

Summer 2023

Issue 68



The Villager

Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter



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

Welcome to the Summer edition of your local newsletter. We've got lots of photos of the Coronation party in the May heatwave, and the Garden Safari which was deluged by the June monsoon, together with news of what some of our young people have been up to and dates for your diary. This is a lively, active village with a super community spirit. If you've just moved in, or if you have any ideas or articles for publication please send us an email - papcastlevillager@gmail.com - or call in at Holly Lodge (Jilly) or the Manor House (Jacqui) for a chat. If you don't know where we are - there is a village map on the notice board in the centre of the Papcastle. We'd love to see you.

Young Papcastle



Our young people continue to impress with their artistic skills, technical know-how and sporting prowess. Jakeob of Belle Vue (on the left of the photo on the right) has been masterminding the lighting for all Cockermouth School productions and is Deputy Head of back stage. These productions are always astounding in the talent, commitment and sheer enjoyment the students display. Their recent musical Chicago starred Lucy Woodcock, also from Belle Vue, as female lead, with Jack Milburn from The Mount playing male lead - both pictured left. They also performed in the Summer Showcase, along with Patrick Williams from the Mount (pictured on the right above) and he and Lucy also sang in the blues night and talent show.

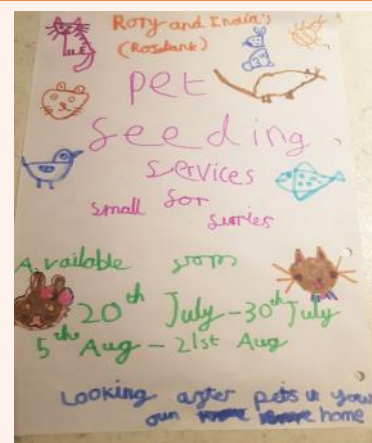


Patrick's brother Edward has been selected to join the Warrington Wolves Rugby League scholarship programme for September. He is pictured signing his contract ahead of the Leeds Rhinos game in June. Edward has been picked alongside three other Cockermouth Titans players: Robbie Johnston, Max Bateson and Coby Walker. Congratulations and Good Luck to them all!



Pet Feeding Services!

Meanwhile, the entrepreneurial spirit of the younger generation resident in Rosebank has to be admired: Rory and India are advertising their Summer Holiday Pet Feeding Service - so if you are off on your holiday and your guinea pig needs looking after - just drop by for a quote. Mum Clare is ready to help too!



Papcastle celebrates the Coronation of our new King Charles III



On Sunday 7th May, Villagers were out in force to join the celebrations for our new monarch.

Everyone dressed up, many in red, white and blue, to enjoy a beautiful afternoon outside the Village Hall.



The food tables were heaving with generous donations from all the villagers, which were obviously appreciated by many willing tasters as there was no waste!



The bar was busy and helped to raise some money for the Village Hall as well as keep thirst at bay for young and old.



There were topical quizzes for adults and children as well as a Human Fruit Machine for the children, which gave many a laugh!



George and Molly with the youngest party-goer Amelie.



Thanks to everyone who came to party, to those who brought delicious food and to the Village Hall Trustees for organising. What a wonderful way to celebrate!

Share the Music

Jacqui

Many share Angela's music on a Sunday morning via our Village WhatsApp group or through YouTube, but not everyone knows how far afield Angela's talent is heard.

Angela started playing the organ on her first Bontempi Organ at the age of 4, progressing to a Hammond organ at the age of 6. Her parents were very supportive, to the extent that it was often a choice between a new car or a new organ when an upgrade was requested. Organ or Keyboard usually won! Angela's first Talent Contest was on the Isle of Man, aged 8. She won this and her fellow players from Cumbria also won. A clean musical sweep. She was playing at The White Horse Inn, Threlkeld from the age of 7, entertaining most Saturday nights, with her parents overseeing.



Her parents decided to move out of farming and into the pub business when Angela was 13. They took over The Bird in Hand at Oulton and Angela started to play on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at her parents' pub for 8 years, entertaining numerous people who came for the live music.

Having passed her driving test at 17, Angela was able to progress to Organ Festivals, which then led her on to Organ Societies around the country. Angela also made several visits to the Spanish Organ Festival, extending her enjoyment of music even further afield.

Angela was part of an active band for many years: Tolo's Reunion Band. The band was made up of Bass Guitar, Lead Guitar, Lead Singer and Backing by Angela (piano, drums and backing vocals). They were a lively local band that played mainly for fund raising, playing Rock and Roll, The Shadows and many more, all over Cumbria, including Moota, Greenhill and Stanwix Park, Silloth. The band disbanded when Angela's sight deteriorated. However Angela's partial sightedness did not stop her love of her music, nor prevent her from making regular appearances on YouTube and our own Whatsapp Group as well as playing the organ at Bridekirk Church.



Angela had played the organ at Blackpool Tower in her younger days, and had a wonderful time earlier this year when she and her husband David went back there and both played The Tower's amazing organ. They also went to see the new Yamaha CVP 909 there, as it was launched at a keyboard festival. Whilst it was on the stage, in between a concert by the main Yamaha demonstrator, she was able to try it out for an hour. The organiser of the festival was so impressed by her playing that he included Angela in his report in the Keyboard Cavalcade magazine. The main purpose of going was to see if Angela could still see the buttons (because of her sight problems) since they

had changed the colour from red/green to blue/white. Once she was happy, they ordered the new model which is one of the first in the country. She loves her new Keyboard!

Although Angela has just been registered as severely sight impaired, this has not hampered her passion and enthusiasm for music. She can read some music using helpful devices, but the majority of her music is through memory, listening and perseverance. Angela's positive attitude and passion for her Keyboard is clearly evident in her skilful playing and in her generous sharing of this talent. Thank you Angela, your music is much appreciated.

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AngelaTurnerJohnsonAJ20/> videos to hear Angela's superb playing on piano and organ.





Wet! Wet! Wet!

After weeks of scorching heat and drought, our gardens got what they needed on the afternoon of Sunday 25th June – just in time for the Papcastle Garden Safari and just what we didn't need just then! As the torrential rain soothed the parched grass and dampened down the dusty soil, the bravest villagers sloshed around, admiring dripping blooms and lowering views, sheltering under bright umbrellas and in steamy greenhouses.



Rose-covered arbours, glistening wet benches, abandoned bistro sets, beautifully planted pots, lush vegetables and puddling patios – all offered keen gardeners many new ideas. Some gardens had amazing, unsuspected views, others were secret little suntraps; the variety and abundance of fruit and vegetables down at the allotment came as a surprise to many.



Afterwards, we dripped our way into the village hall for delicious hot tea and cake. Despite the best efforts of the rain clouds, the event raised an amazing £300 towards village hall funds - £54 from plant sales and the rest from the sale of maps, tea and cakes. It was a fantastic effort – thank you to all who donated cakes and plants and opened their gardens. Perhaps you might like to open yours next year!



New to the Village ~ Welcome!

Hello Neighbours!

We are John and Karen who moved to The Mount in February this year. We previously lived in Stainburn but wanted a bungalow closer to our family.

Karen was born at Hames Hall and spent her childhood in Bridekirk and John is from Whitehaven so we are pretty local and know the area.

We have a cat called Toby but at 16 it doesn't go very far from home. We have been very busy renovating the bungalow but hopefully that will come to an end soon. We are looking forward to meeting everyone at one of the events organised in the village. We have 2 gorgeous grandchildren: (Edie 30 months & Frankie 10 weeks) who love spending time in the garden with us.



New Baby



Welcome to another beautiful baby in the village. Molly and George are delighted to introduce Amelie Florence Lui to everyone. She was born on Saturday 1st April. We look forward to meeting you soon Amelie.

Footpath Closed!



The right of way along the river bank has lain underwater since the collapse of the river bank in 2009.

This means that the footpath from Papcastle to Great Broughton is closed along this stretch. Sadly, there are no plans to re-route the footpath. The field adjacent to the river bank at this point belongs to Robert Jackson, although United Utilities retain access points to their pipeline within it.



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

News from Bridekirk Church - part of the Grasmoor Mission Community

One of our church members, Christina Brentnall, was ordained as a curate by Bishop James at Carlisle Cathedral on 1st July. Christina will serve in churches across the Grasmoor Mission Community.

Rev. Adrian Thompson and his family are moving to serve in the Herefordshire area. Adrian and Lucy's farewell service will be held at **10.00am, in Christ Church, Cockermouth on 23rd July.** (No service at St Bridget's that day)

Bishop James will be retiring at the end of August. He and his wife will move to spend time closer to their family. We pray that all will find their new roles fulfilling.

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

Historical Papcastle Walks

Villagers may have been asked by visitors to point the way to the Roman Fort and Papcastle Station. Replying is often not straight forward and needs a little thought and historical context before the visitor is satisfied and able to head off to continue their exploration.

Our local walks are included on the <http://www.papcastle.org.uk>, which features "The Roman Road", "Priest's Bridge to Broughton Beck and on to the Derwent", and "The Riverbank". Currently there is a restriction on the Derwent riverbank – see further details in this newsletter. Sometimes it is necessary to gain access to the river from the road to Broughton.

There are many lovely natural features and interesting historical buildings to be seen on these walks, including the former Railway Buildings & Priest's Bridge.

The Railway



There are the raised embankments and bridge abutments at the former crossing to Brigham and alongside Broughton Beck, from the days when the **Derwent Branch of the Maryport and Carlisle Railway** was operating between Brigham, Papcastle, Dovenby Lodge and on to Bullgill. The photo on the left shows the bridge complete and right, in a



collapsed state. Two workers were killed during the demolition soon after the line was closed in 1935.

Papcastle Station (photo top right) was opened in 1867, located over a mile from the village. Sidings to the substantial Broughton Craggs Quarry led off the line opposite the station. Services continued to 1935.



Dovenby Lodge Railway Station was also opened in 1867. It was a private station solely for the use of the Ballentine-Dykes family of Dovenby Lodge, one of whom was the Chairman of the Maryport and Carlisle Railway in 1840's. The station was available for use until the line closed in 1935. There is a railway bridge just up the hill in the Broughton direction for a view of the station.



Priest's Bridge



Alongside the railway is a fascinating bridge over Broughton Beck which has provided a local mystery that has left many of us curious. Why is it called Priest's Bridge?

A few years ago, I appealed for information through one of my Cockermouth Post articles for information regarding the name of the bridge. I had exhausted my enquiries with local Church Ministers and historians. Then a former Broughton resident, Neil Henderson of Eaglesfield, phoned me up and explained that Broughton to Bridekirk was a Coffin Route. A group would transport the coffin to the bridge where they would be met by the priest and coffin bearers to continue conveyance on for the burial at St. Bridget's Church. I later found details of burials at Bridekirk Church from 16th century which confirmed Neil's information.

My thanks also to the owners of Station House, Dovenby for permission to display images of their property including the platform.

Stan Leigh, Old Orchard

Parish Council Snippets

From the meetings held on 23rd May and 4th July 2023

The following points were discussed, which may be of interest to Villagers:

- **Closure of the River Bank Path** due to erosion between Papcastle and Great Broughton, and the inadequate signs put up by the County Council, which have now blown off.
- The remaking of the field by **United Utilities**, which will not quite be returned to its previous state, as the concrete access points will need to be retained.
- **Discharge of sewage** into the river Derwent by United Utilities at the Cockermouth Treatment works. 98 incidents in the past year.
- **Potholes**: those in Belle Vue have been repaired. Potholes in Papcastle Road opposite Ordgarff/the Burrows have been reported to Cumberland County Council.
- An **information evening on Community Energy** to be held in the Village Hall by Community Action for Sustainability (CAFS) to inform villagers about solar panels and insulation, with the possibility of a planning officer from the CCC attending to answer questions from home owners of listed buildings and those in the conservation area.
- The formation of a **Community Energy Group** to promote community schemes to combat climate change.
- The problems caused by **inconsiderate and illegal parking** in the village and the feasibility of a 20mph speed limit in the village to protect children and pedestrians forced to walk on the road because of cars blocking pavements.
- **Overgrown hedges** in domestic gardens, which are also causing problems for motorists and pedestrians.
- **Village Hall Rates Increase** – together with increased energy costs there is now a threatened removal of the 20% discretionary reduction.
- The continuing impassable condition of the **Spittal Lane** public footpath (between Papcastle Road and Gote Road) due to overgrown nettles and brambles.
- **Community funds** available from County Council – Villagers are encouraged to write to their councillor (Helen Tucker) requesting funds for projects which benefit their community.
- **Bin Strikes**: Councillor Helen Tucker spoke at length about the reasons for the current bin strikes and lack of a resolution. She advised villagers to continue to take their recycling to Sullart Street, to help neighbours without transport with their recycling and to report full bins at Sullart Street immediately to Cumberland County Council. She does this herself on a weekly basis with quick response.
- **Planning permissions**: Cumberland Council approval to tree works at Sunnyside, and for listed building consent for single storey extension at Manor House and Manor Cottage. Further enquiries to be made regarding extension at Low Wood, Belle Vue and new garage and ponds at Bonny Hill, Bridekirk. Application received for whole crown reduction and thinning of trees at Derwent Lodge.

Full minutes with actions agreed are posted on the village notice boards once they have been approved.

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 5th September 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend. The chairman's permission must be sought if you wish to contribute.

Barbara Lamb

At the Annual Meeting of Papcastle Parish Council, Barbara Lamb was presented with a Voucher for the Lakes Homecentre and flowers in recognition of her 40 years as Clerk to the Parish.



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Parking Reminder



The Parish Council would like to remind all car owners that according to paragraph 243 of the Highway Code, it is illegal to park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction. This is really difficult in the centre of the village so it is rarely enforced (though beware - it has been!). However, it is vital that you do not restrict visibility at junctions, bends and on the brow of a hill, and that you always ensure there is enough space for emergency vehicles to get through. Please be considerate and use common sense.

According to paragraph 244 you should not park on pavements. We don't have many in Papcastle, so pedestrians are forced on to the road anyway. To protect them, the Parish Council is looking at introducing a 20 mph speed limit in the village.



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.

Mondays from
9 October
6.30 pm

Keep Fit with Tony Magorrian - tony.magorrian@googlemail.com
10 week term.

Every Friday
2-2.45 pm

Zumba Gold £5 - Contact Danielle Carson 07975521789

Dates and times to
be confirmed

Art Class - starting October
Contact Philip Brown on 077885 02063 for details

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 15th July

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

Community Energy Initiative



Villagers are encouraged to attend a meeting in **URC in Cockermouth on November 2nd at 7 pm** where CAfS will be launching their Solar Made Easy project along with Cockermouth Town Council. This project aims to support homeowners and small businesses to install solar PV, by providing independent advice and improving access to good installers. Thanks to the efforts of Parish Councillor Keith Fitton, Papcastle and Belle Vue are now included in the project, and Keith will be arranging a meeting in the Village Hall following the launch at the URC to examine this and other energy saving measures within the village .

Solar Made Easy

Possible Sources of Community Funding for your Project:

COCKERMOUTH AND PAPCASTLE RECREATIONAL TRUST

A meeting of the Trust will be held on 11 October 2023.

The Trust provides grants for the provision of facilities for recreation or leisure time occupation for the benefit of the inhabitants of this area, aiming to improve their quality of life. If you feel that your organisation would fulfil this criterion, application forms can be obtained from Mrs Sheila Brown on 01900 821869 or email: clerk@cockermouth.org

Form(s) should be returned to the Town Hall, Market Street, Cockermouth no later than Monday 2 October 2023.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL



Councillor for Cockermouth North with Papcastle and Belle Vue, Helen Tucker, has been allocated £60,000 for community projects. Please contact her for more details by phone on 07840 844430, or by email: Helen.Tucker@cumberland.gov.uk.

Residents are free to contact her on any matter that affects life in the village – street lighting (or lack of it), parking, potholes, river erosion – as well as ideas and projects for the village and the wider community.

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. Email contributions for the Autumn Issue to papcastlevillager@gmail.com by 30th September 2023 please.