

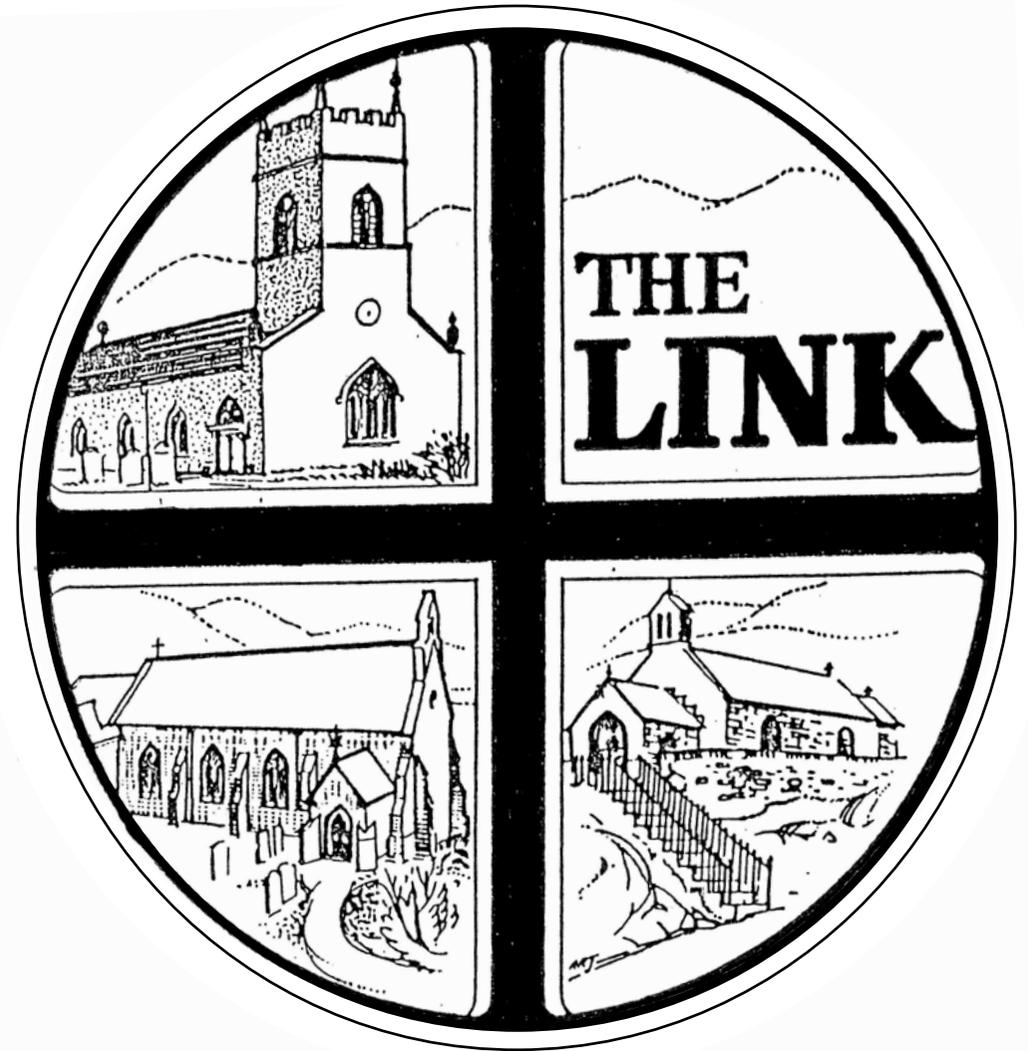
The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere
Church Services April 2018

1st April	EASTER DAY		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Loweswater	BCP
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton	CW
6.00pm	Evensong	Buttermere	BCP
8th April*	2nd Sunday of Easter		
10.30am	<i>Matins</i>	Lorton	CW
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Buttermere	CW
15th April	3rd Sunday of Easter		
8.00am	Holy Communion	Lorton	CW
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater	CW
6.00pm	Evensong	Buttermere	BCP
22nd April*	4th Sunday of Easter		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton	CW
6.00pm	Evensong	Buttermere	BCP
29th April	5th Sunday of Easter		
10.30am	Benefice Service	Buttermere	CW

* Note no 8.00am Service



APRIL 2018



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

Deadline for May is Fri 20th April 2018, all articles to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date.

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL & MAY

Apr

- 1 Sun Grand Easter Egg Hunt, Lorton Church, 11.30 (after Easter Service)
4 Wed Table Tennis, 7-9pm, YTH
10 Tue YTH ~ 5pm (EARLY START) ~ W.I. ~ Tai Chi demonstration
11 Wed Table Tennis, 7-9pm, YTH
11 Wed Loweswater Ladies, 7.15 pm, Loweswater VH
14 Sat Melbreak Communities Coffee Morning 10.30am YTH (organised by The Cumbria Centre of the Caravan & Motorhome Club))
16 Mon Community Lunch, 1.15pm Lorton School
17 Tue 77 Club lunch 12.30 for 1.00pm. Hunday Manor Hotel.
18 Wed Table Tennis, 7-9pm, YTH
19 Thu Book Club (chapters 15 & 16), 10.30 at Whiteside, High Lorton (85490). All welcome
21 Sat LoLoBu Benefice Moving Mountains Walk & Supper, start 09.30 at Priestley's Field, Hopebeck Road, Lorton.
24 Tue Film Night, Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool, 7.30pm YTH, Doors at 7pm
25 Wed Table Tennis, 7-9pm, YTH
27 Fri We welcome back Alan Wilson organist at St Mary-le-Bow for another concert in Loweswater Church

May

- 10 Thu History Soc. talk, Literary History of Mirehouse, John Spedding, YTH. 7.30pm
12 Sat Melbreak Communities Coffee Morning 10.30am YTH (organised by 77 Club)
15 Tue Melbreak Communities AGM, 7.30pm YTH
19 Sat Supper on the Hoof, start at Armaside House, Lorton, 6.30p.m

LINK SUBSCRIPTIONS 2018

A number of subscriptions are still due, so if you wish to continue with the Link this year please send your subs. (£5.00 for those delivered by distributors and £12.00 for postal subscribers) to the treasurer: David Walmsley The Old Police House, High Lorton, Cockermouth. CA13 9UL; or give them to your distributor. (Cheques payable to 'The Benefice Link Account')

Thank You.

The Melbreak Communities an Action Plan for the four parishes of Buttermere, Loweswater, Blindbothel and Lorton

AGM Tuesday 15th May, Yew Tree Hall, Lorton, 7.30p.m.

All are welcome

Do come along – especially if you are interested and would like to know more about the following:

- A Hydro Community Energy Project
- The results of the traffic survey conducted at Coffee and Cakes in January
- The possibility of applying to United Utilities for a grant for hedge and tree planting for communities affected by the pipeline Project
- An update on the Emergency Plan following the extreme weather events this winter
- Coffee and Cakes 2018/19

For more information about The Melbreak Communities see our website:

<https://melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com>



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Tel: 01900826806 wildlakeland@gmail.com



SQUIRREL SPRING WATCH 2018



Can you help? Many of us, together with our families and visitors, get great pleasure from watching red squirrels in our gardens, and the woods of our wonderful locality, and may also be concerned by the increasing appearance of grey squirrels.

Much good work is being done behind the scenes by individuals and also the dedicated volunteers of local red squirrel charities, and by land owners to control grey ingress. But it would be helpful to get a local *snapshot* of both red and grey squirrel populations and their distribution in the Lorton Vale.

Can you help by reporting your red and grey squirrel sightings for a few days each month for a short trial period? Even if you rarely see squirrels where you live, null reports will also be really helpful. Don't worry - Reporting will be simple!

Interested? Like to find out more? No commitment!

Email John at: jtmacfarlane@gmail.com

Thank you. John & Rosamund Macfarlane
Watergate Barn, Loweswater CA13 ORU Phone: 01900 85289

**10th Loweswater
Beer Festival
at the Kirkstile Inn
26th, 27th, 28th & 29th April 18
Open 11am – 11pm**

20 real ales
Free entry, everyone welcome!
Tatie Pot and Hop Bread
Available

See www.kirkstile.com for more Information and updates



April Letter

Dear Friends,
Happy Easter – Alleluia Christ is risen !

It is a lovely thing that when Christ rose from the dead it was in a garden. The east window in St Cuthbert's Church beautifully depicts the scene. If you are fortunate to be there early on a sunny morning the sun shines through the stained glass making it glow and come alive.

It pictures the three women who had come at first light to anoint the body of Jesus. But when they arrived they were astonished and terrified to find that the great stone that had sealed the entrance had been rolled away. Seated upon it was an angel in dazzling white who gave them the message that Jesus was risen from the dead and was going ahead of them into Galilee as he had promised. In our window the angel's hand is raised and pointing away to green hills and trees and the blue of a lake and on the ground are spring flowers. The women ran to share the good news with the disciples.

What a difference the resurrection made to the followers of Jesus then and now. The Apostle Paul wrote, "If Christ had not been raised our faith would be in vain. But the truth is Christ was raised from the dead." It was because of this that they knew that all that Jesus had said and done was approved and verified by God. Without the resurrection Jesus would have been remembered as only a very great man.

But now we know Jesus lives today and always. We are assured of his promise that we and our loved ones will one day be raised to be with him in new and eternal life.



All our Churches will be beautifully decorated with flowers. Do come and join us in the joyful Services on Easter Day. **After the morning Service at Lorton there will be a grand Easter egg hunt in the Churchyard.** It is lovely to see the children excitedly searching for the gleaming eggs among the grass and flowers. All signs of new life!

Easter is surely a day for great joy and celebration in our Churches and in our homes. He is risen indeed- Alleluia !

With all good wishes Revd Carole Ford



Moving Mountains Weekend

The Hundith Hill youth event with the Archbishop of York was a real highlight of the weekend. Attended by about 80 young people, who asked some really well thought out and researched questions to the Archbishop. Questions from the torture he suffered in Uganda to forgiveness. He occasionally turned the question around and asked them what their thoughts were.

Another event which went down well with the children was 'Experience Church' This was held at Christchurch, Cockermouth, Brigham and Bridekirk. This being an imaginative approach to help children experience church. It comprised of interactive stations set up in different parts of the church, taking you on a journey through major festivals, from Lent to Easter and Advent to Christmas. Local primary schools were invited. This is called an outdoor learning initiative event which happens up and down the country.

The hospitality at various locations enabled many significant conversations to take place, and the fact that from pampering to power-lifting, people were amazed to find that everything was free!

The LoLoBu Benefice started the weekend with a posy making afternoon tea. A planned benefice walk has been rearranged because of a clash with the Lorton 10K. (Further information in the article on the page opposite)



We ended with a Songs of Praise, Mothering Sunday service at Lorton. Requested hymns were sung and people provided their own readings, appropriate for Mothering Sunday. One of the visiting team, Diane Komorowski, from Leeds shared her faith journey, which a lot of people related to.

Bishop Jonathan sent a message through Godfrey, thanking everyone for the time and effort put into the weekend. He said 'it was a great pleasure to be here in Cumbria and the team enjoyed a wonderful welcome and were thrilled to take part in the many events which had been organised. It was marvellous to see the variety of things which you put in place and especially the way in which people from the wider community were drawn in to hear and experience the good news of god's love'

Barbara Robinson

**The Melbreak Communities
an Action Plan for the four parishes of Buttermere,
Loweswater, Blindbothel and Lorton
www.melbreakcommunities.org.uk**



Real Coffee & Home Made Cake

Hosted by The Cumbria Centre of the Caravan and Motorhome Club

10.30am - 12.00pm on Saturday 14th April 2018

At Yew Tree Hall

Proceeds to be donated to Annie Mawson's Sunbeam Music Trust based in Penrith but covering the County providing music therapy to disabled and disadvantaged children and adults, and people living with dementia

Loweswater with Buttermere PCC 100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st March 2018

1st prize of £25 No 6	Hilary Iozzi
2nd prize of £10 No 27	Janet Cole
3rd prize of £5 No 82	Rachael Edmunds

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.

Film Night in Lorton

CINE NORTH

Our April film is Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool (cert 15), showing on Tuesday April 24th at 7.30 in Yew Tree Hall. Doors are at 7pm, entrance is £5 on the door and there will be a bar. Come early and have a drink before the film starts. For further information call 0190085035.

This is the true story of the romance between an aging Oscar-winning actress, Gloria Grahame (Annette Bening), and a young actor, Peter Turner (played by Jamie Bell, of Billy Elliott fame) who find themselves living in the same boarding house in London in the late 1970's. Their romance dwindles but several years later the then-ailing Gloria calls to ask to recover in Turner's parents' house in Liverpool. "There is a tremendous warmth and tenderness to this sweet, sad love story" (Peter Bradshaw, the Guardian), Bell and Bening are outstanding, and there are also fine performances by Julie Walters and Kenneth Cranham, as Turner's Liverpool parents.

LORTON VALE GARDENING CLUB

Our talk in February was from John Hamblin who gave us an interesting history of the Chelsea Physic Garden which dates back to 1673 producing plants and seeds for medicinal purposes under the aegis of the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries. Students served a 7 year apprenticeship to learn about healing properties of plants and also about poisonous ones. By the end of the 19th century it was in financial trouble as many drugs were being made from synthetic products so the City Parochial Foundation stepped in and the garden began supplying plants to other institutions and therefore earning some money.

In 1970 this funding ceased and a Board of Trustees was set up to run the garden which was opened by the Prince of Wales and subsequently in 1983 the garden was

opened to the public for the first time and remains so today.

Our final talk of the year was from Vicky Aspin who has been a volunteer at Holehird for 27 years and gave us a tour of some of the interesting and unusual trees and shrubs there.

Her message was to go for interest in more than one season or long flowering times. She recommended various plants in particular Acers which she considers good for all small gardens though they do need a bit of protection from cold winds, Berberis which are good for bees, and Enkianthus which although the flowers are modest has spectacular autumn foliage and Malus Transitoria which is a true 4-season tree.

We are now about to start on our Summer Programme of visits – the first of which will be in May so details in next month's Link.

LORTON AND LOWESWATER WITH BUTTERMERE BENEFICE

Moving Mountains Benefice Walk Saturday 21st April 2018 at 9.30a.m

The Moving Mountains initiative has been formed to support Cumbrian churches to reach out, in new ways, to those in the community who may not feel either Church, or God, has any meaning for them in their current lives. In other words, a chance to encounter Jesus.

The Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere (LoLoBu) Benefice has embraced Moving Mountains and has organised a series of events to provide an opportunity for the congregations to engage with others in the community. These fun events have been designed to provide more information about the Christian faith and encourage you to come and see and find out more about the role God could play in your life. We got off to a great start with our Mothering Sunday Songs of Praise, but we had to delay our main event – the **LoLoBu Benefice Walk** – to **Saturday 21st April** due to a clash with another event

The walk itself (led by experienced walkers from the various Churches) will commence at Buttermere Church and finish at The Yew Tree Hall in Lorton for an early supper (there will be a small charge for supper of approx. £5.00 per head to cover costs). The day will start at Priestley's Field (on the Hopebeck Road), where cars can be left, and then walkers will be bussed (leaving Lorton at 9.30a.m) to Buttermere. The length of the walk is **8 miles** (not 13 as previously published – some confusion between KM and miles!) and is mostly level. There will be an opportunity for those of you who wish to complete a shorter walk to leave your cars at various points along the route (e.g Lanthwaite Green, Cinderdale or Rannerdale) and be collected by the coach as it passes to commence the walk at Buttermere. Further details will be circulated to all participants nearer the time. Please also bring your own packed lunch.

You will need to register for the walk as we need to know numbers for transport and supper. If you wish to attend please send the information listed below to Rosemary Riley, High Barn, Rogerscale, Cockermouth, Cumbria. CA13 0RG. Alternatively you can email your details to her at rriley@rileysolutions.co.uk or phone 07885 360353 by **7th April**

NAME(S)

TEL NO

Confirmation of whether you wish to do the full walk or a shorter version – if the latter please add where you will leave your car.

LORTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
March 2018 Meeting



Fifteen of us (twelve members and three guests) gathered at the Kirkstile Inn for our 96th Birthday celebration. President Ann, after the welcome, conducted a brief business meeting. The Federation Council meeting, in April, was highlighted and she reminded us of the early start time for our meeting next month.

The Kirkstile staff had prepared a sumptuous buffet which we proceeded to sample, and many returned for seconds, even thirds! The convivial atmosphere was enhanced by the odd glass and we enjoyed an evening of friendly chatter. When the plates were cleared and we were indulging in home-made truffles and coffee, our newest member, Hilary, was asked to cut

the birthday cake. It was one of Kris's excellent fruit cakes, beautifully decorated to resemble a birthday parcel. We sang the traditional birthday song, after which Ann P sang us a song she had composed based on the Beatles tune "When I'm 64", extolling the fun and friendship we enjoy in W.I., after which we repaired into the night, happy and very full!

Our next meeting will be a Tai Chi session led by Ros Smith. So wear loose, comfortable clothing. It will start early – at 5pm on the 10th April, in the Yew Tree Hall. There will be a Bring and Share Supper after we have exercised. All are welcome, so come along, learn a new skill and share a friendly supper afterwards.

LORTON NOTES

Most church-goers will be aware of the launch of the Moving Mountains initiative, the aim of which is to make the church and its activities more noticeable to the community and to draw more people into church. Mothering Sunday weekend was chosen as the time for many events across the Mission Community and a Songs of Praise service organised by Barbara Robinson and conducted by the Archdeacon the Venerable Richard Pratt was held at St. Cuthbert's. It was a success. Over forty were in the congregation and some younger members took an active part. The hymns included many old favourites as well as some popular newer ones and voices were heard hoping that the service would be repeated.

It was also the intention to organise a walk across the benefice from Buttermere to

Lorton on the same weekend, but as this coincided with the Lorton School 10 K run, the walk has been postponed to Saturday 21 April. It will be eight miles or so finishing with a supper at the Yew Tree Hall. If the weather is clement it should be very enjoyable.

We have been very fortunate that, since Sheila's departure, we have been able to hold all our usual services. However, during the summer there will be fewer priests in the Community and it will not be possible to maintain the 8.00am services. The only 8.00am in Lorton before Robert's arrival in early August will be on April 15, so all those who particularly enjoy this service, come along and give it a big send off.

Roger Peck.

Loweswater Ladies

March 2018

Our speaker for our evening meeting held on March 14th was Karen Douglas de Fenzi. Karen outlined the principles of Hanna Somatic Education which is a form of neuro-muscular movement (mind/body training) that aims to go directly to the root cause of most chronic muscular pain, the brain and the way in which it senses and organizes the muscles and movement.

Karen proceeded to demonstrate and involve us in some exercises to illustrate the techniques employed, explaining how they would work towards regaining awareness, sensation, and motor control of muscles. This re-education process can only be achieved through movement so that the brain can remember how to relax and move the muscles properly. This process of sensory motor training is

designed to create improved muscle function and enhanced sensory awareness, in a safe and gentle process. After a question and answer session, Alison thanked Karen for an interesting and informative discussion. Our evening concluded with tea and light refreshments, during which time Val presented the raffle which was won by Sue.

Next month we will be meeting at the Loweswater Village Hall on Wednesday April 11th at our usual time of 7.15 pm. Our speaker will be Keith Richardson, former editor of Cumbria Life, who will be presenting a talk on the River Greta. Supper hostesses for the evening are Loes, Sue, Nancy and Ann Kyle. The raffle prize will be provided by Jenny.

Ann Hiley

NOTES FROM ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

Despite March clinging onto winter in a dramatic fashion with snow and drifting in the high winds there are now encouraging signs of spring with the purple carpet of crocuses in the churchyard, emerging daffodils and new lambs. We hope the milder spring weather will follow shortly.

We celebrated the "Moving Mountains" weekend with two events. Thursday afternoon the posy making and teas took place followed by the Mothering Sunday Songs of Praise with a congregation of just under 50 attending. The final event is the parish walk on 21st April; more of this elsewhere in this issue.

Due to the reduced number of clergy in Cockermouth to help us with our services the two PCCs have agreed that for the

remainder of the Interregnum we drop the early service and have alternating 10.30 services at Loweswater and Lorton with the regular 6pm Evensong in Buttermere. In April there will be one early service at Loweswater on Easter Sunday and one at Lorton on 15th April.

Future events include the Organ Recital on 27th April and the APCM on 22nd April 12 mid day in Loweswater Church.

We will be decorating the Church for Easter on Saturday 31st March.

The Churchwardens wish everyone "a joyful Eastertide"

Eleanor Ella.

Buttermere Notes

What do The Church Times and The Star and Post have in common? Both papers ran significant articles on the Moving Mountains campaign. The Church Times gave interesting background information whereas the Star gave a two page spread listing over 100 events happening locally. The CT's coverage brought home the ambitious extent of the campaign with over 500 events county-wide, dozens of bishops, four denominations and an estimated 25,000 people taking part. Moving Mountains is part of a mission started by the Archbishop of York, Dr Sentamu, in 2015 and for the first time included the United Reformed Church, the Methodist Church and the Salvation Army. The report included the following quotations:

It has been really encouraging with lots of opportunities and lots of people making response to God. The Archbishop People have been hugely impressed and amazed by the way all the Christian Denominations are working together. Sarah Moore, President of the URC North West Synod.

One of the really encouraging things was the number of people not normally linked to Church who came along. Richard Teal, Chairman of the Cumbrian Method District.

Right across the County there has been a buzz, with people saying how excited they have been. But it's what happens next matters even more. Bishop James.

We attended a Lent Lunch in Hawkshead followed by a talk by John Bell who is a member of the Iona Community and a colleague of a family friend who is also a

member of the Community. Jan has read several of John's books so on both counts we attended with interest. Part of his talk was about the Church's attitude to money. He made the point that Christians rarely talk about money and when they do it is usually in a negative way, eg *filthy lucre*. We were asked to complete a list of questions which included;

The bible identifies money as sinful; a) never b) often c) always

Jesus always refused gifts lavished upon him; true or false?

Could Jesus' wealthy friends be numbered on a) one hand b) two hands c) three hands?

Christians should be concerned about money because: a) the poor always suffer b) all money belongs to God c) wealth corrupts?

Like all good discussions the object was not so much to test our knowledge but to make us think. John's message was many sided but essentially that money is neutral, neither good nor bad but it is for Christians to be more confident about talking about it and bolder about its positive and beneficial use. Although sometimes finding John's approach to financial affairs over- simplistic (distant memories of an Economics degree kicking in!) the day was stimulating, happy and enjoyable, although I had forgotten how steep Hawkshead streets are.

What has this to do with Buttermere? We are a very small congregation and Moving Mountains has reminded us, yet again, that we are part of a much larger community.

Gwyn and Jan Evans

No kind of official poll has been taken by me at all but I'm guessing most would agree that Siberia is welcome to keep its weather to itself in future. I didn't mind the snow as it was lovely and light and got blown away. The icy wind that did the blowing was another matter. It immediately made me think of the poem 'Granny' by Spike Milligan, as the wind did seem to blow through every nook and every cranny at a vicious speed. The breeze coming under the front door blew the draught excluder at the next door across the sitting room because it isn't heavy enough. I must fill it with sand. Then it will double up in cases of wind or flood. Of course, Russia and all the Scandinavian countries were laughing heartily at us the whole time. It made my ears prick up when I heard an interview with a Siberian lady who was saying they only begin to shut schools when it gets to -42 degrees. So when we are faffing about, closing everything and complaining at minus 2, their kids go out to play with only a light mac on.

There are three kinds of people in the world. Hoarders, people who keep the odd bit of stuff and people who keep nothing. Of the hoarders there are subdivisions. People who end up with loads of stuff because they bought bulk when it was cheap (yes tins of beans last ages, but do you really need more than 4 tins at a time?). People who are addicted to buying stuff. People who keep things for sentimental reasons and the 'I'd better keep it just in case' people. Having a shuffle about in a shed we found a broad spectrum of stuff but most of which fell

into the 'just in case' category. A sink pedestal, a commode, half a sheet of chip board, a wire basket, guttering with no fixings, the wooden (best) sledge, 3 small sections of brick wall with plaster on both sides, a box of different soils, a box of different types of rock (former teaching stimuli) and so it goes on. Sometimes these things happen by accident. You put them aside until you've got a big enough pile to go to the tip/ scrap yard/ sell but then it ends up buried under the next load of stuff. On the plus side, at least it isn't in the house. For those of you who perhaps keep some 'just in case' cash around the house, I hope you've checked to see that it is all still legal tender. I found an old twenty in the front of a book I'd been given as a gift years ago. The moral there is check your books for cash before taking to the charity shop. I wonder how much money they do find in books and the pockets of donated clothing- especially stuff that people clear out on other's behalf?



I have just discovered what is worse than having to drive the A595 towards Barrow on a normal journey. Having to drive the A595 at night and in a howling gale. Oh and with one of those people with halogen headlights right in your mirrors. Cheers mate. Penny

A Lorton Legend

Tale 2 – His Life as an Artist

A few months ago we heard about Alan Johnson's love of motorcycles and his time as a Despatch Rider in WW2. This month, in parallel with his retrospective art exhibition, we learn of his lifetime as an artist and his love of painting. The retrospective is the brainchild of Alan's carer – Aileen – who has gradually discovered many of Alan's paintings scattered around the house and felt they should all be viewed once more. We hope you enjoy the exhibition and the opportunity to talk to the artist and his work – every picture has a story behind it.

Alan's painting career started as a child when he concentrated on images of the industrial age – railway engines, ships, motorbikes, and working scenes such as collieries. After he joined a large advertising agency as a commercial artist shortly after the end of the war, his focus turned more towards landscapes. In his spare time Alan would take advantage of his first love – motorbike riding – and he would head into the Lake District to go mountaineering. He took his camera everywhere with him and then used the resulting transparencies to create his stunning landscape paintings. Much of this work was completed through the night in his office.

Alan has also enjoyed painting seascapes using both his own transparencies but also books and other reference sources to ensure the details of any ships were accurate (his early time at sea also helped with this accuracy) – a number of these paintings are also included in the retrospective exhibition..

When Alan retired he became more interested in vintage motorbikes and painted less for a while, but then as he reached his 80's he decided to return to painting landscapes from his collection of transparencies – particularly when the weather was bad!. He and his wife Cathy would often holiday in Scotland and while she visited gardens he would head off in their camper van and paint Scottish landscapes. He would pick Cathy up at the end of the day and they would go back to their camp site together.

Alan mainly painted in watercolours but has painted a few portraits in oils. Alan also produced the monthly line drawings for The Link until his stroke eight years ago. The example below shows both his skill and his sensitivity – this illustration was created during the Foot and Mouth Crisis in 2008 and shows a farmer staring pensively over a landscape devoid of livestock.



THE MOCKERKIN MOB
(founded by Alan Gane MBE in 1989)

Walk 330



A Walk Sunday 8th April 2018	B Walk Sunday 15th April 2018
Intended for experienced walkers Meet: 9.45am NT Car Park, Honister GR: 225135 Route: Linear walk – Dale Head, Hindscarth, Robinson, Buttermere Estimated Time: 4-5hrs (Moderate) Leader: Kathryn Mitchell 01946 861928	Meet: 9.45am Gatesgarth Car Park GR: 194150 Route: ½ Scarth Gap, Black Sail Youth Hostel and back Estimated Time: 4-5hrs (Moderate) Leader: Elly & Bev Rowlands 01900 85094

Walkers participate at their own risk. We welcome new walkers: if you are interested phone Joan, 01900 85637 or Judy, 01946 861555.

Come along & have a go at

LORTON BOWLING CLUB

Mondays, 7.00-9.30pm at Yew Tree Hall

New members needed
FREE TRIAL

Bowls provided

Please wear soft shoes

For further information telephone Roger or Ann Peck, 85236





Supper on the Hoof
Saturday 19th May
6.30 pm start at Armaside House

To raise funds towards the upkeep of
 St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton,
 including replacement of the carpets

A 3-course meal including wine/soft drinks served at various locations around
 Lorton. - All for £22.00

This promises to be a fun event and places are limited, Please see the enclosed
 flyer for further details, but do book early to avoid disappointment.

Applications for tickets
should be made at the latest by 5th May





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While we have all experienced much worse winters in days gone by, the one now gradually drawing to a close has certainly had its moments. All very well for we humans, tucked up in our cubby-holes, but wildlife is out there in the open with no heating but that generated by their own bodies, and having to scratch around for food every day. Small wonder that our small offerings of birdseed, nuts and the like are gobbled up so voraciously.

A certain prominent American may care to ignore the obvious, but I was reminded recently that as long ago as 1992, 15,000 scientists from 184 countries, signed the "World Scientists Warning to Humanity", which called upon the people of the world to curtail environmental destruction or face "vast human misery". It is also interesting to note that the Norwegians started recycling plastic 30 years ago. How slow we have been to react! There are brighter spots – but nothing like enough. There are a number of instances of near extinction in which determined efforts by professionals and volunteers have been successful in bringing creatures back from the brink, the otter and the peregrine among them. Another, less well-known perhaps, is that of the delightful cirl bunting, a bird I was lucky enough to be able to photograph some years ago, when the few survivors remained in a small area of the south Devon coast. With the help of local farmers, a rescue scheme was launched, which resulted in a great improvement in the fortunes of the species, primarily through the sowing of spring wheat,

rather than winter wheat, which means the availability of autumn stubble, on which this bird depends. While falling numbers of some species is of great concern, rising numbers of others can be a worry too. Deer numbers are rising, especially in Scotland, and this has as impact on other species, especially small mammals and ground-nesting birds. Deer browse undergrowth and the lower branches of trees, so where they are plentiful, the understory can be stripped bare, depriving others of both food and cover.

Great efforts are being made to save the red squirrel, which is estimated to be outnumbered 18:1 by the greys. We have a feeding box which is constantly stocked with hazelnuts and which is visited on most days by three different squirrels, usually one at a time, although recently we did see two in the garden at once, which is very rare. Even more unusual recently, was the sight of seven buzzards at once, floating and soaring over our field. I cannot recall seeing so many together before.

However, spring is on the way! Snowdrops have been with us for weeks, we even have a primrose or two, and a couple of frogs have been spotted in the pond. There'll soon be an abundance of natural life at which to wonder. Good hunting - and stay wild!

Alan Gane



On 20 March we heard a talk from Doug Beebe on blind cricket. Doug explained how a version of cricket has been developed to enable teams of blind and partially sighted players to enjoy the game. Doug's presentation included many amusing anecdotes, and we all admired the time and effort given by Doug and his colleagues to enable these matches to take place. There will be a blind cricket match at Keswick in the summer (details in *The Link* in due course). The next meeting will be our annual lunch party on Tuesday 17 April at Hunday Manor

Hotel. After lunch there will be a talk by Tommy Coulthard on Cumbrian Dialect. If you didn't sign the list on 20 March please give me a phone on 01900 829917 to reserve your place and record your menu choices.

Date for your diary: The Melbreak Communities coffee Morning organised by the 77 Club will take place at 10.30am on Saturday 12 May in the **Yew Tree Hall** (LVH unavailable).

Marjorie Lowery, Secretary.

Our first letter from Fr Robert (Canon Robert Bailey)

RESURRECTION - OF A KIND *(an absolutely true story)*

Last Christmas my elderly Mother-in-law came to stay as she often does at that time of the year and, because of her disability, she sleeps downstairs where, fortunately, we have a toilet with sink and shower for her use. Soon after she had arrived my wife realised that there was no soap in that downstairs loo so she ran upstairs, took the partly used bar of *Imperial Leather* from our shower-room and put it on the sink downstairs. This bar was then replaced with the last from the pack of new soaps for use upstairs, and a few days later my wife bought a swish soap-dispenser for downstairs which stood 'dominatingly' erect next to the 'lowly' old fashioned bar of soap.

It was sometime later, after my Mother-in-law's departure, that, when about to take a shower, I realised that the replacement new bar had run out and there was no other in the cabinet. Then

I suddenly remembered the one downstairs. Because of the soap-dispenser, the bar of soap had not been used since the 'newcomer's' arrival and so it had just sat there, becoming dry and beginning to show cracks down its side. It was obviously not in a 'good place' (*as they say in the medical world*) as it was not 'being' what it was made 'to be'.

Rescuing it from this plight, I took the bar of soap back upstairs where, after no time at all, it lost its sad un-used demeanour and was lathering-up sponges, washing hands and doing everything that it obviously loved doing best ... because that is what it was meant to be for, to serve and to be spent by others ... because it was soap! Resurrection!

Fr Robert

Easter 2018

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