

APRIL 2024



**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF LORTON AND
LOWESWATER WITH BUTTERMERE**

**£5.00 PER ANNUM (LOCAL)
£12.00 PER ANNUM (POSTED)**

Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

Many thanks to those of you who have paid your Link subscription but I'm afraid payment overall is still lower than we hoped it would be by the end of March. We did consider not circulating April links to the non-payers but instead we have sent them out with an additional flyer which is essentially a final request for payment. Anyone who has not paid by the Link May deadline will be taken off the distribution list and the print run reduced accordingly. I hope you understand that we cannot continue to subsidise those who do not pay at the expense of those that do. We do have some reserves in the Link bank account but we prefer to use this for special editions rather than filling the subscription shortfall. To that end we have agreed that we will pay for colour photos of the 3 benefice churches in the June, July/August and September issues to mark their Patronal Festivals.

At the same meeting the Link Committee also formulated a new editorial policy - which is that wherever possible posters for events in the Valley will only take up half a page. This is because there is so much going on in the valley these days,

which is great, but it does mean that the adverts and posters are starting to swamp the magazine at the expense of other articles. Any alteration to this policy will be at the discretion of the Editor - for example the John Denver concert poster wouldn't really have worked as half a page. My thanks to Nev - poster creator extraordinaire - who has taken this new policy on board and already produced some great half page posters.

As usual we have an eclectic mix of articles from interesting facts about Stoats, a planting day in Holme Wood and a report about a veg box scheme. We also have an article about grand houses, a report about cider making and a 2 page article about the latest from Eco Church/Eco Community. I'm sure you will all love reading the output from some creative writing workshops held this month - they may inspire you!

Events over the next couple of months vary from the Grasmoor Mission Community Gathering day and First Aid Instruction from the first responders, to a lunch at the Ennerdale Brewery and a story telling session.

Rosemary Riley
07885 360353

We have a new contributor for our cover picture this month - Jan Collins Webb. She couldn't resist the first signs of Spring captured at St Bartholomew's churchyard in Loweswater and the view beyond. The picture looks even better in colour so do go to the electronic Link on the Melbreak Communities website to take a look at that. Thanks also to John Macfarlane who has used his photographic skills to enhance the photo further (Jan tells me she does have quite a basic phone!)



As I write, Holy Week & Easter is upon us, when we remember the events at the heart of the Christian faith - Christ's passion, death and glorious Resurrection. Within hours of Easter Day, shops and retailers will have emptied their shelves of Easter eggs and bunnies and will quickly move on to the next commercial opportunity - St George's Day, National Pet Day, or National Unicorn Day perhaps (yes, there really is one on 9th April!) In the Church calendar however, the season of Easter continues for 50 days, reflecting the biblical timeline between the day when Jesus rose from the dead and the coming of the promised Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In between these two events, the risen Jesus continued to appear to people (more than 500 of them, we're told) over a period of 40 days until he ascended to heaven.

What did Jesus talk about with those he appeared to? One of the things we hear the risen Jesus saying over and over again to his disciples in the gospel accounts is "Peace be with you". How his friends, who had deserted him and denied they even knew him, must have needed to hear those words. Words conveying his forgiveness and deep desire for their hearts to be at

rest. "Peace be with you." And how they must have needed to hear that not only were they forgiven but that he was ready to trust them again: "Feed my sheep" Jesus says to Peter. "You are my witnesses" he tells his friends. Jesus not only forgave those who had failed him so badly, but restored them, affirming their calling as his disciples.

How we need to hear this same message in our lives today, particularly in a society where it seems that we are so quick to "cancel" people when they get things wrong and consign them to the rubbish heap. We all mess up, we all let others down. Sometimes badly. Yes, there is a need for true contrition, a commitment to change which may include reparation, but we all need to know that there is the possibility of being forgiven and being restored, the opportunity to make a fresh start. The risen Jesus knew this was what his disciples needed; and he knows that we, too, need to hear those same words. "Peace be with you".

Every blessing,
Andrea Ward



CURLEWS IN OUR VALLEY

Curlews are beginning to return to our area, so spring must be upon us! As mentioned in February Link, Melbreak Wildlife Group has begun a project to find out more about the nesting habits of our curlews, and to see what we can do to help them breed successfully.

Have you seen or heard any curlews? If so, we would be really grateful if you could send details of where and when you saw/heard them to Cathy Lee. Cathy's email is cathy1003@hotmail.co.uk, or you can message her on **07500 118954**. We would be happy with as much or as little information as you can provide, but if you can send a map that would be brilliant! Thank you!!

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LORTON FILM CLUB



THURSDAY 18TH APRIL

“The Eight Mountains”

Set in the Italian Alpine Valley of Aosta, the friendship of two men is shaped by their childhood experiences. Beautifully shot this adaptation of Paul Cognettis novel will be a visual delight.

“This is a movie with air in its lungs and love in its heart. It is spacious and unhurried in its devotion to beauty and to what it means to be human” - Peter Bradshaw The Guardian



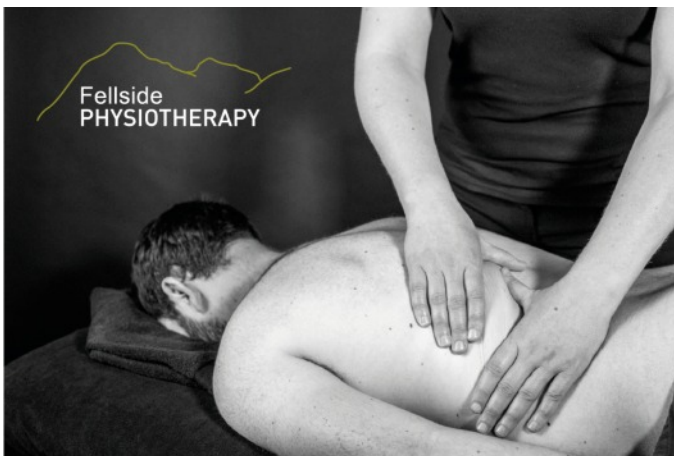
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The Malthouse Club presents a Community Open Meeting

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Vale of Lorton Community First Responders

on call **Saving Lives in the Valley**

**FIRST AID : DO YOU KNOW
WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY**

LEARN SOME BASIC SKILLS

**Yew Tree Hall at 11.00am
Thursday 25th April**



No charge - however donations for First Responders, who are all volunteers, would be much appreciated.

SUPPORT YOUR FIRST RESPONDERS

Refreshments provided

details please contact Nige Lee 07827 338834

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Penny's Piece

During the year there are various 'dress-up' days. Recently we have had World Book Day, closely followed by Comic Relief. Anyone who wants to save money, I recommend buying a red and white stripy top. You can be Where's Wally or the Cat in the Hat for World Book Day and then have something with red on for Comic Relief. It also comes in handy for the random- dress like a pirate day- that occasionally crops up for some reason or other. After a terrible Queen of Hearts costume last year, I went for a Professor McGonagall one this year. The next part comes with a spoiler alert if you have not read the books or seen the film but might get round to it. In my opinion, Snape did not kill Dumbledore. Dumbledore tripped on his robes and fell off the astronomy tower. More than once my cloak was under my feet, and I nearly went backside over brains. I have new respect for ye olde school masters who went around all day in their cap and gown. Then I had to hitch the dress part up to go upstairs. Now I understand why Caroline Bingley and Elizabeth Bennet just did a turn of the room and didn't go for an actual walk. What a Health and Safety nightmare the olden days were.

I have discovered the spring/ summer season equivalent of untangling Xmas lights. Bunting. Bunting is just as capable as getting into an horrendous knot as lights. Then you have the issue of it mattering if it is twisted as it might have different patterns on each side. In some cases, one side might have lettering on it to commemorate the event in question. Hpy Vantin or Hpy Birty doesn't have quite the same message as Happy Valentine's Day or Happy Birthday. If you are putting it up outside you have no chance as the wind will do what it wants and whichever

way you twist it, it just makes it worse at another point.

I had a scone catastrophe the day before the Mother's Day teas. I had been to town in the morning and bought my ingredients, helped set up the hall in the afternoon and just before tea I'd make the scones. Once in the oven something didn't seem right. The weren't rising at all and came out of the oven feeling like lead weights. I looked at the recipe again. And again. Then it dawned on me. . . wrong type of flour. So, at 7pm I was in Sainsbury's buying the right flour and more milk and butter. The only plus side to that is that I met a friend in there I haven't seen for a long time. The strange churning sound you may be able to hear is my grandma spinning in her grave. Sorry grandma. Should have read your recipe more carefully. I spent the rest of that week lobbing three scones a day at the pheasants in the garden. They ate them so they couldn't have been completely awful, but I wasn't going to feed them to people or bring them out in public in front of people who can really bake!

Off to dig out an outfit for the class photo tomorrow. I checked last year's picture, and it is a good job I did, or I would have been in the same outfit. I accidentally did that 3 years in a row once. On the plus side, it makes trying to put an age on you harder. There's a tip for you. Always look the same and no one can work out when it was or how old you are.
Penny



COFFEE MORNING

Plus Plant and Seedling Swap



Yew Tree Hall 10.30am to 12noon
Saturday 13th April

£3

Raising funds for **Growing Well Charity**, helping people in Cumbria recover from mental health difficulties through supported activity in the outdoors.



A Melbreak Communities Initiative



Loweswater Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who supported events in the hall over February and March. On February 24th we enjoyed the exhilaration of a Ceilidh, led by accordionist and caller Alison Riley. Such was the enthusiasm for dancing "Strip The Willow" down the full length of the hall that we had to dance it a second time before the end of the evening! Thank you Alison for a thoroughly enjoyable Ceilidh.

The Mother's Day Afternoon Teas, held on March 10th, was, for a second year, a sell-out event. Mums, with families of all ages, enjoyed a sumptuous, traditional afternoon tea in stunning surroundings. Requests have already been made for tickets to next year's event!

On March 16th a large and very appreciative audience was treated to the Arts Out West presentation of David Mynne's one-man performance of Canterbury Tales. Based on his unique and very amusing interpretation of Chaucer's medieval England, David's skilful script and comedic improvisations entertained us with some amazing tall tales. Thank you David and Arts Out West.

“WIND WHISPERERS”

A COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY in HOLME WOOD – March 19th 2024



Twenty-one of us were blessed with dry, sunny weather for the National Trust (NT) planting day in Holme Wood (HW) involving local *Friends of Holme Wood* and *Melbreak Wildlife Group (The Melbreak Communities)*.

Now that the extensive larch felling and extraction has finished in HW, woodland restoration starts: centred around climate-resilient replanting, benefiting nature, and enhancing enjoyment for responsible visitors.

After discussion about woodland management, and expert tuition by Mark, Ellie and Ian, we planted 100 Aspen and 20 small leaved Lime trees, 800 primrose plug-plants, and sowed enough mixed woodland wild flower seed to cover the equivalent of a *football pitch*. Thousands of tree whips have already been planted on the steep clear-felled fellsides by NT contractors and more community planting is possible next year (so watch for a call for volunteers!).

A most enjoyable, interesting and companionable day, enhanced by cakes and bakes! We shall look forward to seeing the fruits of the labour! Primroses are delightful harbingers of spring. Aspen trees, in autumn, bring joy to eye and ear with their bright yellow leaves trembling and whispering in the wind. **Thanks** to all who came, and NT for hosting.

John & Rosamund Macfarlane

The Malthouse Club Presents

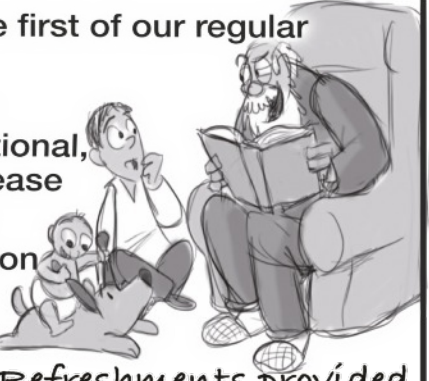
STORY TELLING

FRIDAY 3RD MAY AT 11AM - YEW TREE HALL, LORTON

Please come along and listen to the first of our regular Story Telling get togethers

So if you have a story to tell, either about life in the valley, or purely fictional, or if you just want to listen, then please come along to one of our sessions

No charge- however a small donation to cover hall hire appreciated.



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Refreshments provided



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Loweswater Ladies March 2024

We surpassed ourselves at our March meeting by managing to get to grips with 4 ballroom dances. I don't know who was more surprised, us or our teachers Val and Jane. We started off with the fairly safe St Bernard's Waltz then progressed to the Square Tango. The key step to master here was the box step. This was followed by the Sweetheart Waltz which was a quite a bit trickier as we were required to waltz while turning around. The dance also contained a movement called a whisk. The whisk looked really fancy but actually wasn't too difficult to do. We finished with the Bossa Nova 23. I have always wanted to learn this dance. I remember seeing it on old American movies in the late 50's and early 60's. As a young girl it seemed to me to be so glamorous and stylish. I was not aware it was much danced in the UK let alone a popular sequence dance today in Cumbria. You live and learn. Many thanks to Val and Jane for their excellent tuition and providing us with another fun evening.

In April we will be visiting the Calvert Trust at their centre near Keswick to hear about their work. The trust provides outdoor activities for people with a range of disabilities. The meeting is on **Wednesday 10th April at 7pm at Calvert Trust Centre, Little Crosthwaite, Keswick, CA12 4QD.** Parking is limited so we would ask that members car share where possible. The centre is on the A591 on the far side of Bassenthwaite Lake just beyond the Old Sawmill Tearoom/Dodd Wood Car park.

Doreen Robertson



**LORTON
COMMUNITY
LUNCHES**

2 course meal cooked by Lorton's own Chef Helen
Served promptly at 1.15pm.

**Booking essential
call Helen on 07790 459064**

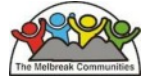
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DATES FEB-MAY 2024
Lunches held at Lorton School

February 19th April 22nd
March 11th May 13th

**All profits go to providing additional support to the
children at Lorton School**

Nature Notes – Stoatally Different



Sometime last year a burrow appeared in a rather-neglected vegetable patch in our garden. It was too big for a rodent but seemed small for a rabbit, so we were mystified about what had made it. We filled it in a few times, but it always soon re-appeared. The animal was definitely persistent!

About the same time I was given a trail camera, so I used it to keep watch on the burrow. I was delighted when, almost immediately, it captured videos of a stoat emerging from it.

But had the stoat made the burrow? The literature suggests this is unlikely – stoats typically use burrows made by other animals (often their prey) rather than excavating their own.

Stoats are in the mustelid family, along with weasels, ferrets, polecats, American mink, otters, pine martens and badgers. Stoats and weasels look quite similar, giving the opportunity to repeat my favourite stoat-related joke: how you tell a stoat from a weasel? The less-than-helpful answer is:

A weasel is weaselly identified because a stoat is stoatally different!

In practice, the best distinguishing feature is the stoat's black tail tip, as seen in the photo.

Stoats are athletic, fierce carnivores, which can take prey (such as rabbits) much larger than themselves. They can move very quickly – often using the cover of hedgerows to provide protection from predators, which include birds of prey. They grow a thick, protective coat in winter which, in northern areas, can be pure white apart from the black tail (a white stoat is also known as an ermine). To my knowledge, I have only seen an ermine on one occasion, but it made a wonderful sight as it ran through the snow. I suspect that global warming may progressively reduce the number of white stoats, but I can find nothing in the literature to support this theory!

Stoats breed during late spring and early summer. However, fertilised eggs do not begin to grow for about 10 months (a process known as delayed implantation), so that the litter of up to 12 kits will typically be born the following spring. Female kits then become fertile within a few weeks.

Stoats can sometimes be seen dashing madly around a field or garden, apparently thoroughly enjoying themselves as they run up and down trees and zigzag randomly on the ground. We have witnessed this 'dancing' behaviour in our garden a few times - the animal showing every sign of training for an agility competition! Explanations for this behaviour have included practice for hunting prey or avoiding predators, communication between different stoats, or pure play.

However, it now appears that the real reason for 'dancing' may be rather more sinister. Stoats are susceptible to a parasitic nematode which infects nasal passages and can eventually perforate the skull. The dancing behaviour may well be a reaction to severe irritation caused by these worms.

So I am no wiser about which animal made the burrow, but I have learnt much more about stoats because of it. We continue to capture occasional videos of the stoat emerging from the burrow on our trailcam, and still have a slight hope that one day it might be accompanied by its kits!

David Gardiner – Member of the Melbreak Wildlife Group

LORTON NOTES

Holy Week rather inconveniently this year falls after the deadline for the April Link so by the time you read this services will be over and we will have entered the period known as Eastertide which lasts for 50 days following Easter Sunday until Pentecost which marks the gift of the Holy Spirit. Regardless of that I am sure that the full range of Easter services will have been well attended and meaningful to all - from Palm Sunday on 25th March to Easter Sunday.

However, in my dual role of Editor of the Link and author of these Notes - and therefore controller of the deadline I have been able to delay completion of this edition until after the Palm Sunday Service and can give this report and include a photograph.

Palm Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday before Easter Day. It marks the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, an event that is recorded in all four Gospels. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, while the crowds waved palm branches and shouted: "Hosanna!" (an exclamation of praise).

To mark this, Palm Sunday is often celebrated with a procession, either inside the church or through the streets outside. Congregations carry palm branches. Some churches or cathedrals even involve a real donkey in their procession.

This is exactly what happened at Lorton (minus the donkey) - the whole congregation gathered at the gate for prayers, the blessing of the palm crosses traditionally handed out at this service and the reading of the Palm Gospel. We then processed back into church singing an Easter hymn. This year we 'performed' the Passion Gospel according to Mark with Richard Pratt as Jesus and Barbara taking the part of the Evangelist. Other members of the congregation took on roles such as Judas and Pilate with the rest of the congregation effectively acting as the chorus.

We have been very lucky in Lorton, Loweswater and Buttermere to have Archdeacon the Ven Richard Pratt leading all of our Holy Week Services as he prepares for his retirement at the end of March. Richard has been a great supporter of the churches in the valley and we will all miss him and his always interesting, and seemingly off the cuff, addresses - his address on Palm Sunday being another perfect example.

Here is a picture taken after the service of Barbara, Richard and his Granddaughter, Amelia.



Rosemary Riley

From the Register

Funeral - 29/02/2024 Marisa Rosa Allison

ECO CHURCH/ECO COMMUNITY UPDATE

There has been a slight lull in Eco Church/Eco Community updates over the last couple of months, but we're putting that right in a BIG way this month

The BIG GREEN WEEK for 2024 takes place from the 8th to the 16th June 2024. You may well ask "just what is The Big Green Week?". In essence it is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Every year, people come together to unleash a wave of support for action to protect the planet. Tens of thousands of people in every corner of the country celebrate the heartfelt, brave, everyday actions being taken to stand up for nature and fight climate change. More information can be found here - [Great Big Green Week](#)

At Lorton we have already started thinking about what we might do and have some BIG GREEN PLANS! The BIG news is that this year we will be hosting the BIG GREEN FAIR. This will take place on Saturday 15th June in 3 or 4 locations, as follows:

Big Green Fair itself - YTH from 1000-1600

Swap Shop in the Barn in Lorton School playgrounds

Display of Wildlife surveys and other projects - St Cuthbert's Lorton

Community picnic at lunchtime - venue to be agreed.

In addition St Cuthbert's, Lorton will be holding a climate-themed service on the 9th June and St Bartholomew's, Loweswater will be doing something similar on Sunday 16th.

Lorton School has already agreed to take part and as well as talking about the Big Green Week in their lessons we are hoping they will be able to carry out a wildlife survey somewhere in the village. We are all encouraged to carry out these wildlife surveys and an invite to do this has gone out to all churches in the Grasmoor Mission Community (GMC) and we are hoping to carry one out in St Cuthbert's church yard in the week leading up to the fair. GMC churches are also being encouraged to hold their own climate-themed service on one of the 2 sundays in the week, as well as being asked to volunteer on the day of the Fair.

The surveys are part of Count on Nature and you can find out more here - [Love Your Burial Ground Week, Churches Count on Nature and National Cemeteries Week – Caring For God's Acre – the conservation charity for burial grounds across the UK \(caringforgodsacre.org.uk\)](#).

ECO CHURCH/ECO COMMUNITY UPDATE CONT

That's the overview out of the way, now here is a bit more detail but this is still very much under development

The Green Fair:

Talks about various environmental matters - the draft list includes Cumbria Waste Services telling us about what happens to our rubbish, grow your own, composting, dangers of global warming,

Stalls including Lorton Village Shop, plants, Melbreak makers, Fairtrade, Veg Boxes

A green quiz to complete during the day

Refreshments

The Swap Shop:

This is a free and local exchange where you can pass on things you no longer want, in exchange for something you need. Many people describe it as a kind of cashless bring-and-buy sale, or bring-and-take. Participants do not need to bring anything in order to take away goods, and vice versa. Swap shops recognise that things no longer wanted by someone, might be another person's treasure. By reusing things we cut down on the amount of waste and reduce the amount of resources that we use in manufacturing of new products. And it saves money! Everyone enjoys getting something for nothing as well as doing their bit for the environment.

St Cuthbert's display areas:

The results of the wildlife surveys that will hopefully have been carried out during the week will be displayed here, along with displays about other environmental projects, focussing on the ones within the Melbreak Communities such as Creative Workshops, 'Melbreak Net Zero', Community Hydro Project to name just a few!



P.S I'm afraid the scheme to recycle blister packs has been suspended so for the time being we will not be able to collect these in St Cuthbert's.

CHRIS BANNISTER

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*Peter Plantec, Snowmass Colorado
(Close friend of John's for over 20 years)*

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*The Craven Herald & Pioneer
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St Cuthbert's Church · Tickets £15.00

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Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Loweswater's Halls

Many villages in Cumberland have a 'Hall', suggesting an old manor house. However, the building or its name, or both, are often rather modern. The present Loweswater Hall is shown in the sketch fronting the sales particulars of 1875. It was built in the early 1870s in the Victorian Gothic style, by the third generation of Marshalls as lords of the manor. When Loweswater's commons were enclosed in the 1860s, the allotments for William Marshall, 1796-1872, included the part adjacent to the lake and road. Mireclose, as it was first named, was built to sell for cash as a gentleman's residence. Maybe the name did not have Romantic appeal? It was changed later to Loweswater Hall. Similarly, the mansion called Mire-End in Embleton became Hundith Hill.



There had been earlier halls in Loweswater. In 1624 Henry Patrickson granted a lease for the 'hall and hall acre', and in 1665 two manor courts were held at 'Loweswater Hall'. A manor plan of 1819 places the 'hall acre' at the site of Kirkhead, and confirms that the present fine Georgian mansion was built on the footings of the earlier Loweswater Hall. That hall may have been the seat of Henry Patrickson, but it may also date from the 1550s, when John Robinson was lord.

Loweswater, Thackthwaite, and Mockerkin & Sosgill, were first bound together as a manor in 1230, later called Balnes. The lord was Alan de Multon in the right of his wife, Alice de Lucy. According to John Denton, writing his history in around 1600, their son 'Thomas Multon, calling himself Lucy after his mother's name, seated himself there'. He gives no evidence. Some charters were granted at Balnes around 1300, suggesting a medieval hall or manor house in Loweswater, as there was in Embleton. If so, then its location and name are unknown. I would favour a site at Low Park, but with no historical evidence.

Derek Denman

Lorton Vale Gardening Club



As spring arrives, the final Garden Club talk of the winter series 'Growing Veg in Cumbria', was not so much about how to grow vegetables, but perhaps more interestingly, how quality vegetables are grown in Cumbria, responsibly and sustainably. Lynn Barnes talked about a small growers co-operative, based in Crosby Ravensworth, near Shap, which provides local, fresh produce for local people, whilst at the same time being kind to the environment, reducing emissions and promoting biodiversity.

Based on a visit to our local veg box scheme at Low Stanger, which provides seasonal, organic fruit and vegetables, Vista Veg box scheme was started in 2008 by Lynn, delivering 20 boxes a week around her local area. This developed and grew into what is today, the growers co-operative 'Home Grown Here', producing and delivering seasonal, fresh, locally and responsibly grown fruit and vegetables on a much larger scale.

Home Grown Here (www.homegrownhere.co.uk) is supported by the Community Lottery Fund and is part of Zero Carbon Cumbria, which aims to make Cumbria carbon neutral by 2037.

We now look forward to warmer weather and summer garden visits. Until then, happy gardening!



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NOTES FROM ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S AND ST JAMES'S

We have only seen glimpses of spring in the weather but longer hours of daylight, birdsong, flurries of spring flowers and of course lambs in the fields more than compensate.

At our recent PCC meeting it was decided that we would hold a Bluebell Service on 12th May after the success of last year's event when we were lucky with the weather. Our APCM will take place on 19th May at 12 mid day after the service. All are welcome to attend and contribute to discussion. This is occasion for the election of PCC members, Church Wardens and the annual reports to be read. The Electoral Roll is due to be revised this year.

We held a very successful Lent lunch in the village hall raising just over £300 for church funds. Thanks to all who made soup, provided food and helped on the day. This is always a sociable time for catching up with friends.

We were sorry to learn of the death of Ros Lucas this month. Ros and family had visited Loweswater for many years owning a cottage opposite Waterend farm. She was a regular at church over many years. We send our condolences to her family.

The biennial Dean Scarecrow Festival is due to take place Friday 3rd May to Monday 6th May. Whilst not strictly in our patch it deserves mention as it has wide appeal for all ages and demonstrates great imagination and skill.

I hope the Easter break provides a restorative time for ourselves and visitors alike. Good weather would provide the icing on the cake.

Eleanor Ella

Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st March 2024

1st prize of £25	No 48	Christine England
2nd prize of £10	No 102	Revd Bob Watkins
3rd prize of £5	No 23	Madelaine Kerr

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.

Ullock Village Hall

In Association with **Arts out West**

Believe! Romany Magic
Friday 10th May at 7.30pm



Come see a quirky, funny, beautiful, original and theatrical magic show!

Come hear a story of making dreams come true!

Come see classical magic and funny magic and sit so near you can reach out and touch the sparkle!

Romany - Diva of Magic, winner of the Las Vegas World Magic Awards and cruise-ship headliner, has hung up her world-travelling heels for a while to bring you her magical one-woman show up-close and personal!

Author of best-selling memoir, *Spun into Gold - The Secret Life of a Female Magician*, Romany will unveil the secrets of a professional travelling performer - within reason!

Tickets £12 Adult: £6 under 18: £25 Family of 4 (2+2)

Suitable for all the family but created for adults
(Children under 8 will probably not be very entertained)

B.Y.O. drinks

Online bookings: kirkgateartsandheritage.org.uk

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Creative Writing Workshops

During March a number of us attended creative writing workshops at LVH, sponsored by the Melbreak Communities. These were great fun and we thought you'd be interested to read some examples which highlight the hidden literary talents of those living in the valley. The pieces are anonymous but the Editor's arm can be twisted!

A FAMILY OF FOXES - A family of foxes appear in the middle of the road and spread themselves out in a line. They are all wearing balaclavas, carrying rucksacks and holding aloft placards saying things like:

Save our den

Hands off our land

No development wanted here

Out of their rucksacks they take tubes of super glue and stick themselves to the tarmac - they obviously intend to stay because also out of these capacious rucksacks they take packs of ham and tomato sandwiches and bottles of beer. One fox, who is bigger than the rest, is obviously the leader and he is approached by a journalist. "What's all this about then mate - I've never come across demonstrating foxes in all my years as a journalist". "We're protesting ain't we" growled the fox. "Well I'd sort of guessed that" replied the journalist "but what about?"

The fox gestured towards the field to his left "bloody developers want to build houses all over Red Brush Paddock yonder where we has our den. That's our family home that is and they want to destroy it and we ain't having it - we're not going down without a fight. We're getting up a petition and taking it to 10 Downing Street we are". I see, the journalist mused, you do seem very determined and I'm guessing you'd like a lot of publicity - let me get in my camera crew.

The foxes were very pleased with this result and were happy to wait for the crew, but just then the police dog handlers arrived and let loose the hounds. Turns out the super glue was a bit of a mistake. The carnage certainly made the local headlines though.

MUSHROOM SOUP MURDER - His daily routine includes a post lunch snooze, usually sitting in the rocking chair in front of the fire.

Today though, she knows he won't wake up, at least that's the plan. His death has been researched in detail for the last few months. Chopped up Mully worms, highly poisonous, added to his mushroom soup. Not able to be detected in the post mortem.

As she watches him drifting off to sleep, his lips parting to make a little snore noise, she starts smiling to herself. "Won't be long now" she excitedly thinks. She thinks of the life insurance money, her new car and being able to travel to all the places that he stopped her going to.

Suddenly, she clutches her stomach in agony and screams, waking her husband.

"What's the matter dear" he asks.

She can't speak, but looks at the empty soup bowls on the table in horror. He had switched them! He must have been onto her.

A few weeks later, after the post mortem, a new woman was in the kitchen preparing a gourmet meal for her husband. He was sleeping in his rocking chair after his hefty lunch.

PLANTING SEEDS - Seeds of thought. They grow like tendrils in my mind when I'm trying to go to sleep. I tell them it's not time to grow. I try and revive them at a more appropriate time - a cup of tea is a good fertiliser. Sometimes seeds of thought are better sown on paper by hand, other times my laptop is more fertile ground. Often they're best left in the packet of my mind. Or maybe be allowed to shoot but need thinning out once they've grown a bit.



Lorton School 10K. Fundraising Road Race

Saturday 27th April 2024 at 10.00am

**Minimum Age: - 15. All levels of runners
welcome**

**Details and entry forms via Facebook
Lorton School 10K 2024**

CRUMMOCK WATER UPDATE

United Utilities (“UU”) informed us on 12 March that they would be starting ground investigation works around Crummock beginning 18 March and expected to last approximately 3 weeks. The work will all be on UU’s land and is “to confirm ground conditions that all feeds into the design for the planning application”. They have confirmed that the “estimated forecast” for the planning application is “likely to be June 2024”.

Harriet Davies



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Mockerkin Educational Foundation invites applications for financial grants in line with its aims in "promoting the education (including social and physical training) of persons under the age of 25 years who are resident in Loweswater Parishhave been resident for not less than 2 years and are in need of financial assistance."

Applications, with a short explanation, can be submitted by email to graeme.sparke@talk21.com or by letter to Graeme Sparke, Mockerkin Educational Foundation, Tarn View, Mockerkin, Cockermouth, CA130ST.



On 19 March we heard a talk about cider making by Mark Evens from Mosser. After moving to his farmhouse Mark discovered from records that over 100 years ago there had been a small orchard close to the house, and this was typical of many farmhouses in the county. As a result, in 2007 he started planting a new orchard which is now well established. Although he had some failures, many varieties of cider apples proved to be especially suitable to the Cumbrian environment, with the long summer days and cooler conditions resulting in more intensely flavoured fruit. Mark started to make and market apple juice and cider free from the additives present in many of the products of the larger and better-known companies. He has turned what started out as a hobby into a highly successful small business. He brought along samples of his apple juices for us to taste, and many of us purchased bottles to take home, all named after the apples used in their production. It's difficult to decide which juice is the most delicious – Katy, Lord Lambourne, or Tom Putt.

Our next event is a lunch party on Thursday 18 April Please see notice below for details. **Date for your diary:** On Thursday 16 May David Robinson will give an illustrated talk on his year on the remote South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha.
Carolyn and John.

ENNERDALE BREWERY

LUNCH AND BREWERY TOUR

Loweswater 77 Club Thursday April 18th

Combining a delicious meal at The Brewery Tap in Rowrah with an optional tour of the adjoining micro brewery.

Non-members are welcome, but existing members will have priority in the event of over subscription. Cost of lunch £25, while the brewery tour is £5 extra. Lunch will be at 12.30, with one brewery tour before and one after.

To reserve a place and register your menu choices for lunch please phone John on **01946 861555** or email **johnhudson25@hotmail.com**.



Annual Gathering

‘Seeking Shalom for Israel Palestine’



worship ... fellowship ... presentation by Archdeacon
Stewart Fyfe ... discussion ... refreshments ... prayer

Saturday 20th April 9.30 am – 1 pm

Christ Church Cockermouth

The Gathering Day is our annual opportunity for all the churches in Grasmoor Mission Community to come together for fellowship, study and prayer. We pick a topic that is of common concern to all our churches. Past topics have been ‘The Rock of our Faith’, ‘Towards Net Zero’, and ‘Living in Love and Faith’. This year our title is ‘Seeking Shalom for Israel Palestine’ and we are focusing on the ongoing crisis in the Holy Land and our Christian response. The day will begin with refreshments and worship then Archdeacon Stewart Fyfe who recently spent a sabbatical in the Holy Land will give a presentation followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion. Everybody is welcome. For fuller information and to book a place please email Sue Lake our Mission Community Administrator on gmcoffice@grasmoormc.church



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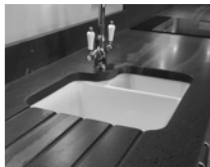
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DIARY DATES

APRIL

- 1 Mon Start of exhibition - Wordsworth House, Cockermouth – WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS. An Exhibition of British Wildlife Photographs and the Tales Behind Them. By Rosamund and John Macfarlane, in collaboration with Jackie Morris and Robert Macfarlane
- 8 Mon Melbreak Workshop, Animal Collage with Chrissie. At YTH 7.00-9.00pm
- 10 Wed Loweswater Ladies, 7pm Visit to Calvert Trust, nr Keswick
- 13 Sat Coffee Morning YTH 10.30-12.00. Plus Plant/Seed swap. Lorton Vale Garden Club
- 18 Thu 77 Club lunch party and brewery tour at the Ennerdale Brewery Rowrah.
- 18 Thu Film Night, YTH, Eight Mountains. Doors at 7pm, film starts 7.30
- 19 Fri Melbreak Wildlife Group event. Wordsworth Hse, 3pm-5pm. 'Wildlife Encounters' Exhibition
- 22 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School 1.15pm. Booking essential call Helen on 07790 459064
- 25 Thu 'Saving Lives in Lorton Valley'- a First Responders Talk, Demonstration & Practical at YTH 11.00am. A Malthouse Club Community Open Meeting
- 26 Fri Chris Banister Concert, St Cuthbert's, doors open 7.15pm - see poster
- 27 Sat Lorton School 10k run - see poster

MAY

- 1 Wed Malthouse Club storytelling, YTH 11am
- 1 Wed Lorton PC meeting with AGM YTH 7.30pm
- 3 Fri Dean Scarecrows Festival till 6/5/24
- 8 Wed Loweswater Ladies, Summer Walk & Buffet Supper (6.15 / 7.15pm)
- 9 Thu Getting to Know John Peel: my experience of learning about Cumbria's history, Dr Christopher Donaldson, YTH, 7.30 pm
- 10 Fri Romany Magic , Ullock VH, 7.30pm
- 13 Mon Community Lunch at Lorton School 1.15pm. Booking Essential call Helen on 07790 459064
- 16 Thu 77 Club. David Robinson. Illustrated talk of his year working on Tristan da Cunha. 7.30 LVH

Please note that Table Tennis takes place in YTH every Wednesday from 7-9p.m. unless otherwise notified. There are Keep Fit sessions in LVH every Monday 9.00-10.00a.m and every Friday 5.30-6.30p.m. These will not be listed every month in Diary Dates but can be found on the Melbreak Communities diary page - <https://melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com/diary-of-events/local-events/>

The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

Church Services April 2024

7 th April 10.30am	2nd Sunday of Easter Holy Communion	Loweswater
14 th April 10.30am 6p.m	3rd Sunday of Easter Morning Worship Holy Communion	Lorton Buttermere
21 st April 10.30am	4th Sunday of Easter Holy Communion	Loweswater
28 th April 10.30am 6p.m	5th Sunday of Easter Holy Communion Evensong	Lorton Buttermere

For anyone wanting to receive home communion or in need of pastoral support, please contact:

Revd. Barbara Robinson, 01900 85234 or 07961902075. Please leave a message and I will get back to you asap. If your need is urgent please contact Revd. Jane Charman, Mission Community Leader on 01900 828028

Service information for the Grasmoor Mission Community and news of other events is published weekly on a Friday in our Staying Connected news sheet. The sheet is available on the GMC website or if you would like it sent directly to your inbox please email Sue Lake on gmcoffice@grasmoormc.church with your request.

Deadline for May is Friday 19th April - all articles, photos(especially for the front cover), funny stories to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you