

MARCH 2021



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

Letter from the Editor

Dear Link readers,

As usual we have an interesting selection of contributions for you this month from both new and regular authors. Paul Cowling is back with another instalment of his cycle trip around India and John Scrivens has written a poem celebrating getting his Covid 19 jab (some of us are too young!) We have included another Lakeland Limerick - a very appropriate one about rain as I sit looking at the raging torrents outside my window. I was contacted by our local Census Engagement Manager asking if we could publish information about the Census happening on 21st March - you will find this on pages 6 and 7. Following on from Mark Elliott's article about the diplomatic service last month (part 2 in April I hope), in this issue we have memories of the early days of being a teacher from Dave Hulme (another Lorton resident), as well as fond memories of a Grandmother who used to live in Lorton many years ago. Also included is an update about Eco Church/Eco Community which includes news about a Climate Sunday service.

It has been evident for some months that we have a number of poets in the Valley but it now transpires there is wealth of talent in the worlds of art and music. We have notices about an art club, an art exhibition and a call for musical talent to step forward. You will also see that we have all been asked to create an Easter Bonnet to liven up Easter weekend - I look forward to seeing the results and perhaps including some photos in the May Link.

Elsewhere in the magazine you will find a short piece from Ann Beebe thanking two members of the Link Committee (my editorial watchdog) who have resigned - Anne Style and Sheila King. I would like to add my own thanks for their support over the years. Last year the numbers of the Committee were increased by the addition of Penny Leck (of Penny's Piece fame and Hunter Davies' favourite article in the magazine) and now I'm pleased to announce that Roger Hiley has also joined the Committee.

Rosemary
07885 360353

Because your Editor is a sucker for ponies our cover photo this month is of Shetland ponies in front of the Low Fell lone pine taken by John Macfarlane. On the inside back cover you will find a photo of a very cute red squirrel taken by Roger Hiley



Through a different lens

Psychologists tell us that people can put up with many trials and tribulations as long as they know there is an end in sight. Once we know that, we can brace ourselves and pace ourselves and somehow keep plugging on until things right themselves again. The problem with our experience of coronavirus is that so far it has denied us a reliable timeframe. As I write this, we are awaiting a further government statement on Monday, hopefully setting out a roadmap from lockdown back to normality. But the Prime Minister is clearly in a cautious mood. 'Data not dates' is his latest catchphrase. Without knowing more about how the virus is mutating, whether vaccinations are working as they should, and the impact of that on hospital admissions we can't make a good decision. Meanwhile the clinically extremely vulnerable have been told to carry on shielding even if they have received both vaccinations, a frustrating extension to an already lengthy period of loneliness and isolation. How long, O Lord?

Perhaps the only good thing to come out of this experience is a better understanding of what life is like for those who don't normally enjoy the freedom of movement that most of us take for granted. The elderly and those with disabilities or those caring for someone at home may know what this is like. This week I read a thought-provoking article in the Church Times called 'lockdown with no end in view', about the plight of prisoners serving

so called IPP (Imprisonment Protection) sentences. These prisoners do not know when or even whether they will be released, and it is this indeterminacy rather than any ill treatment that leads to mental suffering and a loss of hope. One day, God willing, you and I will be able to look back on coronavirus as a thing of the past but hopefully we will not forget the insight it has given us into other people's situations.

The church in its wisdom knows that we human beings are bad at waiting for the things we want. Part of the purpose of our Lenten practices, such as giving up wine or meat or sweet treats for a few weeks, is to help us become better at waiting. These limited and self-chosen disciplines train us to see life through a different lens, to let go just a little of our own agendas and to look for God's good things in God's good time. This year we are having to make another sacrifice too, one that we didn't choose, by refraining from gathering in our churches as we so much want to do. That may end quite soon or it may take a little longer, we don't yet know. Meanwhile as we move through Lent let us continue to pray for one another and for our communities and for a joyful celebration of Easter when it comes.

With God's blessing.

Jane Charman
Grasmoor Mission Community Leader

LORTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
FEBRUARY 2021



There was a bit of a buzz on Tuesday afternoon in the sitting rooms of 13 Lorton W.I. members and 3 visitors, including a friend from “down south” – the wonders of Zoom! Yes, it was our monthly virtual meeting.

After a brief exchange of news we welcomed Tanya St. Pierre. She works for Cumbria Wildlife Trust and has been advising the village on the Eco-Church project. Tanya gave a lively and very interesting talk illustrated with slides. Her main focus was the importance of pollinators – moths, butterflies, bees (of which there are many kinds), hoverflies, flies and flying beetles. Surprisingly, the many species of wasp are among the top pollinators. Nearly everything we eat relies on pollinators – even meat depends on animals eating plants. Worryingly, we have lost 50% of pollinators in the last 50 years in the UK, largely because we have lost 97% of flower meadows and 50% of hedgerows. Cumbria Wildlife are in the middle of a 3 year “Get Cumbria Buzzing” project to increase habitats for pollinators. The main focus of the project is maximising habitat potential in public spaces – churchyards, roadside verges, field edges and village greens. Her pictures showed machinery clearing the long grass, etc. which tends to smother wild flowers. The next stage is to seed these areas and ensure that they are mown at the appropriate time and that the resultant “thatch” which smothers new

seedlings is disposed of appropriately. Her pictures of before and after treatment were testimony to the success of this approach, as we saw areas of long grass transformed into areas containing diverse plants and insects. The countryside around the A66 has been one of the areas in the project, and the numerous wild plants we noticed last Spring and Summer on our walks round the village were evidence that it is already working.

Tanya then told us how we can get our gardens buzzing with wildlife too. Untidy lawns and beds are good if they contain insect-friendly, indigenous plants, rather than colourful foreign plants from garden centres.

Even dandelions and nettles are welcome food sources for butterflies, moths and their young. We now have a very good excuse for untidy gardens!

Tanya finished by telling us of the trust’s work in running workshops and field studies, where both adults and children can be involved in learning about and supporting wild life, and websites where we can find information.

Ann R thanked Tanya for an excellent talk. The next meeting will be our Zoom birthday party on Tuesday March 9th at 2.15 for 2.30. Members can bring stories, poems, quizzes, pictures, whatever we wish to share. Kris will email an invitation. Stay Linked!

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

We are now in the season of Lent a time of personal discipline and renewal. This year will of course be different, the Lent group won't be able to meet but some of us will follow a Lent course and probably combine this with discussion via zoom.

There are encouraging improvements reported re the pandemic but it is clear we need to remain cautious and the general consensus in the parish is that the time hasn't arrived to resume church services. This will be kept under review and we remain hopeful for Easter. We await the Prime Minister's announcement next week as to how we will move forward. By the time this is read that will have happened.

February has been a month of contrasts weather wise. The freezing easterly winds provided some spectacular icy scenes, none better than the icicles beside Crummock by the pumping station. Latterly we have returned to our usual wet and windy. The valiant little snowdrops are at their best defying all extremes of weather to give a tremendous show. March is a hopeful month. Soon there will be daffodils and crocuses and lambs in the fields.

Eleanor Ella



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21st March is Census Day.

Every 10 years a census of the population of England and Wales takes place. The data collected is used by national and local government, charities and other organisations to plan resources and services in health, education, transport and housing.

For the first time, we want as many people as possible to complete their census online and the reasons for this are that it is considerably cheaper, but also the data can be analysed more quickly, meaning decisions are made with much more up to date information.

However, online completion is not mandatory - See below

Between 5th and 12th March

Your census pack will arrive by post and will contain;

A unique code to enable access to the census online portal.

An instruction leaflet on how to complete the online return.

The instruction leaflet details the various options for help that are available including a telephone helpline number.

If you are unable, or prefer not to use the online form, you can simply call the helpline number contained within your pack and request a paper form. This form will be sent in the post. Paper forms are also available in large print format.

PLEASE BE AWARE

There is no charge for the census.

**Nobody from the ONS Census team will visit your home before census day.
You will never be asked for payment to receive help in completing your return.**

You will never be asked for your bank details in connection with the census.

Completing your return

You can complete your return as soon as you receive your census pack. You do not have to wait until census day.

The online census form can be completed on a laptop, tablet or internet enabled mobile phone. It cannot be completed on a smart television.

You do not have to complete the online form in one session, you can save your form at any time and return to complete it later, but you will need your unique code each time you access the form.

If you need help completing your return, you can get a family member or someone else you trust to help you or complete the form on your behalf. You can call the helpline number for additional guidance if needed.

After the Census

For over 90% of the population, once you have completed your form online or returned a paper form, there will be no further contact from the ONS.

Some people MAY receive a visit from the ONS after Census Day. There are only two reasons for this may happen;

1. If no paper form or online return has been received after two reminder letters have been sent, you will receive a visit from the ONS to offer help to make your return.
2. After the census a small percentage of the population will receive a visit to enable us to receive your views, opinions and feedback on the census and the process.

If you do receive a visit, the person calling will have an identity badge displaying their photograph and will be wearing a Hi Vis tabard. **Any person visiting you WILL NOT ask to enter your home and they will adhere to all Covid safety measures at all times.**

For more information visit

www.census.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/census2021

www.twitter.com/censusncumbria

Your local Census Engagement Manager is Gary Brady and you can contact him at

gary.brady81@field.census.gov.uk

Penny's Piece

By now most of you reading this will have had your annual visit to the dentist. An experience I don't enjoy at the best of times. But given the set up for them currently, I am glad I am grown up. With all the masks, visors and gloves etc the dental personnel have to wear, it is starting to resemble having an audience with Darth Vader and some storm troopers. I'm sure some children would like the idea of that. Others would be terrified.

It appears we have been adopted by a cat. And it is that way round. You see both me and mum are allergic to cats, so would not be actively seeking one out. During the cold weather there was a yowling to be heard. Upon investigation we found the black and white cat. I say 'the' because it has been around this end of the valley for a number of years. 'Cat' (if it's a good enough name for Breakfast at Tiffany's, it's good enough for me) has taken to shouting for food (yes, we have bought some cat kibbles) and will even approach you and let you stroke it! The only problem is that on the first night of yowling, the only thing we had to give it was a tin of tuna. Now it eats most of the kibbles but then stands next to the bowl and miaows because it would clearly prefer tuna. Everyone's a gourmet.

The cold weather also gave rise to the birth of the double duvet. That being two duvets in one duvet cover. Amazingly warm and the weight is great. However, the recent increase in temperature has caused issues. Namely being far too hot. We took one of the duvets out but it felt far too light. If you thought trying to put a duvet cover on normally was

a nightmare, try putting a duvet back into a cover that already has another duvet in it. At one point I thought I was going to be stuck in the duvet cover too. You know when things get so ridiculous you just start laughing and then you can't do anything because you are weak with laughter. It was one of those. It didn't help that when I was trying to brace the duvet cover combo against the hubby, I accidentally kneed him in the privates.

You know you've been indoors for too long when cleaning the fridge suddenly becomes a joint activity. Not only that but a joint activity that seems to happen without either party saying anything about it. All this happened on pancake day. A little ironic when the most out of date thing in the fridge was a two-year old, nearly empty bottle of Jif lemon.

Recently I was late for a zoom meeting. This caused much hilarity amongst the other attendees because it was set for 11 am but I was sure (and still am as you will see) that it was set for 7pm. You see my zoom invite read 7- 7:30pm CST. I have since discovered that CST is China Standard Time! My zoom seems to be operating 8 hours ahead of GMT and on a different continent. If my laptop wasn't made by an American company, I might start to get a little worried.

Stay safe.

Penny

VALE OF LORTON COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

I find it hard to believe that I have been Leader of the local CFR Group for nearly 10 years, having taken over from John Priestley in 2011. I will be retiring from this role at the end of March and Peter Deeks will be taking over. The last 12 months wasn't how I envisaged my final time as a CFR - I have been sort of furloughed (but with no pay) on the grounds of my advanced years. Fortunately, we had much fewer callouts (just 12 in 2020) due to the pandemic. At present, we only have 6 CFRs in the Lorton Team, but just two have been active during the pandemic so I would like to thank Peter Deeks and Eleanor Gardiner for their sterling efforts getting to callouts at this difficult time.

As my wife Jan will also be retiring from the CFR Team at the same time, our numbers will soon be down to just four, the others being Roger Hiley (Treasurer) and Dave Mitchell (Secretary). We have had some success in attracting new members over the last year, but the pandemic has prevented anyone getting trained to join us in an active role. We would ideally need to see more people in the Team so please contact Peter Deeks (01900 85753) if you are interested in becoming a CFR to help locals and visitors when they need it.

Finally, I would like to thank all CFRs who are or have been in the Team for their support and input over the years, particularly Yvette Kahane who was our Group Trainer for 8 years before retiring last year. I am sure that the team is in good hands with Peter in charge and wish them well for the future.

Leslie Webb, February 2021.



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LORTON NOTES

Here we go again. I admit, the temptation for these Notes to start in the same way for three consecutive issues was too great to resist. Only this time, for me it applies to the tedium of the continuing lockdown. When the first lockdown was introduced last spring it had a novelty which wasn't unattractive. I enjoyed the lack of cars on the road and I considered the restrictions were justified. Now I am missing seeing our children and grandchildren down south and it does seem a very long time ago that we last met up. I am also wondering whether the restrictions on travel and meeting are necessary for those who have been vaccinated over three weeks previously. This gives me a feeling of frustration which was absent last summer. I suppose the government feels the country cannot have different rules for different people, but I am still feeling frustrated.

We are all wondering when the lockdown might end. As churches have not been prevented from opening for worship during the current lockdown and as most of our

regular congregation have been vaccinated, the PCC has been having a discussion by e-mail about when services might restart. It is felt that we should be open by Easter, but the actual starting date could not be agreed. The majority thought we should be in a better position to decide after Boris makes his announcement next Monday, after this article must be submitted. Hopefully, a decision can be reached soon after and will appear on the Grasmoor Mission Community website. By the time you are reading this it could well be there.

Meanwhile, Lent has started. This season in the Church's year does seem particularly appropriate for the mood generated by covid, but hopefully by the time we are celebrating Easter the mood will be more buoyant.

Roger Peck.



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THE END OF AN ERA

Yes, it is the end of an era for the Link. Anne Style has retired from the committee after many years service.

Anne and I started helping with the Link in Michael Braithwaites day, which for those who can remember was many years ago.

After Michael's time we moved the machines to Anne's home, Muncaster House where we remained until the Link changed to its present form.

It was quite hard work putting it all together but we had so many laughs along the way, especially when we had the three old soldiers with us, (Tom Bird, Alan Johnson and George Smith). We enjoyed some great lunches of homemade soup and Anne's homemade bread.

So thank you Anne for all your hard work, support and generous hospitality to us all. I am looking forward to things getting back to normal as soon as possible so that we can get back to having a cup of coffee and a good chat when I deliver the Links. Ann Beebe

Sheila King also left the committee this year. So thank you too Sheila for all your help in the past.

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**EASTER
BONNET**

I'm making mine from
an old straw hat, but you
can use anything lying around
- boater, beanie, top hat,
or even a paper bonnet.

So get your creative
juices flowing this March,
ready for Easter.

NEV MILLS

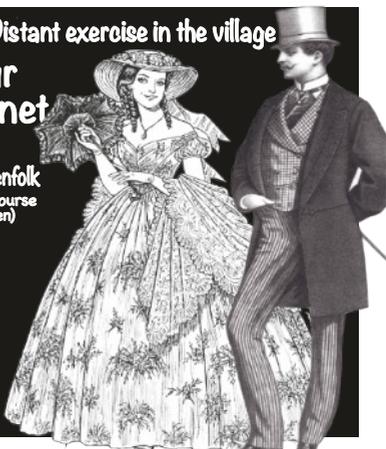


On your Socially Distant exercise in the village

**Wear your
Easter Bonnet
or Hat**

...and that includes the menfolk
(Top Hat and Tails are of course
an optional look for men)

**TAKE CARE
AND
STAY SAFE**



Food for thought !

**DIY PAPER PLATE
BUNNY EARS**
Fold paper plate in half and
cut along the dotted lines.

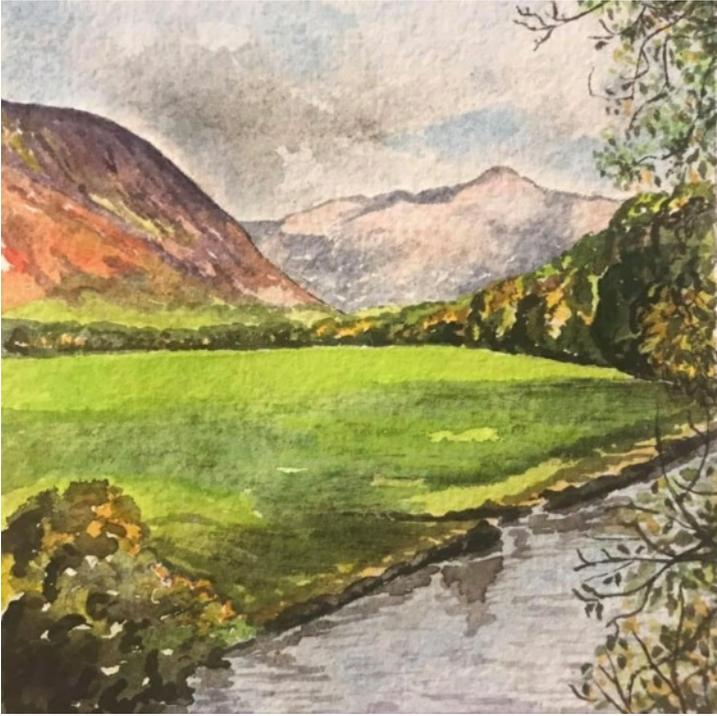


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A Change Of Art

An online group of about 25 local people set up during Lockdown. All abilities welcome. Inspiring and aspiring artists creating and exploring together.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact me, Chrissie Baker email chrissie313@icloud.com

33 Years a Teacher - The Beginning - by Dave Hulme

Having been educated in Liverpool in the 50's and 60's, I thought that teaching in the 70's would have moved on, especially after trendy training.

Hmm! Well! No!

Chalk, blackboards and old old textbooks dominated (except that there was never enough chalk). "100 lines" was still the punishment of choice. It was like going back in time: checking the multi-creased, vertically columned offerings. Were you ever caned? In my first years as a modern educator, I quickly discovered that corporal punishment was still very much in use - certainly in the all-boys school in which I began. In my very first week I came across the music teacher making an incredible racket in her storeroom. She was whacking an old hymnbook, ripped pages flapped around her. Turning and wagging her cane towards me, she explained she had to cane a boy after break and wanted to get it right! I'm sure the unlucky music student would have little trouble reaching the high notes thereafter.

The stick was certainly useful as you patrolled the aisles of pupils: a prod here, a poke there, a flourishing wave as appropriate! This brings me back to the English lessons themselves. How did those previous years of educational enlightenment bring fruit? Judge for yourselves - see if you recognise a typical week?

Monday: Give out textbooks. Remove dust from the hands. Tell pupils to turn to page...chapter.... and choose one of the essay titles. (Did you ever have to write an essay: 'A Day in the Life of a Penny'?)

Tuesday: Late for lesson, I'd been on break duty. One pupil had not gone inside, he was leaning on a goalpost. I'd told him to move. He couldn't - he'd been sellotaped to the goal! So...give out the books, etc. Pupils turn to the same chapter as previous day, read the passage then answer the comprehension questions.

The last question was an 'open-ended' one - it was meant to stretch the better pupils or just fill time so no-one was twiddling their fingers - or worse! The question was generally along the lines of: If you were in the same situation as the protagonist, how would you expand textile production in the 19th century?

Wednesday: Spill coffee on desk, drop crumbs on exercise books.

Impress on pupils the importance of neatness and accuracy. Wave cane with a flourish. Then - same chapter as previously: section C. Spelling - double letters. Fill blackboard with double letters in green as no white chalk in the room. Homework - learn spellings for test on Thursday.

Thursday: Finish coffee and cigarette in staffroom. (Double letters – tick!)

Spelling test. Tell boys to swap papers then go through answers asking for volunteers. This gave opportunity for the ‘MeMeMe Sir’s, hands stretching up, to answer perfectly. But, it also allowed the chance for the rest to cheat. So, much flicking of cane and, for real fun, throwing chalk at suspects - not only almost legal but surely a competitive sport.

Friday: Yes, the same chapter, nearly finished, just punctuation and grammar to go. And, if lucky, time for the class reader. Dust the books down, ask pupils if any pages are missing. “Yes?Just listen then.”

Normally, as teacher, you would read for a while - a chance for you to show off your characterisation, your dramatic skills, your VOLUME and pupils a chance to look out of windows or close eyes. Flourish, flick, flick, poke, prod! Next ask for volunteers to read. Thank you MeMeMe-ers. Finally, depending on your mood, pick on some reluctant pupils to read. Perhaps you wanted to help quieter pupils build confidence, maybe you wanted to check if pupil ‘F’ was still awakeor you were just being nasty.

Did you experience such treatment at school? Probably. We can all be pleased that more sensitivity exists today though I do remember, as a very quiet pupil at school myself, being made to read the part of Lady Macbeth: I really swore at the dog and told it to leave!*

That was the start and many repeats followed in the first couple of years.

Thinking back, my best achievement at the time was to give up smoking. I’d crept up to 40 a day, especially with many free confiscated fags which were kept inexplicably in the staffroom fusebox!

Many things did change in subsequent years but looking back has been a great mis-memory exercise and, after 13 years out of English teaching, an excellent opportunity to play fast and loose with language ‘rules’!

*Apologies for ancient Lady Macbeth joke.



We now have a new date for the diary, an anniversary to remember: we feel very, very fortunate to call 9th January 2021 VE day. Vaccine Escape day, that is.

Looking forward of course to our part 2 jabs, but we really do understand the policy of giving as many as possible their first vaccinations as a priority, not least because, aside from any physical/statistical effect on hospital admissions and deaths, it means that more people will have some peace of mind about their risk level. It is absolutely right that there has been an awakening focus on the effect of all of this on mental health. And the priority policy seems to be working, as the numbers are getting better, although as a layperson it's difficult to sort the wheat from the chaff of the utterings of experts and politicians, isn't it?

But we like to think the only way is up, for those who've been done already and those who are closer to the day, in a society where the risk of infection is dropping and a loosening of restrictions is on the horizon. Good luck with your jab date! Especially if you are in a job involving inescapable contact with others or if this has been a great worry.

Words have been spilled by the thousand about the big issues, the economy, who should be vaccinated first and so on, but for many it's the mundane things, the expected things, which we miss the most.

"You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." Joni Mitchell, 1970

Jab done, Job done

My arm's a trifle sore. As if I care:
I'll buy a brace of Lamborghini cars;
Take in the Taj Mahal and fly to Mars;
Impress with my sophisticated wear.
I'll flash the bling, I'll maybe dye my hair,
And spend my time in crowded trendy bars;
I'll go to premieres, hob-nob with the stars,
And play for England, scoring runs with flair.

How tiny are these things, when I can share
A handshake with my neighbour when we meet
In Sainsbury's, talk and smile and go our way;
But even village life cannot compare
With family laughter, buy the kids a treat,
A hug at breakfast: quiet, happy day.

John Scrivens



Lorton School 10K

Unfortunately the event has had to be cancelled due to the current covid situation.

We look forward to our 2022 event.

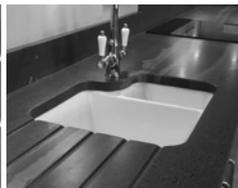
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Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st February 2021

1st prize of £25 No 39 John Hudson
2nd prize of £10 No 76 Bethany Meadley
3rd prize of £5 No 42 Ann Kyle

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.



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Loweswater with Buttermere PCC 100 Club

Winners; March 2020 – February 2021

March

- 1 27 Diane Gordon
- 2 60 Revd Margaret Jenkinson
- 3 70 Barbara Robinson

April

- 1 60 Revd. Margaret Jenkinson
- 2 15 Christine Walmsley
- 3 86 Richard Kahane

May

- 1 1 Dr Anne Style
- 2 41 Les Polley
- 3 36 Mark Elliott

June

- 1 2 Dr Anne Style
- 2 25 Frank Judd
- 3 66 Sue Hulme

July

- 1 69 Jim Mills
- 2 62 Mary Baker
- 3 16 Christine Walmsley

August

- 1 67 Dave Hulme
- 2 88 Dr John Scadding
- 3 90 Revd. Bob Watkins

September

- 1 95 Diane Gordon
- 2 3 Maxine Jessop
- 3 37 Julian Elliott

October

- 1 61 Mary Baker
- 2 25 Frank Judd
- 3 92 Nancy Fearon

November

- 1 60 Revd. Margaret Jenkinson
- 2 82 Alan Gane
- 3 13 Edna Vickers

December

- 1 100 Keith McNeil
- 2 82 Alan Gane
- 3 25 Frank Judd

January 2021

- 1 4 Richard Kahane
- 2 58 Zoë Thomson
- 3 12 Edna Vickers

February

- 1 39 John Hudson
- 2 76 Bethany Meadley
- 3 42 Ann Kyle

Remembering Lorton resident Helen Milburn - By Robin

I have very happy memories of staying with my grandmother Mrs Helen Milburn in her cottage in High Lorton. Not least because she always made a delicious chocolate cake and prepared Shepherd's Pie for us on our arrival. Years later, she admitted to me that she didn't actually eat Shepherd's Pie when she was on her own, but always made it for my family when we came to stay. The reason was that she never knew when we would arrive, but she could cook Shepherd's Pie in advance for us.

Granny was very involved in village life in Lorton. She was a member of St Cuthbert's parish church, as she was a devout Anglican. I remember her taking me and my late brother Nick to Easter Sunday services at St Cuthbert's when we were children in the late 1960s. The Vicar would give all the children who attended the service a chocolate Easter egg after the service had finished.

In those days, St Cuthbert's had a harmonium, which had to be pumped with pedals to provide its sound. Granny got me permission to play the harmonium, as I wanted to learn how to play the church organ.

Granny played a profound role in my Christian education. She would always say prayers with me at night-time, and she also gave me Ladybird illustrated children's Bible stories to read. She had a very strong and deep Christian faith.

Granny played Bridge and I remember her telling me that she would attend Bridge games with local farmers. She could drive, but didn't own a car. So she walked everywhere, got lifts from friends, or took the bus.

I remember that there was a van that came regularly from a grocer's in Cocker mouth bringing food that Granny had ordered over the phone – an early version of home shopping.

Thanks to Granny, I got to know Lorton very well – there are some lovely walks in and around the village, I remember.

Granny was involved with the local Women's Institute and helped out with bring-and-buy sales, for example. She also worked in a charity shop in Cocker mouth in the 1970s, which I think was run by the Women's Institute.

I remember staying with Granny during the Easter holidays in 1978 when I was revising for my University first-year exams. Her cottage was very peaceful and was just the right environment for me as I prepared for my exams.

Granny lived in Lorton from the mid-1960s until 1980, when she moved into the Abbeyfield Home in Cocker mouth. She died in 1984 and is buried in St Cuthbert's graveyard.

ECO CHURCH/ECO COMMUNITY UPDATE

The Eco Church/Eco Community Working Group did manage to have a Zoom get together last month in order to develop ideas for next steps - even though we have successfully attained Gold status there is still much more we can do as a community to help address climate change.

CLIMATE SUNDAY

The most important news is that we have agreed to hold a Climate Sunday Service on June 5th - which also happens to be World Environment Day. The Service will be lead by our Grasmoor Mission Community Leader - Rev'd Jane Charman and further details will appear in a future Link article. The Climate Sunday organisation - <https://www.climatesunday.org> is a coalition between numerous church organisations to encourage as many churches as possible to hold a Climate Sunday Service during 2021 in the lead up to the COP26 Conference in November.

ECO CHURCH INTERVIEW & THE GRASMOOR MISSION COMMUNITY (GMC)

Breaking news - we now have a presence on the GMC Tread Gently webpage - <https://grasmoormissioncommunity.org.uk/tread-gently/>. If you missed it here you can find the interview Rosemary gave about Eco Church during one of the online services.

WILDLIFE

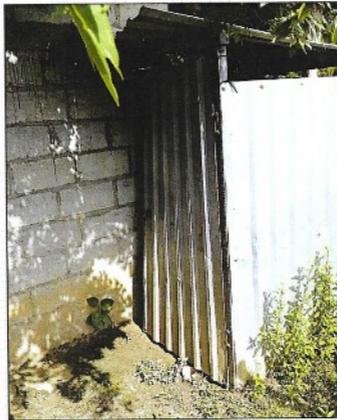
We have more plans for encouraging wildlife into the church yard including a 'managed' area for nettles and brambles and the much anticipated bog garden. All of these areas will be small and are away from any area of the churchyard currently used for burials. We would also like to carry out more wildlife and bird surveys and install some bug houses as well as putting up our bird boxes.



TOILET TWINNING

During February a number of residents in the Lorton Vale agreed to Twin their Toilet in order to provide a life-saving, hygienic loo for people in developing countries. They are all now proudly displaying their certificates, with a picture of the twinned toilet, in the smallest room in the house. Some residents chose which country they wanted to twin with, and there were some interesting stories behind this - one for example chose to twin with Afghanistan, a country in which some of their forebears had notable experiences in the early 1840s, and to which they had themselves travelled 50 plus years ago. Another Lorton couple chose Malawi because that was their first overseas posting, working at a mission school and on an agricultural development project, and their first child was born there. If you would like to twin your toilet then please go to <https://www.toilettwinning.org/what-we-do/>

THIS TOILET HAS BEEN
TWINNED
BY SIMON AND ROSEMARY RILEY



WITH A LATRINE IN
HONDURAS

Latitude: 15.306897 Longitude: -88.66527
Nueva Frontera, Santa Bárbara, Latrine No. 97056



1 in 4 people around the world don't have a loo.
By supporting Toilettwinning you are helping to flush away poverty.
Toilettwinning is a registered Charity Number 282464 (England and Wales) and number SC039204 (Scotland).

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MUSIC CONTACT GROUP

An open letter to all Young Musicians

Are you a young musicians in the valley who would like to join a music contact group? Any age, any standard, any instrument or voice ... All Welcome.

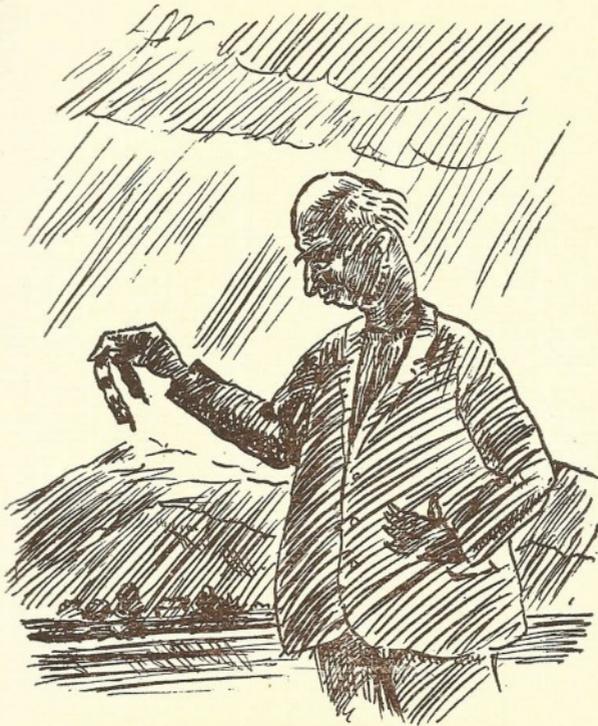
Joining this network would have the following benefits-

- -a chance to contact others locally with similar musical tastes
- -for you to become aware of instruments available in the valley for loan - like the 8 african drums (djembes), percussion galore, 3 keyboard stands, ¼ size violin , full drum kit, 4 music stands etc etc I have at present!
- -to influence, be the first to hear about and publicise music in the valley.
- -if you so wish, a chance to showcase your playing and combine with others.

This Music Contact Group can be organised however members choose. There would be, in joining this list, no definite commitment whatsoever and you need never volunteer or offer anything musical with which you are not totally comfortable. No information will be passed to outside bodies and all terms and conditions will be well-considered by the group.

So, please if you do have an interest or playing skills in any form of music, do be in touch and hopefully an informal group can be formed in this way. Apologies if you have already received a letter from me saying exactly the same, and please feel free to pass this on to any family or friends in the valley.

Many thanks Ann Peck, White Ash CA139UQ
EMAIL: annrogerpeck@yahoo.co.uk



An eminent classical scholar
Once stayed at a house in SEATOLLER ;
He was heard to complain
That they had so much rain,
He could *NOT* keep the starch in his collar.

DIARY DATES

MAR

- 2 Tue Buttermere parish council meeting using Zoom platform 7.30pm
- 3 Wed Lorton parish council meeting using Zoom platform 7.30pm
- 4 Thur Loweswater parish council meeting using Zoom platform 7.30pm
- 18 Thur Sorolla, Master of Light. Arts Society Cumbria lecture online, 11 am

APRIL

- 15 Thur The Border Reivers - Romance and Reality. LDFLHS online lecture, 7.30 pm

Tommy's Tyale update

Last month we advertised Tommy's book about his life in the Lake District. We're pleased to be able to tell you that we've sold around 30 copies of the book around Lorton, including 2 to Tommy's old house, and lots of others to friends and people who know or are related to characters mentioned in the book.

Many people have been in touch with Tommy to explain their connection and he's really enjoyed catching up with folk. In all I think we've sold around 400 books, making a great amount for the hospice at home charity so thanks to everyone for their support.

There are still books available if anyone wants one. Copies can be bought for £10.00 plus £3.00 postage from Louise Green on 01697371710 or by emailing her at irebygreens@btinternet.com or can be bought from Lorna at The Grange Hotel 01946 861211.



ST CUTHBERT'S LORTON

In the absence of any service information I thought it would be nice to include this lovely photograph taken by Alan Hudson in June 2013. Ed



For those of you who not receive the Grasmoor Mission Community Information Sheet by email - it can now be found here -
<https://grasmoormissioncommunity.org.uk/staying-connected>

Deadline for April is Fri 19th March, all articles, photos, funny stories to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date.