

Spring 2016

The Villager



Issue 40

Papcastle & Belle Vue Newsletter

Editorial:

Welcome to the Winter 2016 edition of *The Villager*. You'll see from the following pages that this time we have a number of contributions from outside the usual editorial team; David Rushton from Dovers Lane writes about the life of a Retained fireman. David and his colleagues were of course heavily involved in the recent flood recovery, just as in 2009. *Hot off the Press* is that David has been able to set up a special visit to the fire station for 3 April - see page 8 for details. On page 3 we include an article from Anna Rudd of M-Sport on the latest developments at M-Sport's planned Evaluation Centre at Dovenby, and elsewhere John Eldred writes about his experiences teaching medical students in Malaysia. Finally, we're grateful to David and Geoff Thomas for helping write the article remembering Diana.

Mulled Wine Evening

The Mulled wine evening held on 12th December, was once again an enjoyable, social event bringing together residents of Papcastle and Belle Vue, old and new. It was good to see so many new faces there!

The evening comprised a quiz on Christmas carols and songs, a raffle with many lovely prizes (a big thank you to those of you who kindly donated them) and singing of Christmas carols with karaoke accompaniment! The mulled wine, made by Bill Mavir



Clare Broad, winner of the raffle

was delicious as always, accompanied by cheese, snacks and mince pies. The winner of the first prize in the raffle - a hamper, was Clare Broad.

The evening made a total of £293 which will go towards electricity, water and running costs of the village hall. Thank you to everybody who supported this event and we look forward to seeing you at the next one! New helpers and new ideas are always very welcome for this and other village hall events. If you feel you can contribute in any way please contact a member of the Trustees.

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DIANA THOMAS 1924 – 2015

Diana Thomas died peacefully just before Christmas, after a stroke. In spite of increasing difficulty in moving around, she had continued to live at home with her husband David, until last summer, when a fall left her needing 24 hour care which was more than her husband could manage.

Born in Cardiff, Diana was always proud of her Welsh roots, but also of being Cumbrian by adoption. She and her Master Mariner husband David lived in Papcastle at the Bird-in-Hand for over 35 years and celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary there last summer.

After school in Llandaff, Diana began nursing training at the beginning of World War II. She qualified as a State Registered Nurse, specialising in Obstetrics and hospital administration. Over the years she progressed from staff nurse to matron and hospital administrator and finally to Area Nursing Officer for the London boroughs of Kingston and Richmond.

When they moved to Cumbria, Diana's great love of children led her to work with the NSPCC and she became chairman of the West Cumbria Council. In recognition of this committee's much-admired work, she was appointed an honorary member of the NSPCC's national council. She was especially concerned for children who had been

abused mentally, physically or sexually. She was also an active member of St Bridget's church at Bridekirk, where she sang in the choir, chaired the PCC and served on the Diocesan Parsonage Board and the Deanery and Diocesan Synods.

Another of her interests was gardening and pottering around her beloved garden at Bird-in Hand. When she was hospitalised last summer, her nephew Geoff Thomas was instructed to take pictures of some favourite plants throughout the summer, so that she could watch their progress!

She will be greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched, not only through her NSPCC work, but her friends, neighbours, relations and of course her husband David. A fit and active 94 years, he cared for her until her last few months and drove her out to visit their favourite haunts and to meals with friends.

Many thanks to David's nephew, Geoff Thomas, for allowing the Villager to extract portions of his eulogy for use in this article. It seems he was the most appropriate relation to give the eulogy as, to quote him "I first met my aunt – or perhaps I should say that she first met me – when she put her nursing skills to work by assisting at my birth!"

News from Castle Gardens

The Villager has been asked to pass on thanks from the residents of Castle Gardens to the Trustees of the Village Hall, for their very kind gesture in delivering New Year gifts to each of the residents. The Trustees had contacted Derwent and Solway Housing Association about their ideas before Christmas and the gifts came as a very pleasant surprise.

Castle Gardens residents have the benefit of a beautiful residents' lounge in the complex, with superb views over the fells. However, the room is seldom used, apart from a couple of hours on a Tuesday morning.

Around six months ago, it was decided to organise Friday 'Tea and Chat' afternoons, including an opportunity to try a new craft. These have been quite well supported so far. Another idea recently put forward is a monthly 'Castle

2 Cafe', serving afternoon tea for residents. This idea will be trialled by having a 'Pop-Up' cafe, which it is hoped will be well attended. Good luck to all involved!



Parish Council Snippets - 5th January meeting

Police Report - none

Planning Applications - none

Planning Decisions

Resubmission of outline application for 4 houses on land at Belle Vue, - Refused.

Application for up to 10 dwellings on land off Dovers Lane - Refused. (Note this application was the subject of the open Village meeting held on 27 October 2015. The PCC has noted that an appeal has been lodged against the refusal)

Other Business

A United Utilities representative attended to present an update on the proposed West Cumbria water supply upgrade Project. UU expected to be submitting an initial Planning Application to Allerdale Borough Council by 29 January, with an anticipated response by sometime in June. If the application is successful, initial work could begin in Autumn 2016, with major construction beginning in March 2017. Drawings and artists impressions were circulated of the new pumping station off the Brigham road, which would be visible from the western edge of the village. Every effort was being made to minimise visual impact, and to blend the building into the landscape.

The PC noted that the proposed development of retail units on Low Road near the Lakes Homecentre, would also be visible from parts of the village.

Councillor Nicholson reported that the County Council had agreed to install speed pads to monitor traffic through the village.

· DISCOVERING · DERVENTIO

Update

The final fieldwork session of this three year project is underway at present. This is a detailed geo-physical survey of the Roman fort site at Burrow Walls, near Workington, which is a scheduled monument. Although not in the immediate Papcastle area, it is linked to Papcastle by the river Derwent.

Mark Graham of Grampus Heritage, who is leading the survey hopes that it will really help to improve the understanding of this site, which is thought to have been on an important position, in Roman times, at the mouth of the Derwent, which was then navigable as far as Papcastle.

Following Peter Broad's request for volunteers to help with designing an information board for the village, a group of six has now met on several occasions. Work is progressing well on the three identical information boards to be erected around the village, describing the project's discoveries.

This is at the design stage with Wardell Armstrong, who have been involved in the digs throughout the project. One of the problems has been the selection of the most appropriate material from the wealth of information and artefacts discovered!

WORK STARTS ON M-SPORT'S EVALUATION CENTRE - Anna Rudd

Work on M-Sport's new state-of-the-art Evaluation Centre (MEC) started in earnest last month. Local building and construction firms were on site towards the end of January and work is due to be completed by the end of 2017. Once completed, the MEC will provide a unique facility in the north of England – offering a centre of excellence for vehicle testing and evaluation whilst strengthening the company's engineering capabilities.

The motorsport sector is worth around £9 billion to the UK economy and it is essential that M-Sport evolves with the times – responding to market and manufacturer requirements to protect existing employment whilst creating a further 100 jobs within the local community.

The £19 million investment is also geared towards the general automotive industry – the UK's fastest growing sector of manufacture – with an emphasis on the development, testing and evaluation of specific road car markets.

As well as a 2.5 kilometre test track, the development also offers machine manufacturing, bodyshell manufacturing, composites manufacturing, transient engine dyno cells, a secure research and development centre and a self-contained workshop – all of which will strengthen M-Sport's position as a world leader and attract considerable business to the area.

As well as benefitting the region in terms of business and job security, it is also hoped that the local community will profit from the MEC in a social capacity. Engaging the community in a number of active pursuits, M-Sport plans to open the gates of its evaluation centre once a week during the summer months. Welcoming members of public to benefit from the use of this unique facility, local cyclists and runners of all ages and ability will be invited to make use of the test track for recreation and training purposes in a safe and secure environment. In addition to this, it is hoped that new conference facilities and dedicated tours will add another aspect to our region's many and varied tourist attractions.



M-Sport's planned test centre at Dovenby

Malaysian Adventure

John Eldred from Westworth returned to Papcastle this autumn after working in the Far East for 18 months. John had taught final-year medical students for Newcastle University for 20 years as a consultant gynaecologist at West Cumberland Hospital and he was seconded by Newcastle University in January 2014 to help establish a new medical school in Johor in South Malaysia.

He said "Newcastle University was invited by the government of Malaysia to establish a medical school (NUMed) in 2011 in EduCity, a new higher education hub in the special economic region of South Johor. Established clinician teachers with UK experience were invited to develop the syllabus in basic medical sciences as well as continuing with clinical duties and teaching within the Ministry of Health hospitals. The motivation for Newcastle University was to deepen its international reputation as a global organisation. The invitation from Malaysia was to ensure a high standard of medical training: it was the same as the U.K. and regulated by the General Medical Council. The medical school acted as the "anchor" tenant of EduCity with other international campuses becoming established such as Raffles University and Marlborough College.

The medical school facilities were excellent. The campus-based teaching, for years 1 and 2, was easy to establish, indeed the obstetric and gynaecological lectures were assessed as the best in the course. Working in the Malaysian hospitals for clinical teaching in years 3, 4 and 5, was more challenging. There was no designated hospital associated with the medical school, so access to patients meant long commutes across Johor or being resident in hospitals "up country." There were obvious differences in clinical practices and resources and the integration of the senior lecturer with the local, excellent, medical staff was not clearly defined. There were cultural sensitivities in teaching issues such as abortion, sexuality and female genital mutilation in a deeply religious Islamic society. Communication was not as difficult as expected however as English was the professional language. Malaysia is such a multicultural

society with a mix of Malay Muslim, Chinese and Indian that translation was a normal part of clinical practice. The Malaysians were hospitable and polite. The country is beautiful. The climate was a constant 30°C and wetter than the Lake District – 95% humidity but the rain came in a brief downpour in the afternoon. The ex-pat life meant a modern house in a gated community and access to a country club with a swimming pool. Everyone eats out in Malaysia. The food is ubiquitous, varied, superb and cheap. Even running the Singapore Marathon did not prevent weight gain. With good roads and low-cost flights it was easy to visit Penang, Malacca and the Cameron Highlands and further afield such as Borneo and Myanmar. Singapore was just across The Straits. The ex-pat community was sociable but the isolation and distance from the U.K. meant I was pleased to return to the U.K. for the bacon, the beer and most importantly, my family... if not the weather. "



John and Anne Eldred in a jungle setting



John in full teacher mode

International Eventing Success for Tyler

Ty Cassells from Cornerstones, Papcastle but now based in Cheshire, is a talented event rider, whose career *The Villager* has followed with great interest. In August 2015, Ty was selected to ride for Great Britain in the European Championships in Helvoirt in the Netherlands as part of a team of six. He says it was a wonderful experience.

The competition is unique, in that the team dressage involves all six riders performing a team test together in the same arena. This is then followed by the individual dressage competition. After the dressage, Great Britain stood in Gold position.

The cross country course was challenging, leaving GB in bronze position. However, Ty rode clear rounds in both cross country and show jumping, pulling GB into a final silver medal place.

Our congratulations go to Ty and the rest of Team GB!



Ty "trotting up" with Grand slam in the Netherlands

Hello from the new Curate - John Griffiths, Assistant Curate to The Cockermouth Area Team Ministry

It is good to be here as part of the Cockermouth Area Team Ministry. So who am I and where do I come from?

I was born in Kingston upon Hull (normally just 'Hull') in 1957. Despite being baptised I was raised in a 'non-church' family. As a teenager I was invited to church by friends and it was through this that I came to Christ. I started my working life in a Research Laboratory in the Chemical Industry. Through promotion I moved to Milton Keynes to run a Production Control Lab. At this time, what I had earlier considered as a call to ministry became a vocational move into teaching. My first teaching post was in Cumbria and then I spent three years teaching in a Forces School in Germany – an interesting time as this was when East Germany and West Germany were re-united. I returned to the UK and held two Head of Science Faculty posts before moving back to Cumbria to become the Deputy Headteacher and occasionally Headteacher of a large Secondary School in Ulverston, where I spent fourteen and a half years.

Sarah and I have been married for the past eight years. She has truly been a bright gift in my life and I have come to love her more day by day. Sarah is an artist and writer (as Sarah Elizabeth Holmes). We have a rather manic Springer Spaniel, Monty and should you meet him, he will calm down when exhausted!

The path to Ordination has been lengthy and demanding, it has sometimes appeared to be an endless road of discernment and study, but here I am, firstly ordained as Deacon and then last June as Priest, starting the next part of this great adventure with God. I am thrilled to be given this opportunity to learn and to serve in the Cockermouth area for the next the two to three years whilst training. I have already met many warm and kind people and I hope to meet many more of you over the next months. Please be patient – despite thinking that I am still in my twenties my memory sometimes tells me that I am not!

Saint Paul tells us that we are all baptised into the one body, the Church of Jesus. That body has many parts which must function together if the body is to be fit and healthy. I am already enjoying performing my role within the Body of Christ here in the villages linked to St Bridget's Bridekirk, where we are living and in the wider Cockermouth area. I pray that with the support and encouragement of all of the people, I will continue to grow in that service.

What is a Retained Firefighter ? - by David Rushton

Well, quite simply it could be anyone. It may be your milkman, the young lady serving in the local shop, the plumber who fixed your central heating.



David Rushton (left) and the Cockermouth crew on Remembrance day

Any of them could be an on call Retained firefighter. Ready, at a moment's notice, to leave their place of work, that family get together, or the pub quiz and dash off to their local fire station to deal with literally any type of emergency situation.

Retained firefighters are a vital part of today's Fire and Rescue Service. Nationwide, approximately 18,000 retained firefighters provide efficient, cost effective and reliable fire and rescue cover to around 60% of the UK. Most Retained firefighters are based in rural areas and will crew one or two appliances at a solely retained fire station, however some are based in urban areas on stations alongside whole time crews. Some Retained firefighters also crew special appliances such as Hydraulic Platforms, Water Carriers, Off Road Vehicles etc. Unfortunately, the majority of the general public are not aware that Retained firefighters exist, let alone that their local fire station is a retained station.

Some Retained firefighters, for instance, provide 120 hours cover each week, unlike their full-time colleagues, who normally work a 48-hour shift system over eight days. However, most Retained firefighters can only provide cover at set times due to their full-time employment commitments. For example, it may be that some personnel can provide cover during the day in any given week or only evenings and weekends per week. Often it is a mixture of both. Availability to receive calls could depend upon the flexibility of the firefighter's full-time employer and the individual's personal circumstances.

A critical level of fire cover must be provided at all times and Retained firefighters are expected to give as much commitment as possible. In fact, they are not normally permitted to give less than 50 hours per week in terms of cover. On average, Retained firefighters across the UK provide between 80 and 110 hours per week on standby.

When available for a call, Retained firefighters carry radio pagers to alert them to an emergency call. They must live or work a maximum of 4.5 minutes from the fire station at which they serve and must report to the fire station before manning the fire appliance and attending an incident.



Cockermouth's Retained firefighters were heavily involved in flood recovery

What type of incidents do Retained firefighters have to deal with?

- Fires - house, car, ship, aeroplanes
- Road Traffic Collisions
- Train crash at Kendal, air accidents, industrial accidents
- Chemical incidents
- Terrorist incidents - including CBRN capabilities, mass decontamination
- Water rescue,
- Animal rescues
- Flooding in Cumbria 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009 & 2015
- Major incidents - Buncefield Oil Depot, Lockerbie, Selby train crash, national flood rescues
- Urban Search and Rescue
- Lift rescues
- Co-responding - providing support to the Ambulance Service. A fire appliance may be nearer to a person requiring attention due a heart attack than the nearest ambulance. Defibrillation and basic life support can be provided until paramedics arrive.
- and sometimes, just sometimes, a cat stuck in a tree!

Get your car washed!
Cockermouth fire station is holding a Charity Car Wash on Saturday 19 March

Moonlighters

'The Moonlighters' is a group of young performers and technical team (aged between ten and twenty) who wanted to push the boundaries and explore theatre less conventionally. They have been meeting every Saturday at Papcastle Village Hall for rehearsals of their production of a post-apocalyptic 'Macbeth'. Hannah Lewis of Cockermouth has been leading the project - directing, designing, producing and marketing with a cast of twenty local young actors. John Wiseman of Wythop Mill has composed the original music (he is currently studying music composition at the University of Hertfordshire).



The Moonlighters in the snow outside the Village Hall

Hannah says that 'Macbeth' is known as the most difficult Shakespeare play but she was drawn to its darkness and moral conflict. Although it is originally set in Medieval Scotland, the themes of power, gender, status, entrapment, revenge and grief are universal and she took as inspiration the problems of the modern day world - wars, starvation, poverty, shanty towns and slums. Jonathan Broad of Belle Vue plays the part of 'Angus' in the play and he says 'It's been a great experience working on a Shakespeare classic and giving it a modern day dystopian feel'.

REGULAR VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

Mahjong Monday 2-5pm	Brian Wilkinson <i>All year except public holiday</i>	01900 829490
Keep fit Monday 6.30-7.30pm	Tony McGorrian <i>School term only</i>	01900 64632
Life Art Tuesday mornings	Susan Fleming <i>Fortnightly all year</i>	01900 823543
Parish Council 1 st Tuesday evening	David Johnson <i>Bi monthly</i>	01900 822163
Line Dancing Friday afternoons	Carol Smith <i>Weekly</i>	01900 821590



Village Hall Bookings:

Rose Rowlands
Telephone 01900 828941

Village Hall AGM

The Village Hall Trustees Annual General Meeting takes place on 19th April 2016 at 7pm in the village hall. All are welcome to attend.

New Hall Manager needed !

The administration of the Village hall and organising of social events is carried out by a small number of Trustees and volunteers. New Trustees and extra helpers are always welcome. In particular, a new Hall Manager is needed urgently. This post would suit somebody who is retired and readily available to carry out small jobs or contact necessary contractors for maintenance or repairs. If you think you can help in any way, please contact Joan Merris on 01900 823282 or speak to any of the Trustees at the AGM on 12th April.



What's on at St Bridget's Church, Bridekirk:

Age UK lunch every Monday 12 noon - 2.30pm in the Church Room

Bell ringing practise every Monday at 7.30pm. Details from Richard Green 01900 824311

Baby to pre-school club every Wednesday 1pm-3pm in the Church Room. Details from Mary Stothard 01900 823395.

St. Bridget's at Easter.

Thursday 24th March

Maundy Thursday Service, Bridekirk Church at 7.30 pm

Friday 25th March Good Friday.

Churches Together in Cockermouth, Procession from Lorton Street Methodist Church at 11am.

'An hour at the Cross' at 2pm in Bridekirk Church Room.

Sunday 27th March Easter Sunday

Easter Day Service 11am

Fire Station Open Day !

Cockermouth fire station has arranged a special open day to help people understand fire safety.

Sunday 3rd April at 11.00.

If possible, pre-notification to David Rushton at:
derdar@talktalk.net
07709281289 (mobile)
01900 824831 Tel/Fax/Ans



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Please contact any of the editorial team with your contribution for the next edition before 13th May 2016

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