



# The Villager

Spring 2019

Welcome! to the spring edition of the Villager. You will find an overview of what has been going on in the village and as promised the low down on the suspicious mug shots with which you were teased in the last edition, the Ed

## Mulled Wine and Mince Pie Night



The annual Mulled Wine Evening, was held on Saturday 8th December in the village hall.

Thanks to everyone who supported the event, particularly to those who attended for the first time.

It was good to see Bob and Carol Henderson, who moved to Cockermouth last year. Not only did they attend, but they rolled their sleeves up and helped as usual. Bob also took the photographs.

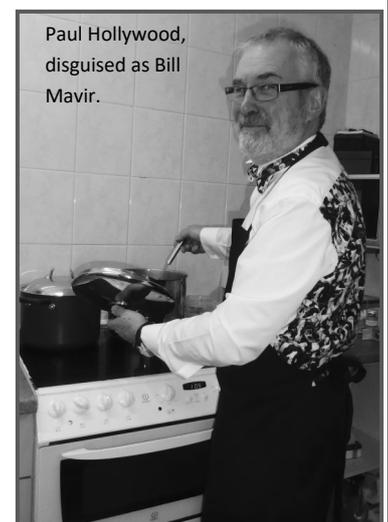
The carol singing, by now a firm fixture, was very enjoyable and accompanist Mary Balguy played beautifully. For those who may not know, Mary also plays the flute in the Papcastle Orchestra, which had its beginnings in the village hall.

A raffle was held during the evening, with prizes generously donated by the Trustees and residents. Events in the hall are always sociable, but they also raise funds for repairs, maintenance and improvements. In total £362.00 was raised and a good time was had by all.

Thanks are also due to the organisers and to everyone who helped during the evening.

The hall is presently underused, so if anyone has any ideas for an event that allows villagers to meet and socialise, that would be great!

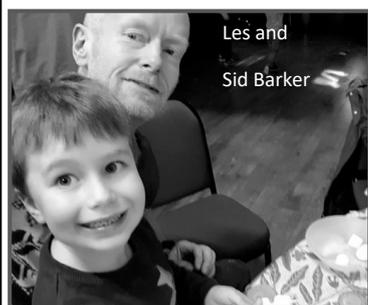
**By Jill Coyle**



Paul Hollywood,  
disguised as Bill  
Mavir.

## The Children's Christmas Party

This years children's Christmas party was the biggest yet with about 25 children and their grown ups in tow. Much fun was had with two hours of disco and games... some pretty competitive musical statues and limbo-ing! Away from the dance floor the children created lots of delicious (and sticky) marshmallow snowmen and the dads drank copious amounts of tea in the kitchen.



A huge thanks to everyone who contributed delicious treats, made cups of tea and helped with the clear up.

Thanks also to the kind folk of the Papcastle and Cockermouth Recreational Trust who funded this event once more for us. **By Rose Rowlands**  
(photos by Les Barker)



## 50th Wedding Anniversary!

Our warmest congratulations go to Robert and Joyce Jackson from Lynwood, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on November 28th.

Robert and Joyce, who are well known to many in the village, have four children and eleven grandchildren. Robert is a parish councillor and village hall trustee and Joyce had been involved with the village playgroup and the WI when these were thriving groups.

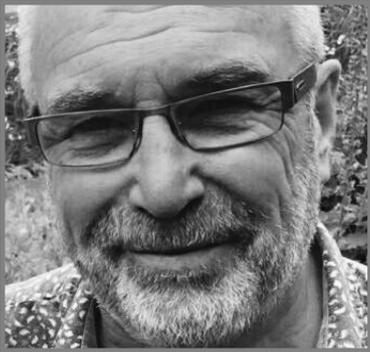
A special present from the family was an album of photographs of the children and grandchildren taken at various locations around the farm and the village. It's absolutely lovely and will be treasured for many years to come.

**By Jill Coyle**

# The Village Hall Trustees

As explained in the previous issue of the Villager, it is the Trustees who are the guardians of our village hall, making decisions about its upkeep and managing the funds to make this possible.

This is a brief introduction to those selfless souls who keep the hall maintained for us all to enjoy:



**Bill Mavir** – Chairman of Trustees

My story:

Back in March I was ambushed on the Back Lane by a man driving a big blue tractor. Brain-washed into attending the April AGM, I subsequently emerged, the radicalised leader of this locally embedded organisation, known to have been head-quartered in the Village Hall since 1896.

**Debbie Rushton** - Treasurer

I recently joined the Village Hall Trustees in April 2018, taking on the role of treasurer. Although new to the group, over the past ten years I've been involved in co-organising the village BBQ along with other trustees and villagers. The money raised goes towards the upkeep of the hall. I hope to introduce some new fundraising ideas, to help ensure the continued use of our important village hall.



**Rose Rowlands** - Bookings

I became a trustee in 2013 after a plea went out for people to help. I took on the role of organising bookings for the hall which is still current. For the last few years I have also helped to organise the village BBQ, making sure the bar is stocked and we've not run out yet! There is also now an annual children's Christmas party which I have organised for the last 5 years and is great fun. Over the years we've had Father Christmas visit, bouncy castles, lots of marshmallow snowmen, glitter everywhere and last year a disco.

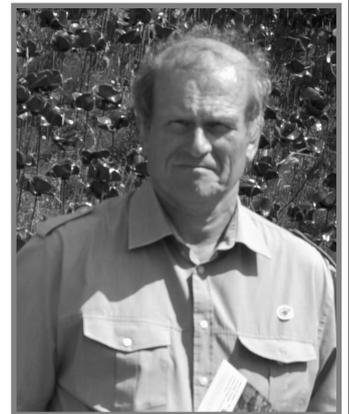


## **Gill Conlon**

This is my first year as a Trustee - I seem to remember agreeing to join the committee after my second ... or was it my third glass of wine at the carols and mulled wine event in December 2017?!! John and I have enjoyed attending many of the social events at the village hall since moving to the village so I feel happy to support and help in any way I can.

## **Phil Balgue**

As a (very) newly appointed Trustee I am there still in the throes of learning the ropes. Since being asked to become a trustee meetings have been taken up with the future refurbishment of the village hall. The experienced members are working very hard to put in place submissions for grants to help with the necessary high costs that will be incurred. I hope to get more 'hands on' as the work progresses.



## **Carolyn Otley**

I started going to Village Hall coffee mornings when my youngest child was a baby and he's just become a teenager! That led to Mike Apperley talking me into become a trustee, and I never quite escaped. I've not had any specific responsibilities in the last few years, as time's been taken up by children, volunteering with Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team, and working (at Cumbria CVS).

We've used the village hall for a number of Halloween-themed kids birthday parties (one of the windows still has a ghost stuck to it...) and I also remember it being used during the 2009 & 2015 floods, when it quickly filled up with Firefighters needing refreshments and somewhere to rest, thanks to Dave Rushton.

**Ian Trohear** is also a co-opted member.

## Robert Jackson



I was co-opted as a trustee in 2005 the same year as Mike Apperley said he would manage the hall for five years. As well as rolling up his sleeves for the dirty work, Mike also knew who he could ask for help with the various projects. Taking Muffin, their dog, for its morning walk was more a reconnaissance mission than exercise for Muffin. Mike knew which doors to knock on for their services either it was for architects, builders, curtain makers, painters, newsletter editors, steel fabricators or a jack of all trades. I was one of many residents who were happy to oblige. One day it would be helping the builders with a girder, another it would be making the steps and hand rail for the refurbished toilets, yet another would be making a new window. Then came the birth of the village BBQ. Mike's request was 'have you got an empty 45 gallon oil drum which you could cut in half, put legs and mesh grids on, to make two BBQs? This was duly done, and they lasted a few years until new ones were built and donated to the hall. I was only too happy to help where I could, and still enjoy working with the trustees to improve and maintain the village hall.

## Doreen Bertram - Secretary



When I moved to Papcastle with my husband John and our wee Westie we downsized and planned for a quiet life enjoying the peace of this lovely village, that meant keeping a low profile and letting others take the strain... So when we attended the 2016 BBQ it was by pure chance we sat beside Joan Merris, secretary for the Village Hall Trustees. Joan approached me two days later to ask if I would consider joining the group, well I thought, nice discreet task keeping the local heritage safe. Move forward to 2018 and for my sins I have now helped at the mulled wine Christmas event, put up and taken down Christmas hall decorations, helped my husband maintain the village hall's garden and have now taken up the role of secretary, as Joan had to give it up for health reasons. I am still learning about Papcastle but want to support the village and will do my best to serve as a Trustee but if I go to any other social occasions I am keeping my mouth shut!

From the Ed.. Many thanks for the Trustees contributions which have made this article possible.

## Welcome to two new villagers...

Early January saw the arrival of Miles and Elliot, twin boys born to James and Divya Conlon of Beech House. Congratulations to the whole family!

## Village Hall Trustees AGM

Tuesday 16th April 2019

7PM



## Papcastle Ladies Prosecco & Pudding Night

To chase away the January blues and to put an end to "dry January" an extension of the BBQ Posse organisational team hosted a Ladies Night with Prosecco and Puddings.. Just to see if there would be any interest of like-minded ladies gathering together in the Village Hall as a "Bring Your

Own" social get together. Too short notice for the Villager and unable to wait any longer a flurry of 'Whats App' messages were sent out and word of mouth invitations were circulated to drum up potential interest.

The theme would be simple, no major organisation required, just either bring a bottle of Prosecco or a pudding and pay a nominal £2 on the door to cover the cost of hall hire and off we go. Eighteen ladies attended and brought with them a sumptuous selection of puddings and of course the ice trug filled up with yummy bottles of Prosecco. Some canny ladies not to be outdone brought both a bottle and a pudding so there was no chance of us going short! As the evening progressed, the bubble of chatter increased, corks popped and pudding comparisons were made and far too much sugar was probably imbibed (all good calories though!)



As the evening was deemed to be a success we have arranged another event and would like to welcome all the village ladies to the following -

**Ladies Cheese & Wine Night - B.Y.O. Bottle of Wine or Cheese & Biscuits**

**Sat 16th March 8.00pm in the Village Hall**

**£2 on the door (to cover cost of Hall hire) enq: Debbie Rushton 824831**

## **Parish Council Snippets**

Meeting held on Tuesday 8th January in the village hall.

A presentation plus video, by representatives of United Utilities, gave an overview of the pipeline project, with details of progress to date.

There was no police report, and regular police meetings for Parish Councils have been discontinued.

Cumbria County Council (CCC) has granted permission for the Parish Council to undertake landscaping work at Belle Vue. CCC has been advised that this would not set a precedent for future work.

Temporary repairs have been made to potholes on the Mount. CCC has been informed that the work is not of an acceptable standard.

CCC to be contacted regarding the inaccurate timetable in the bus shelter.

Allerdale Borough Council (ABC) has been asked to provide a larger rubbish bin at Belle Vue, where a number of cars park during the day.

The proposed transfer of the energy costs of street lighting to Town and Parish Councils, will be phased in to allow for budget provision, with energy costs from April 2020 and maintenance costs from April 2021.

Following a recent Court ruling, Parish Councils throughout Cumbria have been advised to undertake a tree liability survey on all land which the Council owns or has responsibility for. This has been organised.

### **Next meeting and AGM**

**Tuesday 8th May 2019 at 7.30pm in the village hall.**

**By Jill Coyle**

Long-standing residents will be sad to hear of Barbara Grattan's death. The Grattan family lived in Warwick House, Papcastle. Later, Barbara moved to Lorton and in recent years went further south. One of her many interests was singing with the Harmonic Society. Barbara died in Sussex last summer.

**By Elspeth White**

## 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

**Line Dancing** Carol Smith 01900 821590

Friday afternoons *weekly*



**Village Hall Bookings:**

**Rose Rowlands**

**01900 828941**

## 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

**31st March** (Mothering Sunday) Morning Prayer and Sunday School

**21st April** (Easter Day) Holy Communion and Sunday School



Thanks as usual go to my lovely assistants, the editorial team, Jill Coyle and Elspeth White. If the readers would be interested in helping with the publication in any way please contact either myself, (Jude) at [msjmennim@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:msjmennim@hotmail.co.uk), Jill on tel 828625, or Elspeth 821674, likewise if you have an article to contribute or a story we can write for you, the deadline for the summer newsletter is 1st May 2019.