

Autumn 2016

# The Villager



Issue 42

Papcastle & Belle Vue Newsletter

## Editorial:

This Issue's big report is from Debbie Rushton on the highlight of the village summer, - the barbeque. Apart from that, this is a rather musical edition with items on the Papcastle Community Orchestra, bellringing at St Bridget's, Clare Broad's report on the Cockermouth Live event and an article from Tim Hirst about the Cockermouth Harmonic Society. As always, we're pleased to welcome a number of new residents to the village, - if you don't get a mention somewhere, please let us know who you are! It's particularly good to be able to welcome Lynsey Thornthwaite and her family who are taking over the Belle Vue pub, and Lynsey was kind enough to answer some questions about her background and plans for the pub. Finally, you'll see from the Parish Council Snippets on Page 3 that the PC is engaging more widely across the County through the Cumbria Association of Local Councils. A particular area of interest at the moment is the potential need for, and scope of local Community Emergency Plans, to deal with such things as power failures, extreme weather or other external events. The Parish Council is keen to hear from any residents wishing to know more, or possibly be involved in developing a Papcastle and Belle Vue plan. If there's interest, a specific Village Hall meeting might be appropriate. Contact the Editor with your ideas and views.

## A Great British Village BBQ - Saturday 2nd July

By Debbie Rushton



*David Rushton modelling one of the donations*

It was not a promising forecast for our village BBQ and you would think the previous evening's downpour would put some people off, but a last minute rush for final tickets on the day created a hopeful buzz.

81 tickets were sold with the addition of 14 under 8 year olds so it was going to be a packed and friendly hall (it's a good job we are all friends – or we were by the end of the evening!) With a glass of Pimm's in hand and the smells of supper being cooked by our hardy chefs the hall buzzed with chatter of those catching up with friends, family and neighbours. The children were not put off by the odd shower and enjoyed themselves playing in the lane letting off a bit of steam until their supper was ready.

*Continued on P2*

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Our gallant chefs Bob, Peter, Paul and David deftly flipped the meat and tempted the attendees with wafts of mouth watering aromas around the village. These four are now becoming quite adept with their BBQ tongs and are proving to be a source of entertainment in their own right! Thanks gents, you do a great job.

And then there were the puddings... WOW WOW WOW ... What a sumptuous array this year, I lost count of the puddings on offer, all of them wonderful. Our thanks to the many multi talented ladies who enabled us to sample a wide variety of sweet delights, I'm sure many of us avoided the weighing scales on Sunday morning after the event.

Puddings proving popular



It was good to welcome some new faces - recently moved into the village and supporting us were Robert and Janey from Grassmoor, Jill and John from Derventio and Doreen and John at Barn Cottage. The look of amazement on their faces as the puddings kept appearing I think will hopefully encourage them to return again next year!

We gratefully received many generous contributions to the raffle prizes plus kind donations from non attendees Pauline and John Martin of a superb bottle of late vintage port, a cash donation from Diane and Philip Heal who sadly were unable to attend the event and Tori Ratcliffe Art who kindly donated an apron and tea towel as modelled by David whilst he flipped the burgers!

Lastly but by no means least a special thank you to the attendees who helped to make the event a great success. All in all a very happy and successful event. Hopefully see you all next year!



Chefs in the rain

I did bump into one lady who was doing a double lap of the village to walk off the previous night's excess (no names – but you know who you are!) Our thanks to the bar staff in the form of Brian Merris and David Halliwell plus a relief stint by Peter, Jonathan and Alex Broad, all now expert in their bar skills, kept us lubricated throughout the evening. Thanks also go to the many others who helped behind the scenes setting up the hall and washing up.



Pete and Jonathan Broad

**A total of £681.90 was raised for Village Hall funds**

## Parish Council Snippets

The Papcastle Parish Council met on 5 July. There was no police report or public participation.

### Matters Arising

Peter Broad to check if the broken finger post at Belle Vue has been fixed by the County Council. If not, he offered to do the job himself.

Robert Jackson reported that the large pot hole in the back lane has now been repaired to a satisfactory standard.

Because of service problems, it was unanimously agreed to close the current account with Barclays Bank with effect from the 31st July 2016, and open an account with the Cumberland Building Society, with effect from 1st August 2016.

County Councillor Eric Nicholson reported on continuing works to the flood affected bridges. Borough Councillor Nicky Cockburn referred to the proposed gravel extraction from the river Derwent and the full survey which is to take place.

After a successful tender, the contract for cleaning the bus shelter at Gote Brow on a quarterly basis has been given to J A Lee, Cockermouth.

### Thirlmere Pipeline

The Parish Council has informed Allerdale Borough Council (ABC) of its opposition to the proposed plans in their current form, as they could have a major impact on the Parish. Based on experience of the 2009 and 2015 floods, there are serious concerns about the potential damage that future floods could cause to the right bank of the river, downstream of Papcastle Bridge as a result of disturbance by the pipeline. The Council is also concerned that there should be protection where the pipeline crosses the old Roman Road.

### Community Emergency Plan

Huw Morgan reported on a recent Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) meeting, where Community Emergency Planning was discussed. He agreed to draft a paper for consideration at a future Parish Council meeting.

### Information Panel/Notice Board at Belle Vue

Peter Broad showed members details of the proposed board and all agreed that it would look very good. Councillor Nicholson has kindly agreed to help fund the notice board from his County Council allowance.

### Ground Maintenance.

It was agreed to ask ABC to include the area outside the wall of 59 The Mount and the area around the phone box in their ground maintenance programme.

### Planning Applications

*Resubmission of outline application for residential dwelling West Winds Cottage, Papcastle.*

The following comments were submitted to ABC. This application will presumably be judged by reference to the Local Plan which was adopted in July 2014 and could be affected by the ban on ribbon development. However, it is a resubmission of an application which was approved prior to July 2014. Should the application be approved by ABC, then the Parish Council would like it to be made clear that this is by way of an exception to the Local Plan, in unusual circumstances and should not be regarded as a precedent.

*Outline application approved by ABC on 23rd May 2016.*

Demolition of two storey extension, rebuild on larger footprint plus amended plans, Marigarth, Belle Vue. No objections.

### Planning Appeals

*Alteration and extension to form additional bedroom, bathroom and study/office, 49 The Mount Papcastle.*

*Outline application for erection of two detached dwellings on land adjacent to Belle Mount, Papcastle.*

### Correspondence

Cockermouth and District Civic Trust - neighbourhood plan for Cockermouth - proposed community forum.

It was agreed that a neighbourhood plan would not be a good idea for the following reasons - Papcastle and Belle Vue are separate from Cockermouth.

Land for building would have to be allocated in the plan. As could be seen from our public meeting last November, the village is against this in general.

Such a plan would require a lot of time, effort and finance to implement and would need to be reviewed on a regular basis.

It was decided to decline any involvement with the proposed forum.

Brian Merris said that the village BBQ had been attended by 100 people and was a great community event. It was agreed to send a letter of congratulations to the Organising Committee for all their efforts.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 6th September 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

## ‘Playing by Ear’ moves on

Papcastle Community Orchestra once again brought this year's 'Cockermouth Live' event to a close, with a concert in Christ Church on the Sunday afternoon, where they played to a packed and enthusiastic house.

Orchestra members, **Mary Balgue and Frances Leigh** have kindly told us something about the orchestra and its background.

The Papcastle Community Orchestra was founded by resident Gill Greenhalgh in 2007. Gill didn't play an instrument, but as a music lover wanted to bring together anyone in the village who played an instrument, regardless of standard, with like minded people who enjoyed music.

The original group of eleven was initially called 'Playing by Ear' and met in the village hall under the expert guidance of another village resident, Dr Philip Wood.

The name was changed to Papcastle Community Orchestra in 2009 and in the early days we played for the residents of Hames Hall, for the villagers in Gilcrux, on their village green during a warm summer's evening and of course for locals here in Papcastle Village Hall.

Gill stepped down as facilitator in 2010 and her role was taken over by Gabrielle Sanders.

Over the years, quite a few Papcastle residents have dipped in and out of the orchestra, and today, villagers who play regularly are - Jean Haan (flute), Graham Frudd (clarinet), Gilly Douglas (violin), Frances Leigh (recorder) and Mary Balgue (flute).

We now meet once a month in the United Reformed Church in Cockermouth, where we moved because of an increase in our numbers to the present day forty three.

Our rehearsals are hard work but great fun, due to Philip's sense of humour and dedication. He also has high expectations, which motivates us to give of our best, and his wonderful compositions, such as 'Postcards from Cockermouth', are an inspiration.

It is a joy to be part of the Papcastle Community Orchestra and we look forward to the start of the new season in September.



*Phil Wood conducts an early session of the Community Orchestra in the Village Hall*



*Members of the PCO at Christ Church*

The following pieces were played at the Christ Church concert:

Einzug der Gladiatoren by Julius Fucik  
Benjamin Britten's Five Courtly Dances from Gloriana  
Peter Warlock's Capriol Suite  
The Pirates of Penzance Overture by Arthur Sullivan  
Intrada by C.H. Hoodless  
Twelfth Night Overture arranged by Philip Wood  
Songs that won the War and More Songs that won the War, both arranged by Philip Wood.



## COCKERMOUTH HARMONIC SOCIETY'S 150th ANNIVERSARY

- by Tim Hirst

Papcastle is home to four members of the Cockermouth Harmonic Society: Chairman Tim Hirst, Committee member Janet Johnston and singers Susan Fleming and Elspeth White. The organisation's President, Philip Wood, is also a village resident. The Society was established in 1867 and has been presenting choral concerts in the town every year since then. As such it is one of the oldest musical organisations of its type not only in the county but also in the country. The choir will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2017 with three choral concerts all to be held in Christ Church, Cockermouth.

The choir prides itself on being a self-help organisation and has an ongoing programme of fund-raising activities. Extra effort is also being made to try to secure grants and sponsorship to cover the costs of the three anniversary concerts. In the current economic climate and particularly following last winter's floods that adversely affected so many businesses in our community it is uncertain how successful this will prove to be. A challenge has, therefore, been given to all the singers in the choir to help raise funds for the three concerts in the forthcoming anniversary season. In the same way that Boy Scouts and Girl Guides of old had "Bob-a-Job" and "Willing Shilling" weeks, during the months of October and November choir members have been asked to offer their time, energy and/or expertise to family, friends and neighbours in return for a donation to the choir. Papcastle's choir members would be pleased to hear from any recipients of *The Villager* if they have a task that they feel choir members could fulfil.

The Society is also sifting through material in its extensive archive in order to create an exhibition illustrating the choir's long and proud history. A number of supporters and former members are known to live in the village. The Society would be very grateful if anyone has material that they would be prepared to give or loan e.g. programmes, posters, photographs and especially any recordings of performances given by the choir. Material in or before the 1980's would be of most interest - the older the better! Contact Tim Hirst on 01900 827951.

The three anniversary concerts in 2017 will be as follows:

28th January - "A Taste of Italy" with music by Italian composers including Vivaldi's "Gloria" and a selection of opera choruses

8th April - a performance of Haydn's "Creation"

8th July - "A Summer Serenade" with music by English composers including Elgar's "Songs of the Bavian Mountains", Stanford's "Songs of the Fleet" and a new work by Philip Wood to mark the anniversary.

Full details can be found on the Society's website [www.ckermouthharmonic.org.uk](http://www.ckermouthharmonic.org.uk)



I have always enjoyed singing and have been a member of Cockermouth School Staff Choir for several years now. Apart from singing for pleasure we enter local music festivals and showcase our singing at Cockermouth Live and at the School Summer Concert.

Cockermouth Live was held over the weekend of June 25th/26th this year. The Staff Choir sang two songs at the United Reformed Church on Main Street - one in French called 'Bonjours Mon Coeur' by Roland d'Lassus and 'Blue Moon' by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart.

The church was full and the audience were very receptive and enthusiastic in their applause.

After the Staff Choir had sung we also heard from the Boys Choir, Girls Choir, Post-16 Choir, soloists and the orchestra. It was a very entertaining couple of hours.

Cockermouth Live is a great weekend with lots going on in and around Cockermouth, bands, singers, entertainers etc - if you didn't come along this time, maybe give it a go next year, you might just like it!

## Castle Gardens welcomes Age UK

For the past year, some of the residents at Castle Gardens have met in the communal lounge on Friday afternoons, for socialising over tea, as well as having the opportunity to try various crafts.

Due to recent warden changes within the Derwent and Solway Group, the programme will change slightly this Autumn. Age UK West Cumbria, who also have a popular luncheon club at St Bridget's Church, Bridekirk, is starting a new weekly luncheon club in the Castle Gardens' lounge. This will take place on Fridays from 11.30 am to 2pm, starting on Friday 16th September.

Age UK staff in our area are keen to encourage older people to try or to join some of the clubs and groups on offer. As we get older, the health benefits of socialising with others are well known. Having a good time is an added bonus!

Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy our homemade soup and sandwiches along with cake and coffee.

We hope to have a variety of guest speakers, musicians, singers, quizzes and crafts to complement the good company and conversation. If readers of *The Villager* have a talent which they're happy to share, please let us know!

For further information, or any advice on the services that Age UK West Cumbria offers, please contact Sarah Bromiley, Cockermouth Co-ordinator on 01900 822870 or 0844 3843843. sarah.bromiley@ageukwestcumbria.org.uk



Sarah Bromiley

**Date for your diary: - Age UK Christmas Concert at Castle Gardens on Friday 16th December at 1pm.**

## Off to Uni

This year, there are two students heading off to University from Belle Vue and Papcastle.

Daniel Beresford of The Mount is going to Cambridge to study Veterinary Medicine after gaining excellent 'A' level results at Cockermouth School.

Jonathan Broad of Low Wood, Belle Vue is going to Newcastle to study Business Management after also gaining excellent results in his BTEC Business Studies at Carlisle College.

'*The Villager*' wishes them every success for the future.



Jonathan Broad



Dan Beresford

## Village Pub under new management

Lynsey Thornthwaite has moved into the Belle Vue and plans to make it a great place to eat. Here she talks to the Editor about herself and her ideas.



*Welcome Lynsey, - what can you tell us about yourself?*

I was born in Hexham, but moved to Cumbria when I was 5. I went to university in London to study fashion promotion/journalism, which is how I ended up working in the infamous Groucho, in addition to other famous eateries such as the Konditor and Cook, and the restaurant of the Young Vic. I moved to San Francisco in 2002, then moved back here late 2002, when I met my husband. I've 2 children; Grace, 9 and Evan, 6 and they both go to St Bridget's in Brigham, where we used to live. For the past 11 years I've worked as the marketing manager at Lakes College.

*- what made you want to run a pub, - its hard work !*

I used to come in years ago and thought it was a lovely country pub. I was looking for a business, and having renovated a few houses over the last 10 years wanted to invest in something that wasn't as stressful - ha! How naive! I wanted to be around for the children, but to have something that was challenging to keep me out of mischief - I'm a great one for filling up my time outside work with all sorts of things; a vintage stall, an online clothes website, house renovations and a holiday let.

*- what ambition/aspiration do you have for the Belle Vue ?*

I want to create somewhere that I would eat in with my family - and I am picky! Somewhere where I am proud to put down the food in front of customers. I was really lucky, because when the rumour went around the school gates I was approached by Kate Copeland, who works with chef Peter Sidwell, whose kids also go to the same school as mine. She told me they did consultancy and it was the bit that was missing in my business plan. I felt confident about running a business, but I was a bit worried about how to get my vision for the food across. Peter was totally supportive of my desire to deliver consistent, thoughtful British pub food, using the best local ingredients. I say he is like a magpie as he collects amazing suppliers on his travels. I also have a great wine contact, who is helping me match the wine with the food. It's all a work in progress, but every day I take a step closer to somewhere I think local people would like to come and I can be proud of.

*- how would you like to see it change ?*

I think I'd like people to feel comfortable to come in for a drink, it's quite rare to have just drinkers in. We will be doing bar snacks and, when the time is right, opening all day at the weekends, so I hope it will happen gradually.

*- are there specific changes you've already made ?*

There are a few obvious bits of decor, and I need to update the loos! Other than that it is important to me that my staff welcome everyone like I do, like old friends. I want people to feel that they've come somewhere they are valued, and I want the staff to really know their stuff and have a real understanding of the food we serve. Having a good beer selection will also be important and the bar is being totally updated with new products at the beginning of September. I'm keen for people to tell me what they like and don't like, so I can get the offer right. Also, I'm changing the pub name to **The Spotted Pig**.

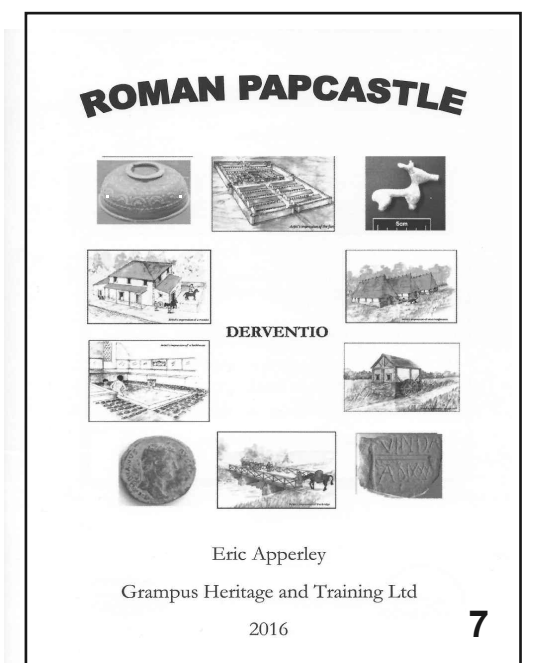
*- how are you settling into the village itself, and what sort of welcome/response have you had ?*

I have been overwhelmed by the support and interest. I felt a palpable relief at my arrival, that people felt there was a chance to have a village pub that is made for them (and the surrounding towns). I think people are interested and keen to see where I take it and the feedback has been very positive, in the majority. I think I've got a good grasp of what people are looking for, marketing has laid a good foundation for that, at least!

*The Villager* wishes Lynsey every success.

## Roman Papcastle Pamphlet published

Many residents will be aware that Eric Apperley has been working with Grampus Heritage to properly document the discoveries made about Roman Papcastle during the various digs. Eric's work has now been published and the free 40-page pamphlet is available from Tourist Information, The New Bookshop and the Library. Anyone wanting to call at 21 The Mount can get a copy directly from Eric.



# 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>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

Village Hall Trustees

<b>Peter Broad 826386</b>	<b>Carolyn Otley 821204</b>
<b>Joan Merris 823282</b>	<b>Ian Trohear 823680</b>
<b>Rose Rowland 828941</b>	<b>Bob Henderson 821478</b>
<b>Robert Jackson 827071</b>	<b>Carol Henderson 821478</b>



**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. De-tails from Richard Green 01900 824311

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

## Bells at St Bridget's

As you'll have seen from our regular 'What's on at St Bridget's' information, bell ringing in the church has become a weekly event. In order to inform and to encourage participation, a bell tower 'Open Afternoon' was held on Saturday 16th July. Experienced bell ringers were happy to explain and demonstrate their skills to the visitors who had climbed the forty three spiral steps to the bell tower and were also on hand to help those keen enough to 'have a go'. The afternoon also comprised information displays, videos and models, all of which added to the practical input. Everyone was treated to much needed tea and cakes, kindly provided by the Bridekirk Church hospitality team. The afternoon was deemed to be a great success, and the Cockermouth/Bridekirk bell ringing team is hoping to repeat the experience during the 'Heritage Open Days' at All Saints' Church, Cockermouth, from the 8th to 11th of September. Anyone who is interested in bell ringing or would like more information, please contact Richard or Diana Green on 01900 824311.



*The Villager* is compiled and edited by Huw Morgan e-mail: [huw@4-the-mount.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:huw@4-the-mount.fsnet.co.uk)

Please contact any of the editorial team with your contribution for the next edition before 12th November 2016

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