in a nutshell, my own perspective on 'modern life'.

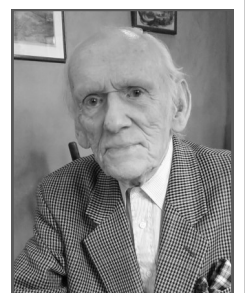
A shepherd was herding his flock in a remote pasture when suddenly a brand new Jeep Cherokee advanced out of a dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a 'Brioni' suit, Gucci shoes, Ray-Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leaned out the window and asked our shepherd "If I can tell you exactly how many sheep you have in your flock will you give me one?" The shepherd looks at the yuppie, then at his peacefully grazing flock and calmly answers "sure!" The yuppie parks the car, whips out his notebook, connects it to a cell-phone, surfs to a NASA page on the internet where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system, scans the area, opens up the database and some 60 Excel spreadsheets with complex formulas. Finally he prints out 150 pages report on his hi-tech miniaturised printer, turns round to our shepherd and says "you have here exactly 1586 sheep!" "This is correct, as agreed, you can take one of the sheep" says the shepherd. He watches the young man make a selection and bundle it into his Cherokee.

Then he says, "If I can tell you exactly what your business is will you give me my sheep back?" "Okay why not" answers the young man.

"You're a consultant" says the shepherd. "That's correct" says the yuppie, "How did you guess that?" "Easy" answers the shepherd. "You turn up here although nobody called you, you want to be paid for the answer to a question I already knew the solution to and you don't know anything about my business because you took my dog!"

And that, dear folk, neatly captures my own perspective on modern life.

Your ever loving scribe, David'



Regular Village Hall Activities

Keep Fit Tony McCorrian 01900 64632

Monday 6.30-7.30pm *School term only*

Zumba Gold Danielle Carter 07975521789

Friday 2-2.45pm, £5

(We need more activities!)



Village Hall
Bookings:

Gill Conlon

01900 828360

St. Bridget's Church ended 2021 with well attended Christmas services including the Carol Service, Crib service and mid-night mass. We wish all in our parish a belated Happy New Year. As the COVID lockdown restrictions begin to ease again the popular Bridekirk Friendship Group has resumed with a new look. We now offer a drop in coffee morning at the earlier time of 10:30 am - 12 on Mondays. This is open to all over 60's who are in need of a friendly atmosphere and companionship. For more information contact Diana Green on 01900 824311. The current pattern of worship at St Bridget's is detailed below, all services start at 11am.



1st Sunday Holy Communion in church.

2nd Sunday All Age worship in church and occasionally online.

3rd & 4th Sundays Hybrid morning service of the word in church & online.

Our Easter services have not been finalised therefore please see our Facebook page or find us on 'A Church Near You' <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/12479/>

Everyone is welcome to join us for any or all of our services. As a church we are continuing to wear face masks and follow current social distancing guidelines. Looking forward we have our Annual District Church meeting on 17th March at 19:30 in the Church meeting room. This is a public meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

Future Newsletters

Following Jude's sad departure for pastures new, Jilly Douglas (Holly Lodge) and Jacqui Spiers (The Manor House) have agreed to carry on with the compilation of The Villager. Please email any information, articles, photos, snippets and titbits for the next issue to: papcastlevillager@gmail.com, or drop them off in person and stop for a chat.

We would particularly like to see any contributions from our young folk - a short piece, poem or drawing they are particularly proud of, for example. Or maybe a joke or a riddle for us to solve. Contributions by 30th April please.

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