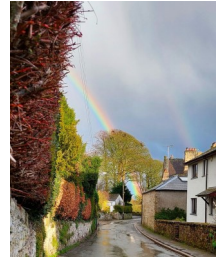


Spring 2024



The
Villager
Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter

Issue 71



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

As I write, the village is surrounded by daffodils, there are lambs in the fields and there are pots of gold available at either side! We've made it through the worst months without icy roads, floods or plague this year, so even if you are facing the daunting prospect of academic exams, it's time to cheer up and get out into the sun. Read on to find out what's been going on in the villages and what will be happening in the next few months - **and don't forget to put the Village Barbecue on 13th July in your diaries!**

If you are new to Papcastle or Belle Vue and wish to introduce yourself, please do contact Jilly or Jacqui via papcastlevillager@gmail.com. If you would like to read back copies of this Newsletter, visit the website above and click on Newsletter.

100th Birthday Celebration!

Saturday 3rd February 2024

Lillian Barker lived in Belle Vue and Papcastle for most of her life, Fern Cottage being her home from 1969 to about 2012 when she moved into town. She involved herself in all the village activities from coach outings and coffee mornings to keep fit, line dancing and indoor bowls in the village hall. Many of us remember her attendances at our village barbecues and Christmas events, where Lillian invariably won a raffle prize or two!!



In her early years she attended the local school in Dovenby, having to walk there and back in all weathers, and spent some of her working life (1938-1949) in a small engineering company here in Papcastle, making components for the candlestick type of telephone. She was a well-loved member of this community.

As she is unable to get out and about, Lillian celebrated her birthday at home in Horsman Street with lots of friends calling in throughout the day to wish her well, sing happy birthday and present her with a lovely chocolate cake, complete with many lit sparklers. She is very proud of her card from the King and Queen and it now takes pride of place in her living room!

Enterprising Young Papcastle!

Many of the young folk in the village are eager to supplement their pocket money by helping out other residents:

Some of the services they currently offer are:

Babysitting

Millie (contact via 07821695725) Jess (contact via 07515960746) and Isla (contact via 07967129209)

Pet Pop-ins

Jess and Millie as above and Rory & India with the help of Mum, Clare (07825603709)

Holiday plant and garden watering:

Millie (contact via 07821695725)



Millie (pictured above with Jess) says, "I have been babysitting for the last two years and love it. I enjoy spending time with the children, chatting, playing games and reading bedtime stories. I also like helping my neighbours by doing jobs when they are away, including watering the garden, feeding cats and walking dogs".

Do get in touch with the Editors (papcastlevillager@gmail.com) if you would like to add yourself to this band of helpers. (I believe there is a demand for a young grasscutter!) The phone numbers above are contact numbers for their responsible adults - we do not publish the phone numbers of under 18s.

Fundraising event for Zak's expedition to Ecuador



We would like to thank everyone who came along to the village hall to support our fundraising quiz night on 23rd March. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we made over £500. My expedition to Ecuador is almost here - we leave on 2nd July. I'm really excited to

be taking part and can't wait for this amazing journey. I'll update you in the Autumn newsletter when I get home from my trip.

Congratulations again to the winning quiz team Vicki, Phil and his parents pictured below -although Doreen seems to be missing!



Four Trophies for Jack!

The Carlisle and District Music and Drama Festival takes place every year in the middle of March and young people's music groups from our area attend. This year our very own Jack Milburn from the Mount had an amazing week, winning two trophies for Junior and Boys' Vocal Solo, one for Songs from the Shows and several commendations and distinctions. He also sang with Cockermouth School Boys & Pop choir, along with Patrick Williams also from The Mount, and played piano for the school orchestra, who did equally well in their classes.

Jack topped off the week by winning the Sam Bellingham trophy for the highest scoring vocal performance in his classes, which was presented by the mayor of Carlisle at the Gala Concert on Saturday evening.

Well done to all involved!



GOOD LUCK!



We'd like to wish all of our young people in the Village the best of luck in the forthcoming exams - whether SATS, GCSEs, A levels, T levels or degrees. We hope you will be able to keep well, stay focused and offset the stress with some downtime.



The Papcastle Lectures

The Antikythera Mechanism

Friday 19th January 2024

Mike Hand, a former lecturer at Lancaster University, roused the interests of a curious group of villagers with his talk on this unique Ancient Greek hand powered orrery, used - it is thought - to predict astronomical phenomena.

The artefact was discovered by pure luck, by deep sea divers in a ship wreck in the Mediterranean Sea in 1901. It was left unexamined for 50 years before scientists investigated this earliest of computers, only 8 inches in diameter.

The truly amazing mechanical knowledge, expertise and skill of the Greeks is exhibited in the intricacies and accuracy of this incredible machine. After 70 years of investigation there are still new findings on the gears, cogs and pins of this ancient invention.

Thanks to Magdi for organising, Mike for presenting and Gill for the refreshments.



Local Water Resources and Supply

Friday 22nd March 2024

Stan Leigh gave an illuminating talk on water provision to our area from Roman times to the present day. There are apparently still 4 Roman wells in Papcastle (one at Derwent Lodge pictured right) as well as the Roman Bath House uncovered in the 2012 archaeological dig (for more details on this, come to the September Papcastle Lecture, details below). There are wells down on Gote Road by the Pump House, (left) from where water was pumped up to the Papcastle Reservoirs (north of the Belle Vue roundabout) pictured below right, to supply Maryport. In the Victorian era there was a public bath house on Crown Street and, following the Public Health Water Act of 1878 to prevent cholera, reservoirs were built in the early 1900s to provide safe drinking water. From 1903 until the recent changes by United Utilities, our drinking water came from Crummock, whilst mill races from the Derwent down at the Goat powered the mills.



Many thanks to Stan for sharing his socio-historical research, and to Carolyn and Gill for help on the night.

If you would like to learn more from Stan, why not join one of his walks

(see back page for the schedule), which he embellishes with interesting facts about the area along the way. He also started a group on Facebook for those who love the village or who might like to view images of local walks: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/947091862524961>

Next Papcastle Lecture - The Bees Knees! Friday, 26th April

The Bees Knees - Dai Edwards from town is currently the treasurer of the Bee Society. He has hives in town and in woodland near Wythop Mill. Friday, 26th April 2024, 7.30 pm

Roman Finds after the 2009 Flood - Mark Graham. Friday, 27th September 2024, 7.30 pm

Wind in the Village!

“There is an amazing variety and abundance of musical talent here in Cumbria.” So says Papcastle resident Graham Frudd, who is himself an extremely gifted and versatile musician. Collector of musical instruments, with an especial love for British made clarinets (their sound is much richer and rounder to his expert ear), Graham astounded me with tales of his musical past and present.

“I was brought up in a small rural mining community in West Yorkshire. My parents and sister were not at all musical, but I spent lots of time with my two aunts, who were heavily into musical theatre,” he recounts. “They sent me to tap and modern dancing lessons at the age of six. They were youth leaders and put on a couple of productions each year: a musical 'review' and a panto - I was on stage from a very young age (quite the Billy Elliot - the only boy in a troupe of around 20 lasses!)”

Graham learnt to play the recorder at junior school, and was soon getting the bus every Saturday to music centre, where he fell in love with the clarinet. Impressed by his enthusiasm even though he had never played one before, his aunts took him – aged 10 - to Wakefield and bought his first clarinet. He worked out how to play an F major scale in the car on the way home! His headmaster must have spotted his talent, because he drove Graham to the grammar school in the next town for clarinet lessons.

As a teenager at grammar school, Graham became involved in various musical groups: wind band, clarinet choir and youth orchestra, playing for school productions. He even had to learn bassoon to fill a gap in the orchestra. This ability to switch to other wind instruments came in handy later when, as a “pit player” (the music group playing below and in front of the stage at live theatrical performances), he had to play the flute, saxophone and bass clarinet. Used to playing shows like Oklahoma!, Carousel and Fiddler on the Roof for amateur operatic societies, Graham described the scariest moment when he was asked to

deputize at last minute for a professional touring production of West Side Story at the Alhambra in Bradford (one of the reed players was suddenly ill).

Although he had not studied music beyond O level, Graham was by now playing with the Leeds Symphony Orchestra, the West Riding Symphonia, had formed several chamber groups and was very active in the Clarinet and Saxophone Society (GB). “That's how I met some of my idols - Jack Brymer was an amazing chap - and so generous with his advice and encouragement.” All this, in addition to a demanding full time job in a large textile company.

Leaving Yorkshire for Cumbria in the late 90s to work at Sellafield, Graham took a break from his intense music schedule. “To be honest, it had become a bit of a chore and I had begun to dread the phone ringing in case it was another last-minute “dep” plea.”



Graham pictured with some of his instruments.

Left to right, top row: Soprano, alto and tenor saxophones

Left to right bottom and holding, clarinets in Eb, C, Bb and A; Bassett Horn and Bass clarinet.

However, when Philip Wood was conductor of the Castlegate Singers, he asked Graham to “pull something together to be their guests”. So Graham formed several chamber groups locally - a clarinet quartet, a saxophone trio, and the Papcastle Wind Quintet. “Getting back into playing after ten years was a real struggle - and I'm still nowhere near as proficient as I once was.”

“Of course, we also formed the Papcastle Community Orchestra (now CCO) and that still takes lots of my time and energy. Not only playing, but also sourcing all our music, producing the scores and arranging parts and such things,” he observes. But he still finds time to listen to a wide variety of music. He loves classical and jazz (though he admits he can't play it - “I like my music written down - I'm no good at improvising,”); folk - he even tried playing the Northumbrian pipes, “Anything - as long as it is played well.”

Graham is still playing with The Papcastle Wind Quintet - pictured right. “I find it extremely rewarding.” he says, “We have some lively discussions about how we play the pieces. No one is really the leader of the group, so we all have a say, and that can lead to debates!”

The other four members are: Angela Turner (Flute), Gabrielle Sanders (Oboe), Kate Parry (Bassoon), Andrew Jones (Horn). They meet to practise fortnightly, playing light, modern and traditional classical music, music hall and swing, and perform several times a year locally. They are also very fortunate to have pieces written especially for them by Papcastle composer Philip Wood. They are one of many small ensembles like Eden Baroque, the newly formed North Lakes Brass, Helm Wind and The GALA Trio who enrich this beautiful county with their music.



The quintet are planning a concert in the Village Hall later in the year - please keep your eyes open for when it's on - it will be unmissable!

Jilly

Fraud Prevention Evening

Tuesday 20th February



Papcastle Parish Council organised a talk by Claire Keys from the Economic Crime Unit of Cumbria at the Village Hall. Her talk was extremely informative but very scary. It was incredible to listen and discover how clever and devious scammers can be, and how they can deceive the public with worrying ease.

We wrongly assumed that it was a certain age group of people who were taken in by these fraudulent people, but were shown statistics from Cumbria which

illustrated that people of all age groups have been taken in by these individuals and also by teams working together to defraud the general public. Claire finished the evening with a talkative questions and answers session.

We are encouraged to report any fraud or suspicions to **Action Fraud 0300 123 2040** www.actionfraud.police.uk and forward any dubious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk.

The small number of residents who attended the information evening received a useful booklet containing good advice and contact numbers. This booklet is available online as a downloadable pdf at this address:

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bp-assets/contentassets/1aaba412b3a246c7b4fae8c912f7146b/think-jessica.pdf>



New Babies!

Congratulations to Judith and Michael of Derwent Lodge Cottage on the birth of their daughter Mabel Isabel Susanne Modell, pictured below. She was born on 5th January, weighing 6lb 12oz.



"She's such a precious addition to our family. It has been unbelievably hard work... but definitely worth it!" says Judith.



Congratulations also to Rachael, Jerome, Lara and Nala dog from Windrush Cottage who were delighted to welcome baby Ezra to the world on Mothers' Day! Above: Lara and Ezra together.

Four Generations of Rushtons!

Congratulations to Grandparents Debbie and David on the birth of their grandson Henry Albert in January.



L-R: David, Frank, John and Henry. Great grandfather Frank used to live in the village at The Manor House from 1972-1994. John grew up in Papcastle, then joined the Royal Navy in 2009 to become a helicopter engineer. He now lives in Somerset with wife Emily and new addition to the family Henry.

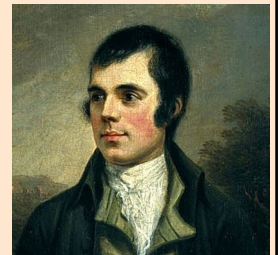
Whisky Galore!

Burns Night Quiz at the Belle Vue

Thursday 25th January 2024



Five competitive teams fought for the Scottish poet's birthday bash. The questions were varied and sometimes challenging, all with a Scottish theme; photos, music, general knowledge and fun. The winners were a team of English and Scottish Papcastle residents! Many thanks to Leah for organising and Adam for being a great quiz master.



Whisky Tasting

Friday 23rd February

Another successful evening at the Village Hall. Tickets sold out very quickly and the hall was busy with whisky enthusiasts.

Stephen Walker from The Cockermouth Whisky Tasting Club kindly hosted the evening again - a popular return visit. He introduced 5 varieties of specialist whisky from all over the world. Villagers and their friends sampled these as well as delicious biscuits and cheeses. Many thanks to Magdi for organising and to Penny for assisting him.



Drambuie Chocolate Mousse

(Queen Elizabeth's Favourite Pudding)



Ingredients

- 6oz dark cooking chocolate
- 4 eggs separated
- 300ml (1/2 pint) double cream whipped
- Good swig of Drambuie (2 tablespoons!)
- Chocolate Flake or Ripple

Method

- Melt the chocolate in a large bowl, taking care not to overheat it.
- Beat in the egg yolks and Drambuie.
- Fold in the cream.
- Whisk the egg whites in a separate bowl until stiff and the peaks hold. Fold into the rest of the mixture.
- Put in the fridge to set.
- Top with a crumbled Flake or Ripple.

**Make the night before you need it..*

**Contains raw eggs so should be avoided if pregnant.*

Angela Johnson



Parish Council Snippets

The Parish Council meets every 2 months and is tasked with addressing local village issues such as blocked drains, management of green spaces, footpaths, street lighting, bus shelters and planning applications. The County Councillor for Cocker mouth North (currently Helen Tucker) usually attends the meetings and relays any concerns to the relevant Cumberland County Council department as well as informing the Parish Council of developments on the County Council. The current Chairman of the PC is David Johnson of Premier House, Belle Vue. Other Parish Councillors are Robert Jackson Snr and Robert Jackson Jnr, Huw Morgan, Brian Merris, John Conlon, Ian Trohear and Jilly Douglas.

Following the resignation of Keith Fitton there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. Anyone resident in Papcastle Parish and over 18 years of age is eligible to serve. If you are interested and would like further information then please telephone the Parish Clerk, Barbara Lamb, on 07425792995, or balamb912@outlook.com. Closing date for applications in 29th April 2024.

- At the meeting on 5th March 2024, there was much discussion about the discharge of sewage into the River Derwent from United Utilities storm drains, which has increased significantly here in Papcastle as in many parts of the country. **A representative from United Utilities has agreed to attend the next Parish Council meeting on 7th May to outline proposals to improve this situation and answer questions. Any village residents are very welcome to attend.**
- A planning application for a dog exercise area off Gote Brow (A5086) in the fields to the east of the Mount was also discussed at length, with concerns raised about poor visibility for vehicular access, insufficient parking, pollution of the watercourse, noise, distress to livestock and change of land use.
- The Roman Road public footpath to the north of the back lane to Great Broughton is dangerous due to fallen trees and storm damage. The Clerk will report this to the Cumberland Footpath Officer.
- The Defibrillator batteries have been renewed (situated in the phone box at the entrance to the Mount).

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

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting on **Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7.00 pm** in the Village Hall, directly followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council All are welcome.



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

As I write this contribution, it is Good Friday and a time to remember the journey of Jesus to the cross and the forthcoming celebration of his resurrection at Easter. Today our congregation gathered for a worship service, followed by a time to reflect on the events leading up to the crucifixion, but also on the words which Jesus spoke during His time on the cross. The whole event, led by Reverend Roy Anetts, brought a new light to our celebrations which was both enlightening and moving.

Earlier in the week, we once again had the opportunity to host Bridekirk School's Easter service. The church building was full of children, parents and grandparents. The sound of the children singing choruses which they had learnt filled the gathering with joy. A happy occasion for all.

All are welcome to all of our services. They usually last about 45 minutes, followed by light refreshments in the church room. We will do our utmost to make everyone feel welcome and at ease.

You may also 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:

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

Bridekirk	Alternate Tuesdays 1.30-3.30 pm
Craft Group:	(call Margaret on 01900 821128)
Bridekirk	Every Monday 10.30 am-12.00 pm
Friendship Group:	Refreshment and fellowship for the more mature
Bridekirk Baby and	Every Thursday 1.00-3.00 pm
Toddler Group:	Activities for children and time for a chat for parents



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 Monday
6.30 - 7.30 pm
(not in summer)

Keep Fit in the Village Hall has closed for the summer and, all being well, will recommence in September/October. Please contact Tony for further details - tony.magorrian@googlemail.com

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

Wednesday
24th April 2024

Village Hall Trustees Annual General Meeting in the Hall. Villagers welcome. 7.00pm

Friday
26th April 2024
7.30 pm

Papcastle Lectures
"The Bees Knees" talk by local beekeeper Dai Edwards. £3 on door. Tea, coffee and biscuits included.

Saturday
29th June 2024

Children's Fun Day
See below

Saturday
13th July 2024
6.00 pm onwards

SAVE THE DATE - Village BBQ !!
Tickets £15 includes welcome drink. Under 8's free. 8-16 yrs £7.50. Contact Debbie for tickets 07754 127103.

Friday
27th September 2024
7.30 pm

Papcastle Lectures
Papcastle Roman Dig talk. £3 on door, tea coffee and biscuits included.



Stan's Walking Group (Cockermouth Striders)

Several of our villagers have joined Stan on his well organised walks, which often contain historical and cultural points of interest. Please contact Stan on 01900 82882/email seleighwanadoo@yahoo.com if you would like to join them.

Provisional timetable:

Friday 12 April	Loweswater Coffin Route & High Nook Tarn 5.5 miles
Friday 10 May	Caldbeck Bluebells to Hesket Newmarket. 6miles
Saturday 15 June	Portinscale, How Farm, High Stock Bridge, Dancing Gate, Millbeck, Applethwaite
Saturday 13 July	Papcastle, River Derwent, Priests Bridge & Papcastle & Dovenby Stations visit. 6 miles
Friday 16 August	Baggrow, Bothel, Torpenhow. Harbybrow. 7.4 miles

☎ 07874005870 - Tai
07928169555 - Cath

This colour 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 and the energetic distribution team. 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 30th June 2024.