

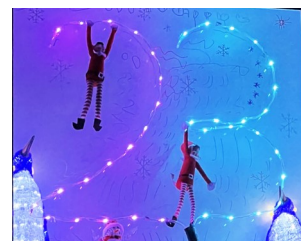


Winter 2022-23

Issue 66

The Villager

Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter



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

Happy New Year to you all! There is so much to squeeze into this issue after an action packed Autumn and Christmas in Papcastle. We have photos of the many events at the Village Hall, plus the Advent Window Trail, an interview with Janet Johnson of Salmon Lodge, news of our new residents and of course details of what's on this Spring in your village. We'd love to see you at one or other event.

Christmas Merry Meet and Carol Singing



On Saturday 10th December, the Village Hall hosted its Christmas Merry Meet. Everyone brought food, savoury and sweet, and when the covers were lifted, the fun began. Doreen organised a raffle, providing much laughter as well as funds for the Village Hall, and there were party games where everyone (even the football fans who may have preferred to be watching the World Cup final) joined in! Many thanks to the bar staff, John and Phil, and to Doreen and Gill for organising such an entertaining and welcoming event.

Then, despite the freezing temperatures on Sunday 11th December, there was a good turnout of Papcastle Villagers gathered for Carol singing at the top of The Mount. Gill had printed Carol sheets so nobody had an excuse not to join in. Vicki and her wonderful family provided mulled wine and warmed mince pies for all the Carol singers; very much appreciated in the cold.

Kids' Corner

Our Village youngsters have obviously been behaving themselves this year as Santa visited us with his Round Table elves and gave the children a seat in his sleigh as well as presents!

Then there was the Children's Christmas Party in the village hall, where parents had a great time catching up and the kids enjoyed a special entertainer who did magic tricks and party games. Many thanks to organisers Tai and Ali, and to the volunteers for making it all possible.



And on Monday 31st October, prior to spooking round the village in their amazing costumes, the kids had a super Halloween party in the Village Hall. Tai and helpers decorated the hall beautifully, organised games for the children and baked cakes for the party. Many thanks to the Papcastle and Cockermouth Recreational Trust for donating funds for these events. What a great village we live in!

Papcastle and Belle Vue Advent Window Trail 2022

Runner-up

Henry at Ordgarff said Mum Nicola's aim was just to make people smile.



This Year's Winner!



The Christmas Elf at no. 41 The Mount always demands to be the star of their show, so Vicki and Mike came up this witty scene to keep him happy.



Highly Commended

At Papcastle House, an old wooden sledge was reclaimed from the woodpile and made into a snowy scene by Rachel and her Dad.



In the dark days of 2020 when Covid had everyone in its grip, the concept of brightening the village using advent windows was passed to me. Gill Conlon and I put the idea out through the Papcastle Ladies WhatsApp group and it was totally embraced. The village windows lit a trail that many people followed as a change from being cooped up away from folks in their 'bubbles'. We thought that was the end of it, but public demand meant we had to repeat the event in 2021 and 2022. The Papcastle Windows were gaining notoriety outside the village. Families and other groups were coming into the village to see the light displays.

The windows are wonderful. Some funny, some scary, some totally linked to the Nativity. We choose a winner using a different, secret, judge every year, but all of the window decorators need to be praised for embracing the fun of the event. If you go out on a dark, frosty night you can see grannies, dogs and children creeping up someone's path to peer at the fantastical sights. Well done Papcastle!

Doreen



90 Years Young!



John Martin of Fellbarrow celebrated his 90th birthday in October with friends and neighbours. He moved to Papcastle with his late wife Polli in 1991 from London. Many Happy Returns from the Villager!



Stan's Walking Group (Cockermouth Striders)

Stan arranges walks led by group members twice a month usually on a Friday or Saturday. Car sharing can be arranged if transport is a problem.

This year's walks will start on 4th March at Brampton. The walk includes Talkin Tarn and The Capon Tree Monument. On 6th May, they are planning to walk at Burgh by Sands on the outskirts of Carlisle. King Edward I died at Burgh Marsh nearby. There is a memorial on the marsh and a statue at the Village Green. The former railway station still stands as a private dwelling and St. Michaels Church is a fortified church built with stone from the Roman wall.

If you would like to join them, please contact Stan via seleighwanadoo@yahoo.com or phone 01900 828821 for further details.

Bonfire Night Baby



Congratulations to Rachel and Kevin Atkinson on the arrival of Finlay on 5th November 2022. Big brother Seb is very proud of the newcomer to Papcastle House. Our best wishes to all the family.



Drop in for Coffee and Cake at the Village Hall

Despite the inclement weather on Saturday 15th October, villagers and friends made their way to the Village Hall to purchase beautifully handcrafted gifts and Christmas decorations made by Carol. Trade was buoyant and the chat over tea, coffee and homemade cakes was flowing.

We plan to hold similar coffee morning/afternoons more regularly this year - not quite replacing the weekly Village Drop-Ins from several years ago, but often enough to help everyone keep in touch. Watch out for dates and times on the Village A-Boards.



German Night, Saturday 8th October



Organised and hosted perfectly by Michelle and Brian, this was a lively gathering of villagers to celebrate Germany's annual beer festival. We sampled a delightful selection of sausages: Volkswagen Currywurst, mini Bratwurst, Original Nürnberger, Bockwurst, Vienna pork mini Frankfurter, Vienna Beef Mini Frankfurters, and Weißwurst, together with Munich Style Pretzel and crusty rolls, German potato salad, smoked cheese and salami, all washed down with lashings of Tractor Shed German style helles Bier from the brewery at Seaton, Monkey 47 gin from the Black Forest, Sloe gin from Bavaria, traditional Apfelschnapps, Riesling and Gewürztraminer wines and red Pinot Noir from Germany's

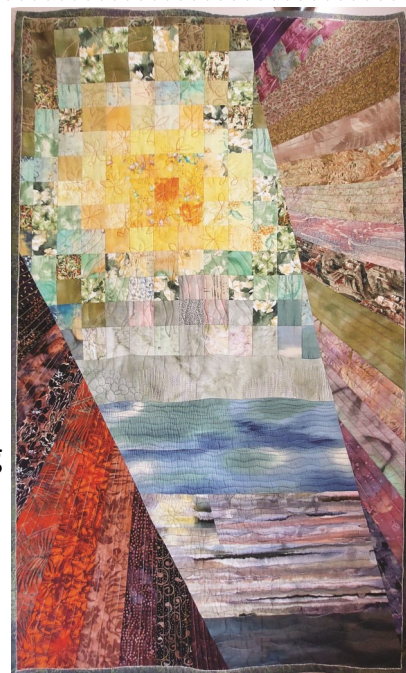
Rheinhessen region. When sausaged-out, we went on to dessert: Apfelstrudel and German style vanilla custard, chocolate Pretzel and mini Stollen, all accompanied by music from the Munich Bierkeller and loads of chat. If this has made your mouths water, watch out for the next one. Prost!



The Joy of Quilting

In my continuing quest to uncover the many talents hidden inside the homes of Papcastle and Belle Vue residents, I was privileged to be invited to Salmon Lodge to see the beautiful works of art created in textiles by Janet Johnston.

Janet has always been fascinated by needlework: she started dressmaking in her teenage years, making her own clothes and later those of her children. She experimented with cross stitch, then Hardanger lace until she was introduced to quilting thirty years ago. She started making patchwork quilts and was soon supplying her extended family with her unique designs. she joined several craft groups and even went on specialist themed holidays to India and Japan to explore their needlework traditions. On the wall of her conservatory hangs an impressive example of an embroidered tent cloth from Cairo.



Today she concentrates on works of art using quilting and embroidery techniques that express her feelings. She showed me her favourite: an exquisite wall hanging in the style of the Austrian surrealist artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser (left). The different colours, textures and shapes of the materials she uses combine to create a wonderfully vibrant and tactile effect. Buttons and beads, glittery threads, wispy iron-on Angelina thread, shimmery fabrics, ruched quilting – all contributing to an entrancing and commanding piece.

Escorting me to her bright and spacious sewing room stuffed full of boxes of interesting materials, Janet says that when she is sewing she is “in her happy place”. Completely focused on a new project, she brings her creative vision to the large wall-mounted design board when deciding which fabrics and colours to use. “I’m happier here than anywhere else,” she admits. Sometimes she bases her creation on the work of another artist, as with the Hundertwasser quilt, sometimes on a poem, as with Wordsworth’s Daffodils (top right). She even based one on the Shipping Forecast for Cromarty, interpreting the fierce wind (the Gentle Annis) which can blow down the Firth (next page).





Janet's magnificent works of art are not for sale, even though she has run out of wall space to display them all. "I put so much of myself into these quilts," she confides, that she cannot bear to part with them, although she does sometimes give them away as presents.

She attended a year-long course in quilting design in Penrith, run by the leading Scottish artist Pat Archibald, and currently meets once a month with Maureen Lamb's quilting group "Connected by Thread" in Embleton for a day's indulgence, companionship and guidance. In October 2022 they held a successful exhibition of their work at Embleton Village Hall.

When asked if needlework is a dying craft, Janet says that since the Covid lockdown creative textiles



The Stream

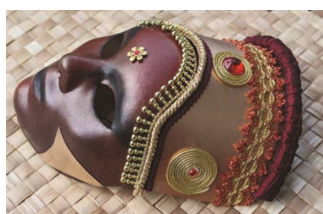
have undergone a revival. People have rediscovered the quiet satisfaction of taking time to create something beautiful and unique from within themselves.

If you feel inspired to follow in Janet's footsteps, Maureen Lamb holds teaching sessions for beginners and more advanced students. Contact her on mlamb41@outlook.com for more information.

The Papcastle Lectures!

Osprey Talk

Continuing with our informative talks in the Village Hall, we were pleased to welcome Glenys Pyke from Ullock to give us an insight into Ospreys. Glenys has volunteered for the Osprey Project at Bassenthwaite Lake since its inception in 2001 and was therefore able to enlighten us on the fascinating life of these birds. Visiting us from early April through to September, we have over the years had various nesting pairs of Ospreys returning to Bassenthwaite Lake to raise their chicks. Glenys' enthusiastic presentation showed magnificent close up photographs of these wonderful birds perching, in flight, on the nest and catching fish together with the migration route they take to Senegal when they leave our shores. We are lucky to have such wonderful nature on our doorstep and thank Glenys for sharing her photographs and knowledge with us.



The Changing Face of Egypt

Our next Village Hall Talk will be on Friday 20th January - given by Magdi. Do come along and join us. £3 on the door (includes cup of tea/coffee & biscuits) or BYOB.

Whisky Tasting

On Friday 21st October, Stephen Walker from The Cockermouth Whisky Tasting Club gave an illuminating talk on whisky to a lively crowd of 20 villagers. Stephen, who works part time at The Lakes Distiller, introduced 5 specialist whiskies, ranging from the Isle of Mull to as far afield as Canada. There was a 12-year old Tobermory, a Glasgow 1770 and a smoky old Ballantruan, all accompanied by cheese and biscuits. One whisky was 64.5% proof, the minimum for a Scotch whisky being 40%, and one whisky cost £74 a bottle! Did you know that 60% of the taste of whisky comes from the cask in which it matures? Most of the casks are originally used in the American Bourbon and Spanish Sherry industries. Many thanks to the organisers Penny and Magdi.



David Wood

9th June 1938 - 10th January 2023

David, originally from Felling, Tyne and Wear, moved to The Mount with his family in the early 70's from Worcester. He worked as an electrical engineer with Norweb (later United utilities) and this gave him the opportunity to travel around Cumbria on a variety of projects - all of which were stored away for future conversations and anecdotes.



When he retired, he treated himself to a sporty Mercedes, and splashed out on holidays to Australia where he enjoyed visiting distant relatives. He liked to walk daily, usually into Cockermouth for coffee and scones, and you couldn't miss him in his green/blue cable knit jumper either in the garden or around the village. He also served as a member of the parish council for some time. He was always happy to help if anyone wanted advice, particularly if he could utilise some Norweb knowledge. More recently David was caring for his wife Ann who developed dementia during COVID until his own cancer diagnosis resulted in them both residing at Dalton Court, where he died peacefully on Tuesday, January 10th. He is much missed by his children, Christopher and Nicola, his grandchildren, Fred and Alex and son in law, Mark, and of course our Village.



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

Everyone at St Bridget's wishes all in Papcastle and Belle Vue a happy and fulfilling New Year.

We are continuing to maintain our Sunday service patterns, shown on the top right of this feature and have now re-established two of our regular midweek activities, which are highlighted below.

Our services are typically up to one hour in length, and we always do our best to make everyone feel welcome. All services are followed by a time for light refreshments, and an informal chat for those who want to take part, the choice is yours. We look forward to greeting and meeting you.

You may wish to consider trying one of the following:

Bridekirk Friendship Group: Every Monday 10.30 am-12.00 pm
Refreshment and fellowship for the more mature.

Bridekirk Baby and Toddler Group: Every Thursday 1.00-3.00pm
Activities for the children and time for a chat for parents.

April 7th (**Good Friday**): 1.00-3.00pm: A time of quiet reflection and prayer in the church

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 1st November 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)
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nicky Cockburn and Councillor Janet Farebrother (Allerdale Borough Council)

River Bank: Robert Jackson reported ongoing concerns about the standard of work on the riverbank carried out by United Utilities. There were difficulties in getting a proper response and he was also awaiting confirmation of a site meeting. Councillor Bell has also been in contact with both the County Council and United Utilities regarding the standard of work.

Pumping Station Brigham: A request had been made to United Utilities re improved screening of the site. An update to be requested.

Planning Application: There were no objections to a planning application at 55 The Mount.

Papcastle Recreational Trust: Brian Merris gave an update on the meeting held on 5th October, when it was agreed to give £100 to the Village Hall for a Halloween Party and £200 for a Christmas Party. It was unanimously agreed to donate £100 to the Great North Air Ambulance Charity.

Date and time of next meeting:

Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

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.

New To The Village ~ Welcome!

Hi everyone!

I'm Catherine Glenister and have just moved into a bungalow at Castle Gardens over the Christmas period. I have a gorgeous whippet named Skai who will be 9 years old this year. We have already enjoyed a long walk from Papcastle to Broughton and back. I'm sure we will bump into each other around the village.



Hello Everyone!

We are Hannah, Mark, Zak (13) and Jonah (11) and we moved into Belle Mount at the beginning of December. We are familiar with the village and surrounding area as Hannah grew up in Cockermouth and we have family living in the town. We have a lively Patterdale terrier called Buggy - you may hear him before you see him (!) - who loves getting out and about on the fells with us whenever possible. Jonah has also enjoyed getting involved in lots of activities with Cockermouth Scouts and Zak has joined the Swimming Club. We have loved celebrating our first Christmas in our new home and look forward to making lots of happy memories here. Thank you to our new neighbours for their warm welcome and hopefully we will get to know more of you in the near future.

Hello Papcastle!

We're Chris, Amy, Mia and Shelly (cat) the new residents of Perth Cottage. We moved to Cockermouth from London 6 months ago and have been living at Chris' auntie's house whilst we tried to find somewhere of our own, unfortunately we had two house sales fall through and were beginning to give up hope, we are so pleased to finally have our own home again and just in time for Christmas.

Chris is originally from Eskdale, Amy is 50% from Eskdale and 50% North East and Mia was born in London in July 2021. A lot of people comment on the change of pace from London to The Lakes, but for us it's been an easy change, as spending lockdown in a tiny 1 bedroom flat made us realise what we really wanted, more than just the ability to get Sushi at 3am... although we do kind of miss that option!

We're both keen to get to know everyone and be involved with the community, as we're just at beginning of this next stage in our lives, and would like to make some new friends. So far everyone we've met has been really lovely, warm and made us feel very welcome. As I'm writing this on New Years Day, I wish all of you the very best for 2023, let's hope it's a good one and we're looking forward to seeing everyone at some of the upcoming village events.





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.

Monday

Keep Fit PAUSED please contact Tony for further details - tony.magorrian@googlemail.com

Every Tuesday
10-11.30 am

Pat Irving, East to West Wellbeing
07962 127812 pat@easttowestwellbeing.com
<https://www.easttowestwellbeing.com/>

Every Wednesday
6-7.30 pm

Yoga (not Wed 18th Jan)
As above

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

Friday
20th January
6.45 for 7 pm

The Changing Face of Egypt
£3.00 on the door. Talk given by Magdi. Refreshments included, or bring your own booze.

Saturday
4th February
Starts 7.30pm

Wine tasting. Hosted by Jenni from Lake District Wines, paired with a little bit of cheese from Keswick Cheese Company. Tickets £22 each, limited to 24.

Friday
17th February
7.30 pm

Ladies Night - Bring your own booze & nibbles. £2 on the door towards hall funds.



Papcastle Garden Safari

A chance to allow others to share your garden. Please think about taking part in Papcastle Garden Safari next June 2023. It's not a competition, just an opportunity for a relaxing village event; a wander round the village followed by tea and cakes at the village hall.

Please contact Debbie for more details or to submit your entry: 07754 127103.
We already have some participants, join us!



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 March 2023. 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