

Issue 53

The *Villager*

Autumn
2019

Papcastle and Belle Vue Newsletter



YOU can help us to secure a grant of £30,000 plus – by completing the questionnaire inside this issue of The Villager. Grant applications involve a huge amount of work for our trustees, so please do your bit to help.

More details inside....

Papcastle Village BBQ Sat 13th July

Having the promise of a sunny summer's evening plus a total sell out on all tickets makes organising the annual village BBQ a pleasure. It was wonderful to be able to set up tables outside in the knowledge that there would be no dash for inside if the heavens opened! The weeks prior to the event bring the village together with offers of puddings and salads and all anticipating an evening of fun, laughter and a jolly good feed! With welcome drink glass in hand attendees gathered outside in the evening sunshine to catch up with neighbours and friends whilst children enjoyed the freedom of space to play in the lane until their supper was ready. Continued overleaf.



Continued from front page:

It is good to get the village together, to hear the buzz of happy laughter and clink of glasses whilst our volunteer chefs slave away cooking our supper on the coals. Our 4 chefs this year



did a grand job of catering

for the masses, brandishing BBQ tongs whilst tantalising appetites with promising wafts of mouth watering aromas around the village. Thanks again gents for doing such a great job.



When the BBQ was ready, many hungry bods gathered to pile their plates with both meat and vegetarian options of food then headed inside for an array of wonderfully healthy salads, a feast in themselves, all of which had been home made by the organising team which enabled many to come round for a second helping. Then just as you feel you cannot eat another thing the puddings are trooped out, which again became the highlight of our BBQ evening! What a sumptuous array this year, all of them wonderful and amazingly all calorie free! Our thanks to the many multi talented ladies who never fail to



provide us with a wide variety of sweet delights.



Thanks also must go to the bar staff keeping us all lubricated throughout the evening plus the many other helpers behind the scenes, in setting up the hall, washing up and tidying up the following morning. The many hands that pitch in running up to, on the day and after the event make this evening the success it has become. It was good to welcome some new faces who have recently

moved into the village: Rachel & Kevin, Diana & Paul, Divya, James and family, Rob and Jo, Magdi and friends. Hopefully you will join us again next year. Gratefully received were many generous contributions to the raffle prizes on the night, which in itself raised £137.00.

Lastly but by no means least a special thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make the event another huge success. All in all a very happy and enjoyable evening. Hopefully see you all next year! Total money raised for the Village Hall was £839.00.

The BBQ Posse Ali, Debbie, Judith, Michelle and Sarah.

By Debbie Rushton



Welcome To The Village!



Rob, Jo and Seren White came to live in Papcastle in May 2017 as they wanted to live in a village with a sense of community. They had stayed under the radar until the BBQ in July this year where they were duly nabbed by the Ed.

Rob, who is originally from Portsmouth, is a senior instructor, teaching outdoor activities to people with disabilities. He has an interest in boats and associated

sports. Jo is from Cheshire and teaches in West Cumbria at primary school level. She horse rides in her spare time and is currently conquering Portuguese dressage.

Not forgetting Seren who is their very cute cockapoo!

Magdi Greiss moved into West Corner Barn in May this year.

Many of you will already know Magdi, who worked as an orthopaedic surgeon in West Cumbria and Carlisle for twenty years.

Magdi has one son, Alexander, who has just graduated with an MSc in Maths from Nottingham University and is now job hunting.

Cycling, travelling, classical music, photography and last but by no means least, growing cacti, are among Magdi's many interests.



He has been a member of the British Cactus Society since 1999 and has written articles and given talks on the subject.

He is more than happy to show his fascinating collection, which is housed in the conservatory and a purpose built greenhouse, to fellow enthusiasts.

Magdi is looking forward to becoming involved in village life and has already met a number of residents at this year's barbeque.

A warm welcome to you if you have moved to Papcastle but haven't been included, yet...

Village Hall News

At the end of last year we were successful in obtaining a grant of £10,000 from United Utilities and we are now using this to upgrade the heating system in the hall. This year we will be applying for a 'Fit for the Future' Lottery Grant to fund the replacement of the slate roof.

ACT (Action with Communities in Cumbria) have been asked to assist the National Lottery to 'increase the capacity of every community space' and will help applicants through the grant application process by getting them 'Fit for Funding'.

What does this mean for us?

- Firstly, we will have to achieve Level 1 of the Hallmark Quality Standards Scheme for village halls. We already meet most of the criteria and are well on the way to putting in place the other governance, compliance, risk management and financial control protocols required.
- Then we need to develop a plan and a 'story' to go with it – based not on the need for 'a new roof on the building' but on what we will do with the building to bring people together and build strong relationships in and across our local communities.
- We will have to show that we are improving the spaces and places that matter to our community and demonstrate better use of the building.
- The application will need to include evidence that the project is People Led, Strengths Based and Connected.

This is where you can help. With a significant number of completed questionnaires we will be able to show that we have consulted the people in our community, that you are leading the process, that we can make better use of the hall and that there is a will to strengthen our community, to support vulnerable people, encourage neighbourliness and bridge inter-generational gaps.

Reviving the Drop-In?

A good place to start would be with a revival of the Drop-In. This used to be a regular Friday morning event where villagers could drop in for a couple of hours for coffee and a chat with neighbours. It was certainly a hit with my late mother, Elsie, and it was at the Drop-in that she held one of her three 90th birthday parties! The place was rammed to capacity that day, and based on the principle that *if there is cake, then they will come*, there is no reason why the hall can't be rocking every Friday. But, we will need your help again. With enough volunteers this needn't be too onerous for any individual. Please let us know if you could give a little of your time now and again. If you'd like to help but can't commit regularly, or through the working day, we're also interested in one off events – maybe a quiz night, photography exhibition, slide show, treasure hunt, or anything else that brings people from the village together and helps us to get to know each other a bit more. Please help us by completing the questionnaire and returning as directed or go online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Papcastle>

Stone Walling In Papcastle

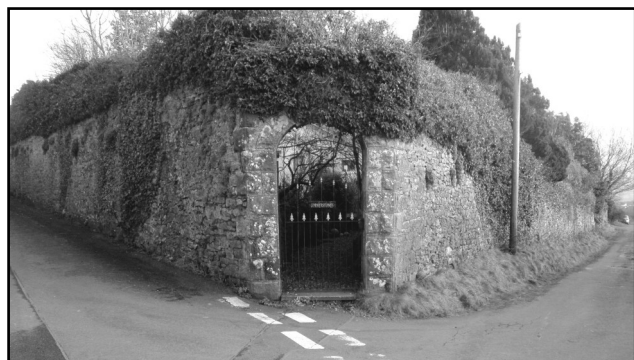
As reported in the previous issue of the *Villager*, the Cockermouth & District Civic Trust are currently working with Allerdale BC to put together a 'Local Heritage List' for Allerdale, initially covering the Cockermouth area.



The stone walling in Papcastle is a major feature that defines the character and ambiance of the village. There are a variety of styles from rough stone to dressed stone which probably reflects different dates, builders & stone source.



At driveway entrances there are a variety of features including arches & columns with finials. Clearly the walling has grown as the village has developed, probably primarily during the 19th century. Significant loss or damage to the walling would have a detrimental effect.



Equally, when modifications are necessary in the event of development, considerate design in keeping with the village tradition would help maintain this 'character and ambiance' for future generations.

The quantity of dressed & 'semi-dressed' stone throughout the village suggests that a significant proportion of the stone might have been obtained from the ruins of the Roman Fort, 'Deventio'



By Phil Campbell

Jean Law 1927– 2019

Jean Law, nee Storey, was born in Maryport and attended Workington Grammar School. Her first job was in the Harbour Office in Maryport, and it was there that she met Dennis Law. She made such an impression, that after only six weeks, he asked her to wait for him while he went off to war.

They were married in 1949 and lived with her mother Ellen, after whose untimely death, Jean became a full time housewife and mother to Julia, Stuart and Christopher and for a time to her brothers Jack and Malcolm.

As her children grew, Jean went back to work in the library at Netherhall School - the perfect job for someone who loved books and reading.

She was very keen (and very knowledgeable) on Medieval history and anything to do with Ancient Egypt. A holiday on the Nile with Stuart was a real highpoint, and she was able to indulge her other great passion, dressing up, in a costume ball aboard the boat.

Jean loved caravanning and fell walking and could name every Lake District fell.



Many people in the village knew Jean, who was always beautifully dressed and glamorous, and not a few of us were envious of her ability to walk to town and back in high heels!

In later life and as her health declined, many friends and neighbours rallied round and her front door was never locked and the key always in the yard door.

Jean will be sadly missed by her family and friends and very fondly remembered.

Parish Council Snippets

A blocked gully at Belle Vue has been cleared by CCC, but another has still to be done. The gutters on The Mount also need to be cleared of weeds. ABC informed.

Household bin collections were the cause of a number of complaints. Apart from the present chaos, Papcastle has different collection days within the village. ABC to be asked to revert to the original system where the bins were all emptied on the same day. On the plus side, residents are happy with the crews who man the lorries, finding them helpful and pleasant. However, changes of personnel has meant that new crews aren't familiar with the area and are unaware of residents who need help with their bins. District Councillor Janet Farebrother addressed the problems with the refuse collections. It was agreed to ask the Ops Manager from ABC to take questions at our next meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan meeting to be attended by Councillor Huw Morgan.

Chairman David Johnson explained that test holes being drilled on The Mount by North West Gas, were to look for leaks. Pipes will eventually be replaced with cast iron.

Next meeting Tuesday 10th September at 7.30 in the village hall.

Good Vibrations

Observant residents may well have noticed that the old 'phone box at the lower entrance to The Mount has been decorated with some new stickers! Unfortunately, O2 decided to remove the pay phone from the box several months ago, on the basis that it hadn't been used for a call in over five years, even though the Parish Council had campaigned for it to remain as an Emergency Calls only facility.

Thanks to a scheme operated by The Community Heartbeat Trust however, the 'phone box' has a new use, housing a public access defibrillator supplied by the Trust, who will also provide new consumables in the event that the defibrillator has to be used. The defibrillator itself (a Cardiac Science Powerheart Automated External Defibrillator!) is quite a sophisticated device that talks to you, so even inexperienced people can use it. The machine is held in a secure, weatherproof cabinet – the yellow box you can see inside the phone box, and a 5-letter/digit code is needed to open it. This code is held by the Ambulance service and would be issued to anyone requesting access to the defibrillator via the Emergency Services. If you think someone needs the use of a defibrillator - DIAL 999 and ask for '*ambulance*'



We'll be discussing access to the defibrillator at the next Parish Council meeting on the 10th September.

By Huw Morgan

REGULAR VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

Mahjong Brian Wilkinson 01900 829490

Monday 2:00-5:00pm *All year except public holiday*

Keep Fit Tony McGorrian 01900 64632

Monday 6.30-7.30pm *School term only*

Parish Council David Johnson 01900 822355

1st Tuesday evening *Bi monthly*

Yoga Pat Irving 07962127812

Thursday 6.30-8.00pm



Village Hall Bookings:

Gill Conlon 01900 828360

Date for the diary ladies!

Saturday 16th November 8pm in the Village Hall

Ladies social evening, bring a bottle or some nibbles

£2.00 on the door

St Bridget's Church, Bridekirk

Usual Monthly Services

Services at 11:00am

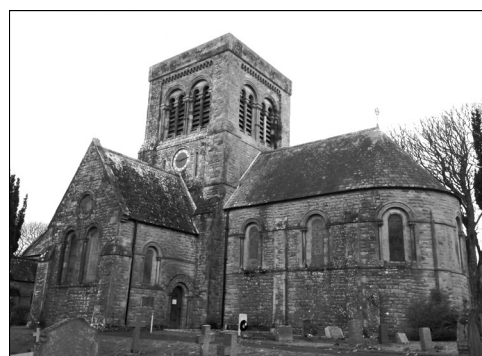
1st Sunday Holy Communion and Sunday School

2nd Sunday All Age Service

3rd Sunday Morning Prayer and Sunday School

4th Sunday Morning Prayer and Sunday School

5th Sunday Team Service (10:30am, venues to be arranged)



All welcome at all services

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition. If you have anything you would like to go in the next *Villager*, please email the Ed at msjmennim@hotmail.co.uk or contact Jill Coyle on tel 01900 828625 by 20th November 2019.

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