

Summer 2016

# The Villager



Issue 41

Papcastle & Belle Vue Newsletter

## Editorial:

Welcome to the summer 2016 edition of *The Villager*. Once again, regrettably, we have to report on the passing of another long-time village resident, Vera Robinson, and we're grateful to Elaine French for the words of remembrance. Elsewhere, Phil Campbell reports on the opening of the John Dalton walk, and our Borough Councillor, Nicky Cockburn explains some of the workings of the Boundary Commission.

In this issue, we've taken the opportunity to reproduce nearly entirely, the Annual Reports of the Chair of the Papcastle Parish Council, and that of the Village Hall Trustees. Both organisations welcome feedback and comment from village residents, or even participation! In particular, note that the Village Hall trustees are still seeking someone to act as Hall Manager.

Finding interesting content for the the Villager is always a bit of a challenge and although the editorial team work hard at it, contributions from residents are gratefully received. To help this along, we're offering space to print one or two letters from residents in each issue. If you've something you'd like to say, write to or e:mail the editor! Finally, don't forget the village barbeque on the 2 July!



With due apologies for the quality of the image - this is the last horse to be shod at Croft House farm, - sometime in the 1950's, but there's a young Joe Strong hiding behind the horse ! The characters in the picture are, left to right: John Jackson, Jonty Carr (the Dovenby farrier) and Dick Ackerley (Robert Jnr's Godfather)

View *The Villager* at [www.papcastle.org.uk](http://www.papcastle.org.uk) - click on 'Newsletter'

## 25 years of Bypass

Many of today's residents of Papcastle and Belle Vue will be unfamiliar with the area before the bypass was built. All the traffic from Cockermouth, including heavy lorries, crossed the Gote Bridge en route to the old Belle Vue roundabout. The Belle Vue pub was originally called 'The Roundabout'.

The 12th June 2016 sees the 25th anniversary of the official opening of the Papcastle bypass, by Mrs Nonie Wrightson, Chairman of Cumbria County Council.

The bypass forms part of the A595 Lillyhall to Thursby road, skirting Papcastle and Belle Vue and relieving Cockermouth of much of its traffic. In 1972, work first started on identifying a suitable route. Several lines were initially put forward and investigated, before the final route was chosen and in 1988 the scheme received planning permission. The County Council bought the land needed for the scheme in 1989, negotiations with nine landowners being successfully concluded by agreement. An archaeological survey was carried out near Papcastle and the line of the Roman road from Derwentio Fort. This included a hand dig, though nothing of any significance was found.

The Derwent was one of the best salmon fishing rivers in the North West of England, and consultations with the National Rivers Authority and the local Anglers' Association resulted in some changes to the Papcastle Bridge design, in order to preserve known salmon pools. Construction work started on 4th December 1989 and the work was completed two months before the due date of August 1991.

The site of the original roundabout at Belle Vue, the first in the old County of Cumberland, was landscaped, turning the area into the hamlet it is today.

*Inauguration of the build, - spot the youthful village personalities*



*Definitely! the link to the Broughton Road before Crofts Bridge was built*



*Councillor Nonie Wrightson preparing to cut the ribbon*

## John Dalton 250

Around September 6th this year, it is the 250th anniversary of the birth of John Dalton, famous son of Eaglesfield and Cockermouth. John Dalton became a world famous scientist, particularly for his work in developing atomic theory, but also for developing the science of meteorology and the understanding of colour blindness. It is important that we celebrate this anniversary. The local 'Nuclear Striders Walking Group' have led the way by creating a new long distance walk called the 'John Dalton Way'. This is a 45km walk linking Cockermouth with Eaglesfield, John Dalton's birthplace, and Calder Hall, the first ever commercial atomic power station. The Nuclear Striders were started 30 years ago, largely by friends who worked in the nuclear industry. Two live in Papcastle, Phil Campbell and Stan Leigh. A third, Richard Hartzig used to live here, but now lives in Penrith. The John Dalton Way was recently declared open by the then Mayor, Julie Laidlow, when she unveiled the plaque at the start of the walk in Kings Arms Lane. The accompanying booklet to the John Dalton Way is available at the TIC and the New Bookshop, price £2.50.

The Civic Trust meanwhile are preparing a 'John Dalton 250' weekend as part of Heritage Open Days from 8th to 11th September. If you like walking, on the Saturday there will be a couple of guided walks along the first 6km of the John Dalton Way to Eaglesfield. When you get there, there will be refreshments in the village hall along with an exhibition relating to John Dalton and the history of Eaglesfield. Then take a 2km stroll round the village with a self guided map and local interpretation of the points of interest, before taking the special vintage bus service provided for the day back to Cockermouth, making a short stop at the 'John Dalton Memorial Church' on the way. If you want to know more about John Dalton and his life, there will be a talk by the author Tom Smith at the Kirkgate Centre based on his book, 'John Dalton, a Cumbrian Philosopher', along with an accompanying exhibition by the Heritage Group. The students at Cockermouth School are preparing their own exhibition for the Eco Centre concerning the development of science since John Dalton's time.

Phil Campbell

*The Nuclear Striders, with Phil Campbell, fourth from left, and Cockermouth's Mayor, Julie Laidlow*



**Boundary commission - from our Borough Councillor, Nicky Cockburn.**

The Boundary Commission is an independent and impartial advisory public body, which reviews the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies in England. Parliamentary boundaries define the area where a person votes for their local MP - their parliamentary constituency. A boundary review examines these areas and makes proposals for a new set of boundaries which are fairer and more equal, while also trying to reflect geographic factors and local ties.

The Commission also looks at current constituencies and local government boundaries and will make recommendations to Parliament in September 2018 regarding the redrawing of Allerdale boundaries. The first phase which looks at the number of Councillors, is already underway and should be finished in June.

Papcastle and Belle Vue form part of the Broughton St Bridget's ward. If residents have any views, such as identifying more with Cockermouth town than with our present more rural ward, I would be interested to hear your thoughts.

You can contact me at: [nicky.cockburn@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.cockburn@allerdale.gov.uk)

PAPCASTLE PARISH COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL for the year 2015-2016

A. Legal and Administrative Detail:

A.1 Papcastle Parish Council was elected in 2015 for four years and took office on the 19th May.  
A.2 The present membership is nine in number.  
The Councillors are as follows (with date of first election to a previous council or the present council).

Mr. P. Broad (2011);Mrs J. Coyle (2011);Mrs. J. Day (2005);Mr. P. French (2015)\*;Mr. R. B. Jackson (1983); Mr. J. D. Johnson (1983); Mr. B. Merris (1999); Mr. H. Morgan (2015)\*; Mr. I. Trohear (2007) \*Co-opted

A.3 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected annually at the Annual Meeting of Council held in May.  
Current holders of these posts are -  
Chairman: Mr. J. D. Johnson (since 1988)  
Vice Chairman: Mr. P. Broad (since 2015)

A.4 The Clerk to the Council is -  
Mrs B. Lamb, Sunningdale, Distington, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 5XP

A.5 The Council has maintained a current account with Barclays Bank.

A.6 The Council has no standing committees.  
Consultations concerning Planning Applications are circulated swiftly with the Chairman responsible for consolidating all comments made.

A.7 The Council nominates to the following bodies (not necessarily Parish Councillors).

*Papcastle & Belle Vue Village Hall Council of Management:* - Two: Currently Mr. R. B. Jackson and Mr. I Trohear.  
*Cockermouth & Papcastle Recreational Trust:* - Two: Mr R. B. Jackson (for 3 years) and Mr B. Merris (for 3 years).  
*Dovenby Hall Trust: (the Lamplugh Foundation for Dovenby Hospital)* - One: P. Broad.

B. The Activities of the Council

B.1 The Council held six meetings during the year at approximately two-monthly intervals.

Attendance:  
Parish Councillors: 89% in total. However, 5 have attended all six meetings, with 2 attending five meetings and 2 attending four meetings. Apologies for missed meetings received, mainly due to either work commitments, holidays or illness.  
District Councillors: Mrs Nicky Cockburn 3 Meetings; Mrs Janet Farebrother 2 Meetings  
County Councillor: Mr Eric Nicholson 6 Meetings.  
Police: Have not attended but provided written reports for each meeting.  
B.2 The main issues which have concerned the Council this year have been -

**Planning Applications:** There were 6 Applications considered. The Council had no objections to 3 with comments/ observations and refused 3. Allerdale have approved 1, refused 4 and 1 is still pending. The Council circulated the whole of Papcastle and Belle Vue with regard to a proposed 10 house development in Papcastle and called a public meeting to assess the view of the residents in order to make an informed view before formulating and submitting our refusal to Allerdale for this proposed development. Allerdale agreed with our refusal. This was then the subject of an appeal by the applicant to The Planning Inspectorate. The appeal has been dismissed.

The Council had 5 Applications for Felling/Pruning Trees (some in a Conservation Area). The Council had no objections to all 5. Allerdale have agreed with us in all cases.  
The Council has studied and made comments on the following:-  
Allerdale - Planning Enforcement Plan; Allerdale - Development of ABC Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Plan;  
Allerdale – Site Allocations – Public Open Space/Amenity Space; Allerdale – Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document; Allerdale - Car Parking Charges Proposals; Village Green Status; Registration of Footpaths.

**Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)** – the Council became a member during the year.

*Lighting In Village* – There is still a danger that the lights could be taken off the ENW poles and as such we are still Precept-ing for the cost of installing new lighting columns. So far we have prevented any being taken down and are currently monitoring the situation with ENW, Allerdale and the County Council. The members of the Parish Council feel we need to maintain lighting in the Villages for the safety of the inhabitants including children and those passing through. This last year we took the decision again to Precept for the cost of erecting columns and connecting them if we come to the stage of no alternative. We have now Precepted a further amount for 2016/17 as we feel that the situation is still unclear. If these funds are not required we will lower our Precept next year providing the outcome is clear by then.  
*Parish Notice Boards* – the notice boards have been in constant use and repaired where necessary by Robert Jackson.  
*Parking Concerns* – poor standard of parking throughout the villages – the issue was raised in an article in The Villager.

*Speed Limits* – Automatic Traffic Count in the village showing traffic consistently around the 20 mph mark.

**Wind Farms** – policy of opposing the expansion of Wind Farms in West Cumbria after due consideration of the plans and supporting other Parish Councils in the area on this subject.

Thanks are due to all Parish Councillors for their work during the year including their thoughtful responses to Planning Appli-cations which are very useful in formulating the reasons for our decisions. Also thanks to our District Councillors and County Councillor for attending the meetings and especially advice given/items chased up during the year.

Special thanks go to our Clerk, Barbara Lamb who has now completed 33 years’ service to the Parish Council.

C. Accounts

C.1 Donations of £500 were made to the Village Hall; £750 to the Village Hall for the Defibrillator; £350 to St. Bridget’s DCC, Bridekirk as a contribution to the upkeep of the churchyard; and £50 to The Great North Air Ambulance. The Precept included £5,000 for Street Lighting.  
C.2 The Council raised a precept of £8,650.00 for the year (less some returned in grants).  
C.3 The financial transactions of the Parish Council in summary were:-

Income	£8,758.04
Expenditure	£4,353.95
Balance at 31st March	£12,535.08

This includes a provision of £100 for the next election expenses.

Papcastle Village Hall Trustees - Management Report for Year Ended 31st December 2015

List of Trustees

Peter Broad	Chairman and Acting Treasurer
Joan Merris	Secretary
Mike White	Hall Manager (part year)
John Burrows	Assistant Hall Manager
Rose Rowlands	Bookings Secretary
Robert Jackson	Parish Council Representative
Ian Trohear	Parish Council Representative
Carolyn Otley	
Bob Henderson	
Carol Henderson	

Main Events

It was a busy year with events attended by all sections of the community.  
A quiz night and pie and pea supper was held in March, proving to be a very popular and enjoyable evening.  
Mark Graham of Grampus Heritage presented the third and final instalment of ‘Discovering Derventio’ in June following further digs in Broomlands. Funding is now available to provide interpretation panels in the village in order to inform present and future generations about ‘Roman Papcastle’ (see page 7)  
The Annual Village Barbeque took place in July. This continues to be the main event in terms of attendance and revenue.  
We hosted our traditional Mulled Wine and Mince Pie event in December with a Karaoke twist to the Christmas carols and merriment.  
A beetle drive and games night was held in September, and it was encouraging to meet some of the new members of the village at the event.  
A Christmas Party was held for the younger members of the village.

Bookings

Regular bookings for the year included Keep Fit, Mahjong, Life Art and Line Dancing. The Embroidery group stopped using the hall during the year, although this was offset by some adhoc bookings for dance practice groups including ‘Strictly Kirkgate’. Encouragingly, a new theatre group started using the hall for practice sessions at the end of the year. The Adult Education funding of the keep fit group was also finished. Fortunately we have managed to maintain the sessions by dealing directly with the group trainer.

Other Funding and Grants

There were two successful applications to the Cockermouth Recreational Trust Fund. £100 was awarded to provide after-noon tea for Castle Gardens residents and the children’s Christmas party received a £100 award. Papcastle Parish Council provided a £500 grant towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.



*Village Hall* - A defibrillator unit has been purchased with assistance from the Parish Council and a donation from a village resident. This item of life saving equipment is sited in the porch and is available to the hall users and villagers via a key access code.

#### Maintenance

The water heater in the kitchen was replaced during the year. An asbestos survey was carried out following some risk assessment work, this has highlighted an area near the toilets which requires encapsulation.

#### Other Expenses

Other ongoing expenses for the year included Insurance, Electricity, Water, cleaner employment and publication of *The Villager* which continues to be popular, keeping people informed about events, introducing new arrivals to the village and providing local interest stories. The Trustees have decided to fund the publication rather than seeking advertising revenue or sponsorship which can dilute the message.

## Vera Robinson

The many villagers who knew Vera Robinson, of Garthlea, were saddened to hear of her death in April. She had been unwell for a number of months, but bore her illness with fortitude and dignity. Vera was born in Aspatia in 1927. After attending grammar school in Wigton, she worked in clerical jobs until her marriage to Fred in 1951. The couple eventually settled in Appleton Hall in Bridekirk where Fred farmed. They enjoyed a quiet and contented life and some of Vera's happiest memories were of going on her "holidays" (as she loved to call them) to Hereford with Fred to buy cattle. She was an excellent singer and in her younger years had sung with her parents to raise money for the war effort. In recent years she derived great pleasure from the Irish country music channel, often singing along with great gusto!

Sadly, Fred died in 2013 and, after 62 years of happy marriage, Vera was left quite bereft by the loss of her beloved 'best friend', as she always called him. None the less she met any difficulties with stoicism and good humour. Unable to go out independently because of severe arthritis, she loved to be taken out, especially by her sister Marie and husband Ian, and she loved to treat her friends to lunch too. In fact she loved to brighten people's days with all sorts of small acts of kindness, such as baking cakes for the doctors' receptionists and the ladies at Allison's chemists as well as leaving out biscuits every week to thank the young lad on the bin lorry who would wheel her bin back up the path. She was a chatterbox and would talk to anyone, and the many people who visited her enjoyed her warmth and crack. Friendly, funny, totally decent and utterly without pretension, Vera was a superb neighbour and friend.

*Thanks to Elaine French for the remembrance of Vera.*



Another of Simon Holding's sketches of the village

# Roman Papcastle Interpretation Panels

After nearly a year, the interpretation panels will be ready to be put in place in three areas of Papcastle and Belle Vue, hopefully by this Summer.

The interpretation panel team is made up of Peter Broad, Eric Apperley, Greg Greenhalgh, Susan Fleming, Elspeth White and Robert Jackson. Since July 2015 they have met together several times to come up with a design that everybody is happy with. The remit for the design was 'To provide a representation of Roman Papcastle for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations'. By March 2016 the initial design was 'thrown out' and the team started from scratch again. The boards are now being produced by 'Shelley Signs', the cost being around £4000; grateful thanks are due to Grampus and Eric Nicholson for their financial support. The boards will include sketches by Susan Fleming, a sample of which is shown below - typical houses that were behind the present site of 'The Mount'. The information and text to accompany the sketches has been provided by Eric Apperley.

There will be panels at the East end of the village near 'The Pumphouse', at the West end of the village near 'Westwinds' and at Belle Vue along with a replacement notice board.



## Proud Parents

St Joseph's Church was the setting, in glorious sunshine, for the recent Christening of Isabelle Louise Jackson, the first child of proud parents Robert 'Junior' and his partner Catherine Cass from Cockermouth.

Isabelle Louise who was born on the second of April, weighing 7lb 10oz. is Robert and Joyce Jackson's tenth grandchild.

The Service was made extra special by the use of an eighty eight year old Jackson family Christening gown. A celebration was held afterwards in Cockermouth Rugby Club.

Proving that farming is a seven day week, both Roberts went home to change after the Service in order to deliver a calf, before changing back into their finery to rejoin the celebrations, All in a day's work!



# REGULAR VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

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



**Village Hall Bookings:**

Rose Rowlands  
Telephone 01900 828941



**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.

## Village Barbeque

The Annual Village barbeque will be held on:  
Saturday 2nd July 2016

Tickets £10 per head (under 8's free)  
available from Debbie Rushton (824831) or Carol Henderson (821478)

Any offers of puddings or donations of raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated

## 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, contact necessary contractors for maintenance or repairs and ensure that the Hall is open and available when needed. Some DIY skills would be particularly helpful, to deal with minor maintenance jobs.

*If you think you fit the bill, and fancy a go at getting involved, contact any of the Trustees,*

## Keep Fit in the village!

With the demise of Further Education provision for Cockermouth and surrounding areas in September 2015, the Papcastle fitness group was started by a staunch group of individuals who believe that fitness is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle, and is run by Tony Magorrian who was the previous class tutor.

Meeting in the village hall on Monday evenings at 6.30pm, this group of all ages, gender, and ability, enjoy (hopefully) an hour of varied fitness related activity, including music warm ups, pyramid and circuit training, resistance work, exercise games etc.

The group meets on a two term 10 week basis, with additional meetings as requested by the majority of the group, fees being paid at the beginning of each term.

Our first meeting of the 2016 Autumn term will be Monday 12th September. Come along if you are interested; you will get a warm welcome from our group.

For any further details please contact Tony Magorrian 0190064632 or



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Please contact any of the editorial team with your contribution for the next edition before 19th August 2016  
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