

Autumn 2022

Issue 65



The Villager

Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter



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

Welcome to this Autumn issue of the Villager with news of the activities we have enjoyed during this long hot summer along with details of what to put in your diary for the rest of the year - see back page. We've said goodbye to many friends this year - we wish them all well in their new homes - and we are lucky to have some new friends to get to know in their place. We look forward to meeting you at some of the upcoming events. Do please get in touch so we can include you in the newsletter: email papcastlevillager@gmail.com.

Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team

An interested and enthusiastic crowd of villagers of all ages gathered on Friday 2nd September to hear about the work of Cockermouth Mountain Rescue. Young and old were keen to investigate the vehicle and test the flashing lights and the very loud siren!

Carolyn told the crowd about the 50 to 60 volunteers who were signed up, including six of our own: Carolyn Otley, Simon Woodbury, Russell Butler, Steve Whitehurst, Tom Durcan and Jerome Poppe, all from Papcastle.

They attend approximately 70 call-outs a year. Geographically they cover a large area, including the Lorton Valley, Ennerdale and the Solway Coast up to Carlisle. The intensive training weekends are undertaken at Ennerdale.

CMR are completely funded by charitable donations and there are no salaried members. Thanks to the Village Hall Committee for organising such an interesting event.



Kids' Corner

Good luck to all our new starters at secondary school - we hope you will enjoy making new friends and taking on new challenges. Pictured here the Cockermouth School contingent: Toby, Finn and Lucas.

We'd love to hear about your achievements and experiences, whether at school or in your leisure time. Send your pictures with a sentence or two for the next edition to us at papcastlevillager@gmail.com.

We are not aware of any school leavers this year who are starting out in a career or further education, but if we have missed you - Good Luck! Why not get in touch and let us know what you are up to?

The Annual Village Barbecue 2022

As ever, a very popular event and a huge success. Many thanks to Debbie, David, Michelle, Brian and Brian and their helpers for making this event possible. We do appreciate the work involved.

The weather was perfect so seating was set inside and outside. David erected the safety barbecue tent on Friday and lit the



barbecue late afternoon Saturday. Debbie, Michelle and their team rolled into action having put out requests for food contributions. Burgers, sausages and chicken were bought, separate vegetarian food and barbecue set up, puddings stashed in the fridge, and the drinks table sorted and ably manned throughout the night.



David, Brian and Brian did a fabulous job cooking and cheerfully dishing out delicious food to the hungry villagers.



There was a wonderful turnout, with 72 tickets sold, plus eight under-8s, who go free. At least four families spanning three generations attended; wonderful to realise that it's an event all ages enjoy.

Many happy youngsters pitched in to help with a smile on their faces. Special thanks must go to Jessica and Millie who ran the raffle and did the majority of the washing up. Super effort!

It was a lovely, sociable evening and it was great to see so many of the village gathering



Following David's construction challenge to the Village's handypeople, there were a few go-carts buzzing round, keeping both young and old on their toes. Harry and Isabel had a great time on this go-cart and were absolutely delighted when David said they could be its new owners!



Many thanks to everyone who attended, the chefs, the salad and pudding providers and all those who helped out. Money raised will help us pay the bills for maintaining our Village Hall. Every penny counts!

Judy's New Job!

Congratulations to Judy Pattinson from the Mount who has just retired - then immediately taken on the job of cleaning our lovely Village Hall. She was even treated to a surprise birthday and retirement party there by her husband and neighbours Ali and Gayle. We do hope she didn't need to do the clearing up next day!



Stan's Walking Group (Cockermouth Striders)

The Group enjoyed recent walks at Aughertree & Uldale and then at High Nook Tarn at Loweswater.

This image of the Group was taken at the famous bench on The Coffin Route above Holme Wood at Loweswater. The next walk will be on Friday 21st October at Martindale.



Please contact Stan via seleighwanadoo@yahoo.com or on 01900 828821 for details.



Fabric Craft Fair with Coffee and Cake Saturday 15th October 2-4 pm



On Saturday 15th October Carole will be holding a Craft Sale again in the Village Hall, selling a wide variety of handcrafted fabric items including treat bags and bunting for Halloween, dog bandanas and bow ties for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas, tree decorations and much more. Come along and get some early Christmas presents, stocking fillers or place an order in time for her to make them before Christmas. Preview items on www.etsy.com/shop/carolefabriccrafts and buy much cheaper on the day. There will be coffee, tea and cake on sale too in aid of the Village Hall. We'd love to see you there. Any questions please contact carolejones100@gmail.com or phone 07787 704 330.

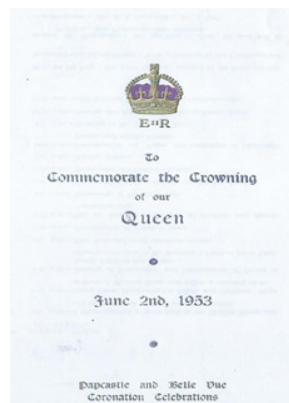


RIP Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



1926-2022

Papcastle and Belle Vue residents were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II. We wish her son, King Charles III, a long and successful reign. God Save the King!



APPROX. TIMES OF EVENTS.	
9.0 a.m.	—A Short Service is to be held in the Mission Room and will be conducted by the Vicar of Bridekirk.
1.15 p.m.	—Fancy Dress Procession for Adults and Children. Meet in front of Mission Room and follow a selected route.
2.30 p.m.	—Judging of Procession and Presentation of Prizes in Sports Field by the Judges. (Sports to be held in Mr Mooney's Field at Belle Vue).
3.0 p.m.	—Tiny Tots and small childrens events.
3.30 p.m.	—Presentation of Prizes to same.
3.15 p.m.	—Tea in Reading Room for all children and Sports Committee only.
5.0 p.m.	—Remainder of Villagers' Teas.
5.0 p.m.	—Presentation of Souvenirs in the Mission Room.
5.30 p.m.	—Remainder of Children's Events.
7.0 p.m.	—Adults Events.
8.30 p.m.	—Presentation of Prizes for remainder of Children's Events and Adults Events.
9.0 p.m.	—Dancing in Mr. Jackson's Barn.
10.15 p.m.	—Bonfire and Fireworks Display in Sports Field.
11.15 p.m. until Milking Time.	—Dancing—Refreshments.

M.C. for the Day : Mr. John Jackson ; assisted by Mr Bolt, Strong.
Souvenirs and Sports Prizes : To be presented by the Chairman and his wife.
Judges for Procession : Mr. and Mrs. G. Mart ; Mr. and Mrs. S. Widdon ; Miss Pattinson ; Miss Hodgson.
Handicappers : Mr. R. S. Sedgewick ; Mr. J. Bell.
First Aid : Mr. T. Burns ; Mrs. S. Scott.
Starters : Mr. W. Mooney ; Mr. W. Richardson.

Coincidentally, Robert Jackson received a letter from France from a former resident of 1 Oakleigh Terrace, Nigel Scott, enclosing a programme from the Papcastle Coronation Celebration for Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Robert still remembers taking part in the fancy dress parade!

PAPCASTLE COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA GETS A NEW NAME



Playing by Ear in the Village Hall ca 2007

Many of you will know that in 2007 a small group of local people were encouraged to dust off their instruments and gather together once a month in our village hall to make music. The initiator was music lover Gill Greenhalgh, previously of Cedar Lodge, who wanted to provide the opportunity for anyone, regardless of standard, to play with other like-minded people who enjoyed music. The group was expertly led by Papcastle resident Dr Philip Wood, who arranged well-known pieces so that they could be played by amateur musicians.

The group was originally called "Playing by Ear,"

although you did really need to be able to read music to join in, so by 2009 the name was changed to "Papcastle Community Orchestra". By 2016, under Phil's skilful supervision, aided by Gabrielle Sanders and the rest of the committee, the number of players had increased from 11 to 43, so a move to a larger venue was necessary. The Orchestra now meets once a month on a Tuesday evening in the United Reform Church in Cockermouth and, since most of its members now do not live in Papcastle, its committee took the decision to change their name to the **Cockermouth Community Orchestra**. However, it is still directed by Phil, has many of the original Papcastle players and remains true to Gill's vision, by providing an opportunity for everyone to play their instrument with others.



THE MAN WITH THE BATON

I wanted to find out more about the man behind the success of this Papcastle venture, so I had a little chat with Phil and this is what I discovered:

Phil first encountered classical music at the age of 8 when the local secondary school orchestra visited his primary school, "I was blown away by the Radetzky March by Johann Strauss Snr", he says. Whilst his family were not interested in classical music, he became so interested in famous composers that he used to research and memorise facts about them. He started composing rhythms and trying to write down notes even before he could play an instrument, knowing at the age of ten that music would be his career. In secondary school, his

classmates were amused that "Woody" always knew the answers to questions asked by his inspirational music teacher Peter Kitson. He collected classical LPs, playing them on his little record player at home, when the rest of us were listening to rock and pop. (He still prefers to listen to folk, ballads and crooners when not listening to classical). He went on to study music, drama and philosophy at Leicester University, playing piano, violin and viola in the orchestra and singing bass in the college choir. He specialised in the modern British composers William Walton, Benjamin Britten, Vaughan Williams and Malcolm Arnold, the latter becoming a mentor and friend to Phil as he developed his musical talents.

When he lived in Wakefield, Phil conducted the Youth Wind Band, the Youth Symphony Orchestra and the all female choir the Rodillian Singers. He then moved to Cumbria and became Musical Director of the Castlegate Singers Ladies choir in Cockermouth, writing several pieces for them, before starting the Papcastle Community Orchestra and directing small chamber groups. He taught at the Lakes School in Windermere, and continues to teach private pupils from home. He receives commissions to compose music for professional musicians and has had many pieces performed, recorded and published.

Not a natural leader, Phil admits that he is quite nervous before stepping up to the podium, and this was considerably worse before a performance of Sir Malcolm Arnold's Grand, Grand Overture in 2013 when he realised that Kathryn Arnold (Sir Malcolm's daughter) was in the audience! The Covid lockdown meant that live music received a serious blow in 2019, but it is bouncing back: the most recent performance by the newly named Cockermouth Community Orchestra, which closed the Cockermouth Live event on 3 July, was a sell out! Phil says that his compositions express his appreciation of the beauty of the natural world, reflecting the sound of water and birdsong, the woods, lakes, shadows and the changing seasons, as in his four-part piece "Postcards from Cockermouth". He also finds inspiration in poetry and prose, writing music to Shakespeare and Wordsworth's "Daffodils" poem, for example. But more than anything, he likes to compose music for people he knows: he writes to the strengths of the musicians he works with, for his community orchestra and as birthday gifts for his friends.

At 50, Phil says he has realised all his ambitions as a composer and is content, although he will continue composing for as long as he "has the itch". He is keen to go on conducting, perhaps setting up a small chamber group in addition to the full orchestra. Musical interaction with others is what gives him a buzz.

If you would like to know more about the music groups Phil is involved with, or to arrange music tuition from Beginners to Grade VIII in music theory, violin, viola or piano, please contact him directly via email: pwcomposer@gmail.com.

Jilly



More Tales of the River Bank

**FOOTPATH
CLOSED**

Despite the sign on the gate, the flood prevention works under the bypass bridge have now been completed and the footpath is open - for the moment, until the next flood. Much to Robert Jackson's frustration, the civil engineers ordered the retaining wall to be *lowered* by 18 inches and to be shored up with jagged slate blocks rather than the large limestone boulders which were previously there (and are now lying abandoned on the river bed). They fear that limestone will dissolve into the river water affecting its PH value - this despite the fact that tributary streams flow over limestone outcrops just down river. From his experience of previous flood events, Robert fears that

will catch the jagged slate and dislodge the blocks, destroying the wall, and that the bank will be undermined yet again, even though both the concrete bridge supports and bank in between have been reinforced and raised, also by 18 inches.

Downstream from the bridge, however, the public right of way teeters precariously along the top of the eroded bank. There are currently no plans to shore up this part of the river bank. Take care and keep your wellies close at hand folks!

Jilly





Christmas 'Merry Meet' at the Village Hall

Saturday 10 December 7.30 pm



Following the rip roaring success of the Jubilee event, we are trying a new format for our Christmas village celebrations in the village hall. All it will cost you is a plate of food! We were so impressed by the lovely grub donated before that we recognised we did not need to leave Papcastle for special treats. As usual we will have a bar selling alcoholic and soft drinks.

- ♦ If you want to attend the 'Merry Meet' please contact Gill Conlon to reserve your place (01900828360 / 078583832837) so that we don't overfill the hall and let her know what you are planning to bring. We are hoping for a good mixture of sweet and savoury.
- ♦ Any donations for the raffle please leave with Doreen Bertram at 4 Garden View.
- ♦ Prize for best Christmas accessory – (hat, earrings, tie etc)

We are giving the carols a miss this year and keeping our fingers crossed that Santa will visit the village in December after an outdoor carols get together.

Doesn't Christmas come around fast ?!

Doreen & Gill



Papcastle Question Time Mystery in Belle Vue



Solved! Thanks to the power of the Villager, a contact for Robert Veal has been found so that Jane can at last forward his important post.

Where have all the trees gone?

They just got too big to manage! The owners of the land are busy landscaping the plot and enjoying the view. There are currently no plans to further develop the land.



ST. BRIDGET'S, BRIDEKIRK
People of hope and love

Our regular monthly service pattern (all at 11am)

- 1st Sunday: Holy Communion
- 2nd Sunday: All Age worship
- 3rd Sunday: Morning worship
- 4th Sunday: Family worship & Sunday School
- 5th Sunday : Morning worship

Warm greetings to all Papcastle and Belle Vue residents from everyone at St Bridget's. They say that time flies, and we now find ourselves planning our services for the rest of the calendar year.

For this coming quarter, our regular service pattern is maintained, with the following modifications for special events:

Remembrance Sunday: 13th November: Service starts at 10-45am.

Christmas Carols: 18th December: Service starts at 6-30pm

Crib Service: 24th December: Service starts at 4-00pm

Midnight Mass: 24th December: Service starts at 11-30pm

Everyone of all ages is welcome at all of our services. We always do our best to make you feel welcome, our services are typically up to one hour in length, followed by light refreshments for those who wish to gather for an informal chat. We all look forward to meeting you.

Keep up to date with all our activities by following us on social media

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/stbridgetsbridekirk/>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/stbridgetsbridekirk/>

or by e-mailing us at bridekirk_church@icloud.com

Parish Council Snippets

Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: David Johnson (Chairman), Robert Jackson, Robert Jackson Jnr, Jackie Day, Ian Trohear, Jill Coyle, Huw Morgan (Vice Chair), Brian Merris, John Conlon, Councillor Catherine Bell (Cumbria County Council) plus one member of the public.

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

Public Participation: Mary Bradley, a member of the **Nuclear Waste Management Services Engagements Team**, gave an informative talk, explaining the details of the search area for suitable sites for a geological disposal facility for high level radioactive waste. She said that there were many considerations, including geology and climate change. Any area considered suitable, could not be used without the consent of the local community, with a referendum probably necessary. During an earlier site selection process, two communities in Cumbria, Allerdale and Copeland had expressed interest in hosting a repository.

She also mentioned the forthcoming electoral boundary changes and a new Cumberland Council which could decide whether or not they want the area to be considered for storage. Mrs Bradley stressed that this is a long term project and that extra funding would be available for the benefit of the communities taking part.

Riverbank: Robert Jackson reported on the work that had been done - the bank on the underpass had been lifted by 18 inches and the wall height dropped by the same amount. Robert stated his opinion that in the event of a flood, the large shards of slate used in the construction would be washed out and he has asked United Utilities to look at the work. Councillor Bell reported that she has been in contact with the County Council and United Utilities regarding the work. It was agreed to write to the County Council expressing concern about the standard of work.

Gulley Emptying: This work has been carried out, but David Johnson said that a gulley at Belle Vue was still blocked, and thought that a pipe leading to the gulley had possibly been damaged.

Pumping Station Brigham: Still not adequately screened from view - United Utilities have been contacted about planting screening trees.

Castle Gardens: An email has been received from the Independent Living Lettings and Neighbourhoods Officer concerning the lack of public transport and other amenities, which was leading to difficulties in letting the bungalows. The Parish Council has tried in the past to support a regular bus service, but the service had been withdrawn.

Public Participation: A question was asked about the felling of trees in a local garden. The Chairman explained that the garden in question was privately owned, not in a Conservation Area, and no trees were under a Preservation Order, so this was not within the remit of the parish council.

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

If you have a concern with which the Parish Council may be able to help, please contact the Parish Clerk: Mrs Barbara Lamb, Sunningdale, Distington, Workington, CA14 5XP or any of the Parish Councillors. You are welcome to attend any of the meetings, though you will have to seek the Chairman's permission to contribute. The minutes of the meetings are posted on Village noticeboards when ratified.

Hello!

New To The Village ~ Welcome!

We are the Miller family, Roddy, Lynn, Ethan, Finlay, Natalie and Leo. We moved into Sunnyside at the end of August from Ayr. Our older boys enjoy sailing and Natalie is loving the views for her artwork. Leo is hoping to join a toddler group and meet some friends. We enjoyed meeting some of you at the Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team event and are looking forward to exploring the Fells safely. We are very grateful for the warm welcome we have already received and look forward to getting to know everyone.





Village Hall



To book contact Gill Conlon 01900 828360

The newly refurbished Village Hall is popular and well-used for parties, gatherings, sports activities and rehearsals. We now also have a table tennis table for village residents - book a session in the hall to use it. Ideally, we would like to reinstate the regular "Drop In" coffee morning. We just need volunteers for a rota - can you spare one morning a month? Contact Debbie Rushton 07754 127103 if the answer is yes. We are also still looking for a caretaker to pop in 2 or 3 times a week just to check nothing is amiss. Contact David Rushton at derdar@talktalk.net.

Every Monday 6.30 pm	Keep Fit with Tony Magorrian (from 17th October) tony.magorrian@gmail.com
Every Tuesday 10-11.30 am and Every Wednesday 6-7.30 pm	Yoga (from 4th October) Pat Irving, East to West Wellbeing 07962 127812 pat@easttowestwellbeing.com https://www.easttowestwellbeing.com/
Every Friday 2-2.45 pm	Zumba Gold £5 - Contact Danielle Carson 07975521789
Every Saturday Class times vary	Divas School of Dance. Classes for all ages in Ballet , Modern & Tap. Please contact M Williamson on 07512804184 for further details or email mandywilliamson72@yahoo.co.uk
Saturday 8th October	Oktoberfest - back by popular demand, Michelle and Brian are yet again hosting their successful German Evening - tickets will be limited - see A boards for further details.
Saturday 15th October	Carole's Fabric Craft Fair with Coffee and Cake 2-4 pm See page 3
Friday 21st October	Single Malt Whisky Tasting - Magdi and Penny are hosting a tasting evening to talk us through a varied choice of the golden nectar - tickets £22 limited to 19 adults Contact Penny to book your place 07876 194484
Friday 4th November	Osprey Talk - 7 pm £3 on the door
Saturday 10th December	Christmas Merry Meet - 7.30 pm See page 6 - contact Gill Conlon 01900828360 / 078583832837

Papcastle and Belle Vue Advent Window Trail

It seems that this is now another Christmas Tradition in our village. All you have to do is decorate one of your front windows from the date allocated to you by the organisers and light it up every evening until after Christmas, 1st January 2023. We must have 24 names and addresses for this popular and illuminating event to take place. It does not need to be complicated or expensive, just enjoy yourself making your window bright and inviting! Please give your details to Doreen (07468566109) by 1st November 2022 if you wish to participate. When she has 24 entrants, the names will be pulled out of a hat and allocated their Advent Date. There are prizes for the winner and runner up. Looking forward to another beautiful Christmas in Papcastle!



This copy of The Villager and the production costs for the year have been kindly funded by The Cockermouth & Papcastle Recreational Trust. Thanks go to all who contributed to this edition, especially Yvette for her work on the photos. If you have anything you would like to go in the next *Villager*, or a story you would like us to write for you, please email the editorial team, Jilly and Jacqui at papcastlevillager@gmail.com by 31st December 2022. We would welcome contributions from our readers: puzzles, jokes and quizzes, poems, local interest articles, events for others to join in. We need your input to make this newsletter interesting. If you are new to the village, please get in touch and introduce yourselves. We'd love to say hello.

Jilly and Jacqui