

Spring 2023

Issue 67



# The Villager

Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter



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

We hope you have all been enjoying the lovely snowy spring weather! To tempt you out in the hopefully warmer days, this edition brings details of the street party for the coronation of King Charles III, the Garden Safari and Village barbecue, together with news of more Roman finds, the Papcastle Lectures and Storytime for the children.. Come outside and meet your neighbours - we'd love to see you!



## Street Party for the Coronation

Sunday 7th May from 2.00 pm  
outside the Village Hall.

Fun and games for all ages, fancy dress for kids.

Red, white and blue theme.

Bring food to share.

Drinks can be purchased from the Bar.



## Wine Tasting

Tickets sold out quickly for the Wine Tasting set up by Michelle on Saturday 4th February. A local wine merchant brought 5 wines from different countries for the villagers to sample whilst she explained their origins and specialist qualities. Champagne to start with, followed by wines from all over the world. Definitely widened the geographical thinking regarding wine! There were also some tasty cheeses carefully chosen to accompany the wines. The choice of wines generated a lot of discussion and a very convivial evening was had by all. Many thanks to Michelle for her organisational skills.



## Ladies Night

On Friday 17th February some of the ladies of Papcastle had a very sociable evening at the Village Hall. These gatherings are completely relaxed and often spontaneous - you just bring your favourite tipples, a snack to share and a small donation to the Village Hall funds. Judy made some wonderful tapas platters as a special treat this time. It's a wonderful chance to chat without the distraction of partners and children! Everyone in the Village is invited to these informal get-togethers, usually by means of the Papcastle Ladies Whatsapp group. Just contact The Villager if you fancy joining us and we'll add your name to the group.





# Roman Papcastle

When Robert and Janie Jones purchased Grassmoor from their uncle Tony Hargreaves (see obituary) in January 2016, the garden had become an impenetrable jungle. It took two years to chop through rampant blackberry bramble, volunteer trees and other vegetation and re-establish some order. To their excitement, they uncovered some Roman remains in the process, and, following Youtube advice to boil bronze artefacts in olive oil to remove scale and corrosion, these are the result. They live in hope of unearthing a mosaic floor or Viking horde!

**Right:** Roman sestertius bronze coin found in garden. The inscription is DIVA FAUSTINA. This indicates that the head is that of Faustina I or Faustina Major, a Roman empress and wife of the Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius. She was born in about 100AD. This coin would perhaps have bought two loaves of bread or a half litre of wine.

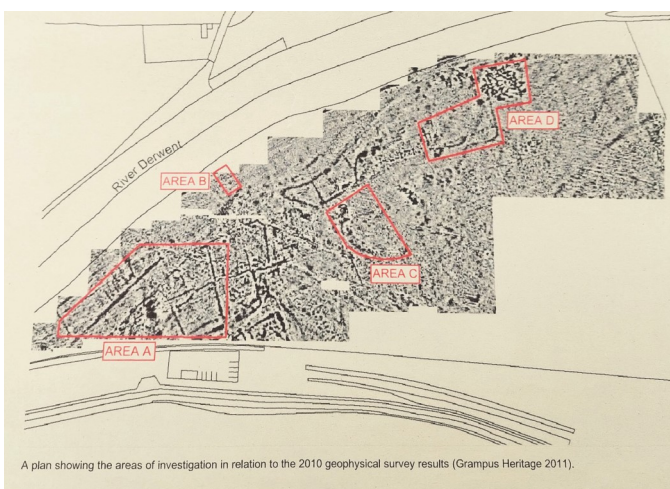


**Left: Penannular ring** (cloak pin), possibly pre-Roman, found on soil surface in garden - note embossed ends and damaged pin. The penannular ring on the right-hand side is a modern eBay purchase to demonstrate the principle.

## Broomlands Archaeological Dig No. 2

Meanwhile, on the south side of the river Derwent, diggers, hard hats, orange flags and heaps of mud have appeared, heralding another dig. The land is owned by Bob Slack of the Fitz and, prior to constructing additional flood defences to protect his property from flooding, he has commissioned ECUS from Barnard Castle to carry out further archaeological surveys on what has proved to be a rich source of Roman remains. In the 2011 dig, they uncovered a water mill and evidence of an extensive vicus, camp and road.

This time they have already found evidence of a Roman foundry where swords and wagon wheels were made, an amphitheatre or horse training centre, the wall of what is thought to be a 2nd or 3rd century marching camp and small village.



The team are investigating 4 key areas over a 9 week period. They will record and archive all finds for future generations and then, as before, cover everything up again to preserve it. There are plans to invite Cockermouth School pupils to help with the excavation once the site has been made safe, and an open evening will be held so that the archaeologists can show the public their finds.

A Times and Star article from 16 March 2023 has photos and more information – search Cockermouth Dig on <https://www.timesandstar.co.uk/news>.



# The Brilliance of Bentleys



David Rushton might call himself a petrol head but that is a rather limited description of his knowledge and passion for his specialist Vintage cars.

His obsession with cars started when his grandfather, who was a pioneer motorist, allowed him to sit on his knee and “drive” the car on his day trips through the Lake District. David’s family have always owned interesting motor cars; the photo right of a 1923 Bentley shows 9 year-old David in the front passenger seat taking part in a car trial. This car arrived as a load of bits in a horse-box which David helped his father to piece together. His love of Bentleys stemmed from this.



Moving to The Manor House at the age of 13, David has been a Papcastle villager for most of his life. He then joined The Royal Navy at the age of 17 and pursued an engineering career which honed his skills for all things mechanical. On leaving The Navy in 1984, David married Debbie, purchased Silver Stones and installed their Morgan +8 in the garage. They have remained in the village to this day, with son John also being an avid car buff.



With the Morgan being too small for the three of them, they purchased the Bentley 3 Litre pictured left in 2003. Now they could take holidays on the continent, travelling to the South of France, Italy and across Scandinavia. In 2019, they acquired another model of Bentley as a lockdown project and had their single garage cunningly converted to accommodate them: both cars are garaged one on

top of the other! David is often to be found at home, either under a car or tinkering in his workshop, where he is always happy to chat to the passers-by who often stop to comment on his man-cave and admire his beautiful cars.

The Bentleys are very much a family affair, providing for regular outings and adventures. The black 3 litre pictured above is now 98 years old and took Jude and Jonathan to their wedding a couple of years ago. Despite her age, the car is still comfortable for touring and long distance driving.

The summer calendar fills rather quickly with jaunts to Scotland with fellow enthusiasts, and this year David will take the 3 litre to France to celebrate the centenary of the first Le Mans 24 hour race.





# Young Papcastle

Hi, I'm Zak and I'm in year 9 at Keswick School. Next July I have an amazing opportunity to travel to Ecuador for four weeks with Camps International. When we're there we will be taking part in community projects working alongside local people. Other groups in the past have ended up digging foundations for a new toilet block, painting school buildings and planting saplings amongst other things so I think we'll be expected to work hard! The other part of the expedition is to see conservation projects in action and I'll get to travel to the Galápagos Islands which I think will be the real highlight. I've started fundraising to cover the costs and so far I'm around the £1000 mark after doing some car boot sales, eBaying old toys and clothes and receiving some contributions from my family. I'm doing a couple of sponsored runs over the next few months and (with my mum's help) we hope to put on an afternoon tea in the village hall later in the summer - once we have a date we hope you'll come along and join us! If anyone has any other suggestions for fundraising then you can contact me via my mum: hannahbradshaw1@gmail.com



Jayden pictured with a large sack of rubbish which he has been busy collecting round the village as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award activity. The Parish Council is pleased to support all our young people in their community minded activities. Well done Jayden!

## Parish Council Snippets (from the January and March meetings)

**River Bank:** Robert Jackson reported that despite County's claims that the work has been completed satisfactorily, no fencing has been installed along the newly-rebuilt bank, leaving the footpath under the A595 bridge in a potentially dangerous condition. In March, Cumbria County Council eventually responded concerning the fencing along the riverbank in the vicinity of the A595 underpass, asserting that all work had been done according to specification, and that the fencing was not for the protection of the public, but intended to restrain stock. It was understood that further consultation with the Rivers Trust was to be undertaken. Councillor Bell agreed to advise CCC that the Parish Council would be erecting signs pointing out to the public that there was no public access to the area due to the presence of stock and the risks exposed by the erosion of the riverbank, and to raise the issue once again with the County Council. In addition, the water outfall pipe downstream from the bridge has been left unsupported, risking it breaking again. It was agreed to write again to UU, County and Natural England. Councillor Bell agreed to raise this issue once again with the County Council.

**Pumping Station:** No reply had been received from United Utilities re plans to plant screening trees, although both ISO containers had now been removed. It was noted that United Utilities had apparently begun planting young trees around the pumping station although these seemed to be concentrated on the side facing Cockermouth, rather than Papcastle. In terms of progress at the UU construction site, water was no longer being vented through the temporary flow line although one of the valve-control fibre optic cables had apparently failed at the valve set near the Broughton Road, probably requiring excavation to repair. United Utilities were still proving difficult to contact and were unresponsive to farmer and PC concerns.

**Village Notice Boards:** Huw Morgan raised the issue of management of the contents of the Village Notice Boards, noting that the one adjacent to the village phone box was particularly untidy and contained flyers and adverts for events and enterprises clearly not based in, or relevant to the village. Fitting locks was discussed briefly but it was concluded that informal policing by Councillors would be more effective. The principle of allowing village-based businesses to advertise was agreed.

**Street Lighting:** The work had been completed to install several new light columns and to replace several wooden poles. All lights were now working.

**Parish Elections:** Elections for Parish Councillors are due to be held in May 2023. CALC had advised that they were in receipt of £90k to distribute to Parish Councils to support upcoming Councillor elections. It was thought that Councils might receive up to 50% of the amounts that had been budgeted for. On behalf of the PC, David Johnson presented Jackie Day and Catherine Bell with flowers and a card as a thank-you for their service to the Parish Council. David would make a similar presentation to Jill Coyle on her return from holiday.

**Date and Time of next meeting:** 23 May 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall (this is the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm). These meetings are open to the public.

# Dr Antony Hargreaves

## 1931 - 2023

Tony studied medicine at the University of Manchester and qualified MB in 1955. At medical school, third year medical students drew cards for their first position in the hospital. The surgical theatre sister had a fearsome reputation and the new medics would cower against the wall to avoid her wrath. Some of Tony's fellow students bet him that he wouldn't invite this scary theatre sister out on a date. Tony did take her out and that is how he met Dorothy Todd, for she was the theatre sister! They married in Manchester in 1955 and Dorothy had to leave her nursing job the following day as nurses in those days were forbidden to marry.

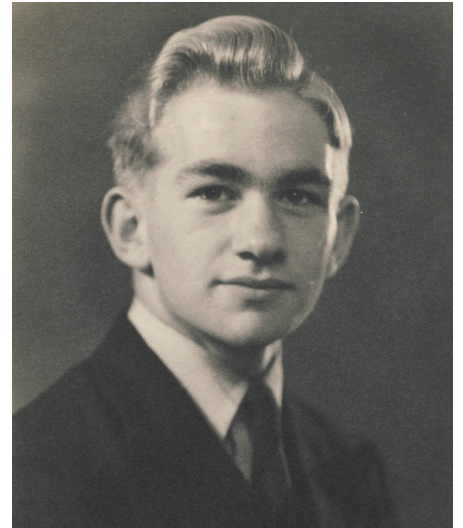
Tony was called up on National Service as a medical officer in the Army as soon as he graduated. Hoping for a posting somewhere exotic, he actually ended up at Hadrian's Camp Barracks at Carlisle as a Lieutenant Medical Officer with the 11th Hussars, the famous Light Brigade! Dorothy joined Tony in Carlisle.

To begin with, Tony enjoyed army life, his fellow officers were down to earth notwithstanding the illustrious history and traditions of this elite regiment and his comrades were charming to Dorothy. He was promoted to Captain Medical Officer but towards the end of his three-year short service commission at Carlisle, Tony was ready to move on. He worked in two roles for Bolton Borough Council as a child medical officer and also as a school medical officer. He and Dorothy lived in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, a pleasant suburb of Manchester. Tony was invited to be permanent at Bolton but Dorothy said that she would like to live in the Lake District. Tony applied for a job with Cumbria County Council as Assistant Medical Officer and discovered Papcastle where they bought their bungalow Grassmoor in 1967. Dorothy established and tended her wonderful garden here and grew quantities of soft fruit for home made jam and wine.

Tony had various leading roles in the Cockermouth, Workington and Maryport Medical District, including one where he was involved in the investigation and prevention of communicable diseases. He had a large and interesting parish including the ports of Workington and Maryport. From time to time when a foreign vessel docked flying its yellow quarantine flag, Tony would be phoned by Papcastle resident the late Captain David Thomas who was then Harbourmaster at Workington. Tony had to check that the ship's crew was fit and healthy and that their inoculations were up-to-date.

Tony retired in 1991 at the age of 60 and started studying mathematics on an Open University degree course that he completed with distinction. He bought every maths book on the reading lists, not just the core text. When Robert and Janie took on Grassmoor, they acquired 700 brand new maths books, with 120 different titles! Robert is selling these books with Amazon online and so far has sold 165 books.

Tony's wife Dorothy had moved to Kirklands care home in 2005, where Tony joined her in 2015. Dorothy died in 2017 and Tony died peacefully at Cumberland Infirmary on 2nd March 2023.



## Energy Crisis Hits Papcastle

Like everyone in the community, the Village Hall has been affected by the hike in energy prices. A very large bill for just 3 months has been received, prompting a special meeting to discuss this. It was decided to turn off some of the expensive wall heaters but maintain the storage heaters to keep the hall at a comfortable temperature, as we do not wish to lose those who frequently hire the hall. The temperature has been checked and users have been asked for their views. The cost of energy will have to be considered when reviewing hall rental as this cost cannot be subsidised by Village funds.

Meanwhile, Janet Johnston has been doing her bit to help keep out the cold. She has made four very much needed draught excluders for the Village Hall doors. These colourful and effective barriers against the cold are in situ and have definitely improved the warmth in the hall. Thank you, your artistic skills and generosity are very much appreciated!

**The Village Hall AGM is on Monday 24th April at 7pm and all villagers are encouraged to come along.**





# *The Papcastle Lectures*

## *The Changing Face of Egypt*

Magdi entertained a good crowd of villagers with his illustrated talk on the changes taking place in modern Egypt. He talked about the many new buildings being constructed in Cairo, whose population has now reached 25 million - a mega city! He discussed the reasons for these changes and some of the issues arising from them.

In November 2022, a new museum was completed just outside Cairo, providing a monumental showcase for many of Tutankhamun's treasures. The Great Egyptian Museum is a huge building of modern design, only 100m shorter than the Louvre, and its magnificent opening parade received worldwide coverage.

Luxor is also very much a place to visit. An Obelisk there is one of the tallest in the world. Alamein is now a resort much favoured by Americans and, to some, reassembles Florida in terms of its manmade islands and commercialisation.

Many thanks to Magdi for this fascinating talk and fabulous photos.



## *CPR and the use of a Defibrillator*

On Friday evening, 31st March, some eighteen villagers were pleased to welcome John Thompson, a First Responder (targeted to reach a patient within 8 minutes), to the village hall. John is an excellent and humorous speaker who held his audience spellbound for an hour and a half as he unravelled the skills of how to deliver cardiac resuscitation safely, and also how to operate the mysterious piece of equipment known as a defibrillator. Papcastle village is fortunate to have one in the phone box on the corner of The Mount.

There was a practical element to the evening too - a volunteer was required so that John could demonstrate

the Recovery Position. There was also an opportunity to practise chest compressions on the manikins John had provided. Everyone was educated by the talk in a most enjoyable manner and hopefully John will return in 2024 to give us all a refresher course.

PS - If you have any connections with people that might be willing to offer a talk in the village at some point in the future please contact a committee member.



## **Papcastle Art Group**

A new art group started in the village hall at the beginning of February. The group, led by local Cumbrian artist Alan Roper, met on Friday mornings from 10.00 am to 1.00pm. The class continued until the end of March with a fee of £10 per session. It is the intention to re-start the group again in the Autumn. New members, of whatever standard, are welcome.

If you like further information, please contact the group organiser, Philip Brown, on 077 885 02063.

# Mr Tickle's Adventure

It was Monday morning and the twins, Elliot and Miles, were excited to be going with Grandma and Grandpa on the bus to Keswick. The twins enjoyed making bus journeys and today was special because they were taking with them two of their favourite toys, Little Miss Naughty and Mr Tickle, both hand knitted by Grandma.

As the travelling party of six stood at the bus stop at Cockermouth School, Elliot announced to his Grandma that Little Miss Naughty's left leg had somehow become detached from her body. "Don't worry boys. We can fix that when we get home," said Grandma, cheerfully. "I know, let's put Little Miss Naughty and Mr Tickle in the back pocket of Grandpa's rucksack to keep them safe," she added. This suggestion went down well and the party enjoyed a pleasant excursion to Keswick.

Pleasant, that is, until the homeward journey. When the bus reached their stop, Grandma and the twins got off and Grandpa followed, quickly grabbing his rucksack. As the bus drove away, Grandpa noticed to his horror that Mr Tickle was no longer peeping out of the rucksack. He'd been there when they got on – he must still be on the bus! Despite his humble confession and worried expression, it took some time to convince the twins that Grandpa wasn't playing one of his corny pranks and that Mr Tickle really was still on the bus. With the twins' disbelief now turning into tears, Grandma exclaimed frantically, "We've got to catch the bus!"

After a quick sprint, the grandparents and baffled twins climbed into the car, desperately considering how best to overtake the bus. Unfamiliarity with the bus's exact route led to the conclusion that a race to the bus terminal in Workington might offer the best hope of reuniting the twins with Mr Tickle. Arriving at Workington in - shall we just say "record" - travelling time, Grandma stormed the terminal like a Royal Marine, demanding to know if the X5 had arrived yet. It hadn't, but when it did, to Grandma's dismay, the bus driver said that no toys had been handed in. "Oh dear," thought Grandma, "Has Mr Tickle got off at a stop along the way perhaps?"

Just then, an elderly gentleman began to alight down the steps clutching something in his hand. It was Mr Tickle! At last, the twins and toys were happily reunited. And Grandma made sure that Little Miss Naughty's leg was successfully reattached that same day.

John Conlon



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

## Our regular monthly service pattern (all at 11am)

1st Sunday: Holy Communion  
2nd Sunday: Morning Worship  
3rd Sunday: Holy Communion  
4th Sunday: Morning Worship  
5th Sunday: Morning worship

We at St Bridget's wish you all a happy and restful Easter!

Our Sunday service pattern is being revised slightly, and is shown on the top right of this feature. 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.

In addition to the regular pattern, we have the following at Easter:

April 7th (**Good Friday**) 1.00-3.00 pm: An informal time of reflection and prayer in the church.  
Come for as long or short time as you wish.  
April 9th (**Easter Sunday**) 11.00 am: Holy Communion service

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.

**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](mailto:bridekirk_church@icloud.com)





## Village Hall Diary Dates

To book contact Gill Conlon 01900 828360



The 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.

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](mailto:mandywilliamson72@yahoo.co.uk)

Sunday 7th May  
2pm

### Street Party for the Coronation

Outside the Village Hall, paying bar in the hall, please bring a food contribution to share. Kids' fancy dress. Red, white and blue. Games.

Sunday 25th June  
2.00-4.30 pm

### Garden Safari

Buy your map and ticket on the day at the Village Hall.  
Tea, coffee and cake afterwards at the Village Hall.

Saturday 15th July

### Village Barbecue

Tickets £15, 8-16 yrs £7.50 under 8's free from Debbie on 07754 127103.

### 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. If you would like to join them, please contact Stan via [seleighwanadoo@yahoo.com](mailto:seleighwanadoo@yahoo.com) or phone 01900 828821 for further details.

**April :** Saturday 08.04.2023 - Carlisle 3 Rivers walk

Saturday 29.04.2023 - Burgh by Sands

**May:** Saturday 20.05.2023 - Rockliffe & Castletown House near Carlisle

**June:** Saturday 03.06.2023 - Maryport & Crosscanonby

Saturday 10.06.2023 - Souther Fell & Mungrisedale



## Papcastle Garden Safari Day Sunday 25th June - 2.00 – 4.30pm

Please come along and support our Village Hall by taking part in the Garden Safari. We have a number of keen gardeners who have kindly offered to open their gardens for us to browse around. A map of the route will be available at the Village Hall on the day for a small fee and you will then be able to amble around in whatever order you prefer. Refreshments

will be available to purchase at the Village Hall, giving you the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. There will also be a plant stall should you be inspired to go home after the event and get your green fingers twitching.

If you wish to take part by entering your garden , or have plants/ cuttings you would like to offer for the plant stall please contact Debbie Rushton 07754 127103 to join in the fun.



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](mailto:papcastlevillager@gmail.com) by 30th June 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.



