

Autumn 2023



# The Villager

Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter

Issue 69



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

Welcome to the Autumn edition of your local newsletter. In this issue, we would like to wish all our young people starting school, transferring to secondary school, starting an apprenticeship, going to college or university all the very best. We hope we have managed to include you all - but if we have missed you, please let us know where you are going, what you are doing and email us a photo. We'll squeeze you in next time! Similarly, we are not aware of any new babies or any new residents - please do get in touch with your news to help us keep up to date. ([papcastlevillager@gmail.com](mailto:papcastlevillager@gmail.com)) There's a lot to look forward to in the Village this Autumn and Christmas - see dates for your diary, back page - and keep an eye out for the sandwich boards and the new Village Hall notice board for further details. We look forward to seeing you at one or other of the events.

Jilly and Jacqui

## Annual Village Barbecue



Despite torrential rain, Papcastle villagers turned out in force to barbecue and socialise on Saturday 15th July. Over 80 tickets were sold, it was a busy meet!

David and his gang, Brian and Brian, did a fantastic job setting up the Barbecue outside the Village Hall.

Debbie bought and prepared the meat and vegetables, assisted by her team, Judy and Michelle. The two Brians and David barbecued the delicious food in the pouring rain. This obviously made it taste even better as it all disappeared very fast!

A huge thank you for all the tasty salads, breads and amazing puddings donated by the generous villagers.

One of the advantages of the weather was that everyone gathered in the hall. The atmosphere was lively, fun and loud!

Some of the adults and children did escape outside, between showers, to play the human fruit machine.



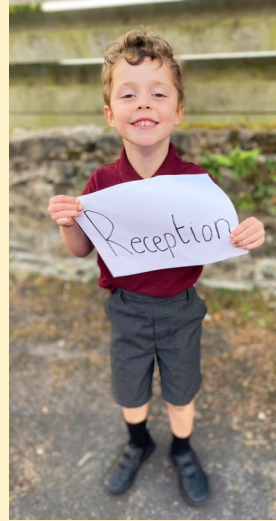
This has definitely become a village favourite, for all age groups!

We musn't forget to say a big thank you to the many hands in the kitchen. The clearing up went so well.

Again, a lovely time was had by all. Thanks to everyone who made the Barbecue such a success!!



## Young Papcastle



How the years fly by! Here are Seb, and twins Elliot and Miles off to start in the Reception class at Bridekirk Dovenby. Niall is joining Reception at Fairfield, and George is starting in Year 7 at Cockermouth School.

We wish them every happiness in their new classes, that they settle in well, enjoy their learning and make lots of new friends.

## Congratulations!

to Jack, Patrick, Lucy and Jacob who were all delighted with their excellent GCSE results and are looking forward to their new challenges.

Jack (left) is staying on at Cockermouth Sixth Form studying A Levels in Chemistry, Maths and History and an EPQ in Music.

Lucy has gone to Chester to do a three year performing arts diploma.

Patrick (right) is also staying on at Cockermouth Sixth Form studying A Levels in Maths, Economics and PE.

Camera-shy Jacob has chosen to go to Carlisle College to study Media Production and Technology.

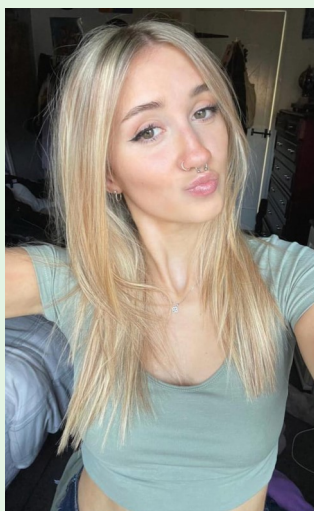
## Off to Uni...

Congratulations also to sixth-formers Phoebe Nattress, Dan Woodcock and Jacob Wilson, who have successfully completed their A Levels and are off to University.

Dan (right) is going to Newcastle to study Maths, and Jacob (left) will be studying Physics at the University of Liverpool. He is pictured playing at Cockermouth Live this summer.

Phoebe Nattress has gone to Newcastle University to study French and Politics. She will do a four year degree, with her third year studying in a French speaking country.

We hope they will all be happy and enjoy their studies.





# Forever Farming

Jacqui

One person you will always see around Papcastle is Robert Jackson, our local farmer. Robert and his family are an institution in the village.

Robert's father bought Croft House in July 1913, Croft House being the original house for the farm. His Dad not only ran the farm but also bred award winning Clydesdale horses.

Robert was the youngest of four children - Mary, John, Dorothy and Robert.



Mary's husband Joe with Clydesdale mare and foal, 1957

As a child, Robert's work ethic was strong. At the age of 10, he grew lettuce to sell before moving on to flowers, which he sold to County Fruit Stores. He later sold bedding plants, polyanthus and primroses to Hayes Garden Centre in Ambleside, starting out at 300/400 plants a year and eventually building up to 3500 plants.

Not bad for a part-time job for 12 and a half years, whilst also working full-time on the farm! However, he did engage his family at busy times.

His first marital home with Joyce was Rose Terrace, now Rosehill, in which they lived for 18 months before buying Lynwood, where they raised their four children and still call home.

There was a milking parlour at Croft Farm for many years, initially hand milking 12 cows and expanding to 40 cows when a parlour was installed. Milk was delivered to Papcastle Village as well as Fairfield Restaurant. Cream was sold at the weekends.

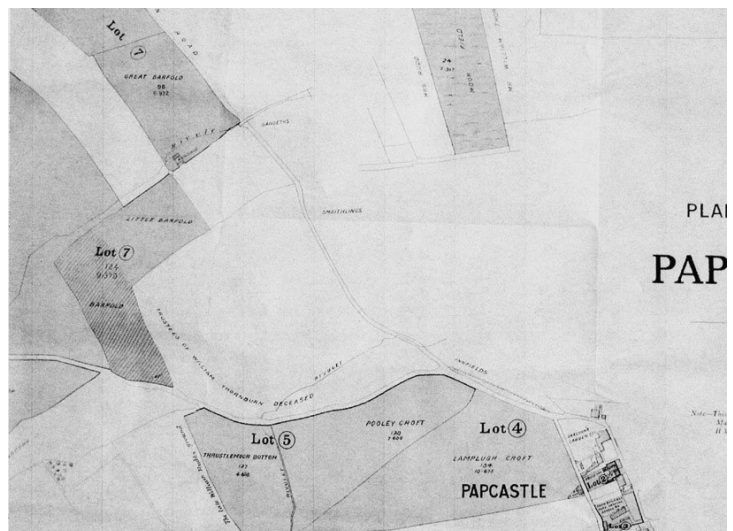
Unfortunately their milk production became too small for milk processors to take on and Foot and Mouth interrupted milk sales; consequently they stopped selling milk in 2001.



Dorothy cooling milk in the dairy



Dairy cows returning to the field after milking.



Croft House Farm and fields, bought by Robert Barnes Jackson in 1913.





Aberdeen Angus Stud Bull



New stock Suffock ram at work!

Croft House farm has always been a fattening farm, for sheep and cattle. Animals are given a healthy balanced diet and free grazing. They usually have about 700 ewes producing 1200 fat lambs and 100 replacement ewe lambs each year.

Robert farmed with his brother John until he withdrew from working in 2003, and his sister Mary did the accounts. Mary and her husband Joe lived in Croft House, so it has always been a close family team. Robert and Robert Junior are currently refurbishing Croft House following Mary's death several years ago.

Robert Junior joined the family farm in 1999, after he successfully completed his 3 year course at Newton Rigg College.

John, Robert's grandson, followed his uncle and went to Newton Rigg before taking up full-time work on the farm in 2018.

Farming is a way of life, one that involves long hours and many worries. The recent floods have meant a lot of remedial work as well as loads of paperwork. One benefit of the flooding was the discovery of Roman ruins in Papcastle (see previous issues of this newsletter on the website).

Robert also had to fight planners to ensure that Papcastle residents had access over the bypass when it was initially proposed. He has served on the Parish Council for many, many years – a real community-spirited man.

Robert thinks that future for farming is not straight forward. So many issues need to be considered; care of the environment, climate change, consumers' changing expectations.

However, Robert will still be seen around Papcastle, in his cattle truck, quad bike or pick-up, always busy and always smiling!



The oldest tractor on the farm, registered 1980



Robert and his wife Joyce



# Bye Bye Belle Vue!

For more than five years, Papcastle and Belle Vue have been privileged to have Mike and Sharron Wilkinson running our village pub, providing delicious, substantial meals and a homely welcome. Sadly, due to a change in the terms and conditions offered by the owners Marstons, who took over Jennings Brewery in 2005, they have decided to move on.



Mike will be taking a short break for medical reasons before returning to work in the hospitality trade (good news – too good to lose)! Sharron will be sharing the management of the Royal Yew in Dean.

Mike and Sharron served their last meals in the pub on Sunday 17th September - an emotional day for everyone - before embarking on a cruise to Spain and Portugal to recover. They say this is a lovely place to live, and are very grateful for all the support and help they have received from the local villagers. They wish everyone all the best for the future.

We wish them both success and happiness in their new ventures. Please let The Villager know where you end up Mike, so that we can come and eat with you again.

At present, we do not know when The Belle Vue pub will be re-opening.

However, for one night only there will still be a **PUB IN THE VILLAGE !!**



Come and join us on  
Friday 6th October from 7.00 pm at  
**“THE PAPCASTLE ARMS”**  
(aka the Village Hall)

For craik, drinks and bar snacks from a cash bar.



## West Lakes Squirrel Initiative and Local Red Squirrel Conservation.

We understand that residents in Papcastle have become increasingly concerned about the rising number of Grey squirrels being seen in the village and the reduced number of Red sightings over the last 2 years. We suspect that a Squirrel Pox virus outbreak (spread by grey squirrels) in the local Red squirrel population some two to three years ago may have effectively wiped out the local Red population and we hope to be able to reverse this decline with the support of local residents and landowners.



West Lakes Squirrel Initiative (WLSI) have been heavily involved in Red squirrel conservation in Cockermouth since summer 2022 when concerns about the number of grey squirrels being seen in the town and the reduction in red squirrel sightings were raised with our Cockermouth based volunteers by members of Cockermouth Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club initially seed funded the project to pay for feeders, cameras and feed for one year and then approached WLSI to undertake the work of siting and monitoring the feeders in the town and gaining the support of local landowners. Since beginning our work in the autumn of 2022 a total of 127 Grey Squirrels have been removed from the town and, after nearly two years without any reported red sightings, in June 2023 WLSI began to receive sighting reports of Red Squirrels in Cockermouth.

At first it was hard to believe that this would happen so quickly, but the reports have increased over the summer and number now 46 sightings (at 18/9/2023). The Reds are being spotted in public areas and private gardens at the Cemetery, along the Greenway, the woods behind the Old Fire station, Lorton Road, Kirkgate, Harris Park and Waste Lane. Unfortunately, Greys are also still being seen but the WLSI team will continue their monitoring and control work (including in Papcastle) to make sure that the vulnerable Red population that has returned to the town are protected through the winter and allowed to breed and become active again in suitable habitat they haven't yet revisited, hopefully to include re-colonisation of the wooded areas around Papcastle.

Your grey squirrel sightings reports are important to our work to aid our co-ordinators in focusing our effort to where it will provide the greatest benefit.

Contacts for sightings: Email - [wlsi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wlsi@hotmail.co.uk)

Phone - 078 8141 2809 (Louise, local volunteer) or 079 12681152 (Peter, WLSI Area Co-ordinator)

Facebook - West Lakes Red Squirrels.



Louise Edwards, on behalf of WLSI

We are lucky to have so much going on at the Village Hall this Autumn. Take your pick from the events below.



## Festive Xmas Wreath Workshop



### Make your own Xmas Wreath

Saturday 25th November

1.30 - 5.00 pm

Equipment provided, just bring your own greenery and decorations.

Demonstration, instruction, soup lunch, mince pies, mulled wine & festive chat!

£20

Places are limited, so please book your place with Debbie on 07754 127103

## Papcastle and Belle Vue Community Energy Project



### Information and Planning Evening Papcastle Village Hall

7 pm to 9 pm

Wednesday 15th November 2023

The Parish Council is hosting an evening event on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November from 7 pm to 9 pm in the village hall to give residents a chance to learn about Community Energy, ask questions, discuss ideas and contribute towards any future plans. Papcastle and Belle Vue are included in the Solar Made Easy project run by CAfS (Cumbria Action for Sustainability) and there will be an opportunity to talk more about this at the meeting, whilst also exploring other possibilities including ground based solar panels, community energy generation, community transport schemes, home insulation etc.

We will have a number of people from different organisations including CAfS and CALC (Cumbria Association of Local Councils), and hopefully a representative of the local planning authority, to speak to us. Towards the end of the evening, we will look at the best way to take things toward and gauge the level of involvement people want to have.

This is an exciting chance for us to come together and work cooperatively for a better future.

Come along and be a part of it.

**Don't forget the earlier CAfS Solar made Easy meeting on Nov 2nd at 7 pm in the URC.**



## Carole's Fabric Crafts Craft Sale!

Sunday 15th October

1.15-3.30 pm



I will have lots of new ideas at this year's Craft fair, so pop along to get some Halloween, Birthday and Christmas gift inspiration!

Cakes, teas and coffees are available too to raise funds for the village hall.





# Parish Council Snippets

From the meeting held on 5th September 2023

Among other things, the following points were discussed which may be of interest to Villagers:

- **Discharge of sewage** into the river Derwent by United Utilities at the Cockermouth Treatment works. 98 incidents in the past year. A representative from United Utilities is to attend the November Parish Meeting to discuss this. Members of the village are welcome to attend.
- **The 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. (See elsewhere in the newsletter) and the formation of a **Community Energy Group** to promote community schemes to combat climate change.
- **Bin Strikes:** Councillor Helen Tucker updated councillors on the situation. She advised that Cumberland Council intended to stop green bin collections at the end of October and resolved to fight this, as it was far too soon.
- **Disruption to traffic** will be caused by the laying of fibre optic cables at Belle Vue and on the Mount.
- **20 mph speed limit in the village:** the Parish Council's request has been received and will be reviewed in approximately 9 months.

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

**Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 7th November at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.** Anyone is welcome to attend. The chairman's permission must be sought if you wish to contribute.



The Parish Council has submitted a request for the speed limit in Papcastle and Belle Vue to be reduced to 20 miles per hour. This will be considered in due course when the Traffic Regulation Order for Allerdale is next reviewed. This could take up to 9 months. If you would like any further information, please contact David Johnson, Chairman of the Parish Council, on 07340 768448.



**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 have now settled into a regular service pattern following the disruptions of Covid, and we are working towards growing again. Our Grasmoor Mission Community clergy team has been strengthened, but we are still seeking a replacement for Adrian (perhaps more news by the next issue).

We will be celebrating Christmas Season with the following services, to which all are welcome.

**17th December:** 11.00 am: Holy Communion  
6.30 pm: Carol Service  
**24th December:** 11.00 am: Crib Service  
8.00 pm: Christmas Eve Communion

You may wish to try coming along to one of the following groups, who meet regularly in our church room, which is kept warm and comfortable throughout the year.

**Bridekirk Craft Group:** Alternate Tuesdays 1.30-3.30 pm from 3rd October  
(call Margaret on 01900 821128)  
**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 1.00-3.00 pm  
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.

**Mondays from**  
9 October 6.30 pm

**Every Friday**  
2-2.45 pm

**Every Saturday**  
Class times vary

**Friday 6th October**  
From 7.00 pm

**Sunday 15th October**  
1.15-3.30 pm

**Sunday 22nd October**  
10 am -1 2 pm

**Sunday 29th October**  
4-6 pm

**Wed 15th November**

**Saturday 25th November**  
1.30-5.00 pm

**Saturday 2nd December**  
7 pm

**Sunday 10th December**  
4-6 pm

**Keep Fit** with Tony Magorrian - [tony.magorrian@googlemail.com](mailto:tony.magorrian@googlemail.com)  
10 week term.

**Zumba Gold** £5 - Contact Danielle Carson 07975521789

**Divas School of Dance.** Classes for all ages in Ballet , Modern & Tap.  
Please contact M Williamson on 07512804184 for further details

**"The Papcastle Arms"** pub in the village hall  
For craik, drinks and bar snacks from a cash bar

**Carole's Fabric Craft Sale and Tea/Coffee and Cakes**  
in aid of the Village Hall

**Kids' Swap** (toys, games, clothes, shoes, bikes, scooters etc)  
£3 to be involved. Further details from Tai on 07874005870

**Kids' Halloween party** - £3 per child. Please book your place with  
Tai McEwan on 07874005870 or at Lindenside East

**Papcastle and Belle Vue Community Energy Project**  
Information and Planning Evening

**Festive Xmas Wreath Workshop**, lunch and mulled wine  
£20. Places limited. Contact Debbie 07754 127103

**Merry Meet Christmas Party**  
Contact Gill Conlon 01900 828360

**Kids' Xmas Party** - £3 per child. Please book your place with  
Tai McEwan on 07874005870 or at Lindenside East

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

Hello all!

I know it's early but we want you to get this date in your diary.

**Saturday 2 December 7 pm** for the 'Merry Meet'. New friends and old are welcome and all it will cost you is a plate of food. Just come and share your grub and meet friends and neighbours before the mad Christmas rush starts.

As usual we will have a paying bar on site, a couple of daft games and a raffle. (If you have a raffle prize to donate, please bring along on the night). To end the celebrations this year we're having a **Christmas Disco** and knees up.

We'd love to see any new villagers too - do come along!

Please contact **Gill Conlon 01900 828360** and let her know if you plan to join us as it helps us to plan the bar etc. Our village hall needs our support.

Doreen Bertram

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](mailto:papcastlevillager@gmail.com) by 31st December 2023 please.