

JULY/AUGUST 2021



Anne Marion Style

25th June 1925 - 28th May 2021



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

Letter from the Editor

Dear Link readers,

The first time I met Anne Style was in her role as chairman of The Link Committee, a production she had been involved with for many years. I am proud to now be the Editor of a magazine that she was instrumental in founding and will miss her input greatly. As a stalwart member of the local community it is fitting that she has 3 'pieces' in this magazine - one from her daughter Eleanor, who has followed in the family tradition of being a Church Warden, one from her dear friend Bob Watkins and a third from her ex-neighbour and Cumbria Life columnist - Hunter Davies. They are all slightly different in style but all reflect the love they felt for her. In that vein we thought it appropriate to use the cover of her Order of Service as the cover photo for The Link this month.

I'm pleased to say that we have some of our regular contributors back this month - namely The Lorton Vale Gardening Club and Loweswater Ladies - they are both hoping to resume activities later in the

Summer. Keep Fit classes at Loweswater Village Hall are also re-starting. We do have another obituary this month - that of John Tyson - a fascinating account of a life lived to the full. I noted with interest that he attended Loughborough College - an establishment part-founded by my own Grandfather who worked in the local Education Department. In the 1980's, I attended it myself to become a Librarian.

Breaking news - you have a late added bonus of 4 extra pages - Mark Elliott's final instalment covering his career in the Diplomatic Service and an update on our Swift Project from Tanya St Pierre - so plenty of reading for you during July and August.

As reflected in the Vicar's Letter, Lorton Notes and St Bartholomew & St James's Notes it is a shame that the restrictions we had hoped to be lifted have been delayed and church services are still not back to normal - fingers crossed for later this month.

Rosemary
07885 360353

CHRISTIAN AID – THANK YOU

The final sum of £1135.36

Many thanks, to everyone who worked so hard and gave their time to deliver and collect and to all who donated so generously.

Jan Collins-Webb

Lorton Valley Organiser – 10.6.21



Pilgrims on the Way

One casualty of Coronavirus has been our beautiful little church in Buttermere which unlike Lorton and Loweswater has remained closed throughout the pandemic, apart from a single service on Good Friday. Smaller by far than the other two, it is unable to accommodate a regular congregation while also observing social distancing. We had hoped to reopen the church for the summer months and we still do – but the latest government announcement has meant a further delay. Will we be free of all restrictions after 19 July? Only time will tell.

For those who thought that Buttermere Church was dedicated to St Alfred Wainwright, you may be interested to hear more about its true dedication which is to St James the Apostle, or James the Great, to distinguish him from another apostle usually known as James the Less. James and his brother John were two of Jesus's original disciples and along with St Peter were particularly close to him in his ministry. James was a leader of the early church in Jerusalem and he was also the first apostle to die preaching the Risen Christ. He was beheaded on the orders of King Herod Agrippa not long before the apostle Peter was arrested.

St James and Alfred Wainwright do have something in common though – they are both connected with walking. Alfred Wainwright, the 'man who loved the Lakes' is mainly remembered for his pictorial guides with their loving descriptions of the fells and beautiful little pen and ink drawings. Maybe you have bagged some or all of the 'Wainwrights', the 214 iconic Lakeland peaks which he wrote about. St James also gives his name to an outdoor activity – the so called Camino de Santiago or Way of St James, a pilgrim route

leading to the shrine dedicated to him in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. According to tradition his remains are buried there. The remains of Alfred Wainwright can be venerated closer to home on the summit of Haystacks!

Two men – both pilgrims in their different ways and inspirers of others. In their joint honour we are hoping to develop a 'fell chaplaincy' based at Buttermere through which the local churches can engage with the many walkers and climbers who visit our Valley every year in search of peace and a sense of something greater than ourselves. More information – including about ways in which you can get involved – later in the year.

Meanwhile the Feast of St James the Apostle comes around soon on Sunday 25 July. To honour our patron saint, who no doubt has been praying steadily for us all during these troubled times, we intend to hold a service in Buttermere church on that day but we need to wait a little longer to see what will be possible and when. Please look at the church noticeboards and the Melbreak Communities Message Board for details nearer the time.

With God's blessing.

Jane Charman
Grasmoor Mission Community Leader

LORTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
JUNE 2021



Who knew that the little village of Dubwath, near Bassenthwaite Lake, boasts Silver Meadows and the Orient Express? Eight of our members discovered these hidden treasures during a Summer walk at our June meeting.

It was a lovely sunny afternoon as we parked near to the Dubwath Silver Meadows wetland nature reserve. The site opened in 2008 and is a project funded through the Heritage Lottery. It is managed by the Environment Agency but looked after by a voluntary group, "The Friends of Silver Meadow". The reserve is one of the best havens in Cumbria for seeing wetland flora and fauna and is always open to people to visit and enjoy. It plays a useful role in protecting Bassenthwaite Lake by offering natural flood water storage and improving its quality by depositing silt and nutrients before the water enters the lake.

We walked on a flat, dry gravel path and boardwalks and appreciated the wild flower meadow. We saw wild flowers we knew and wondered at many we didn't. We think we spotted a deer darting into a stand of bushes and I dare say if we hadn't been chatting we would have seen many more birds. Bees, butterflies and the odd dragonfly hovered above flowers. Further on, the water meadow held the promise of abundant meadowsweet flowers later in

the season. There were several quaint shelters and seats around the site to sit, watch and listen. We agreed that it was a special, beautiful place to which we will return.

We were going to picnic (with permission), on the lawn of the Station House opposite, but the owner treated us to a special viewing of the renovation of the Station platform and ticket office and invited us to sit in one of the carriages of the replica from the film set of Murder on the Orient Express. Bassenthwaite Station closed in 1966. The carriages are being fitted out in luxurious Pullman style and it is planned to open it as a café at the end of July. We sat in luxury and enjoyed our picnic and Judith's Birthday cake and shortbread baked to celebrate Sheila's birthday. Our newest member, Ann Baird, talked to us about her role as a W.I. Environment Ambassador. All agreed that the afternoon had been a thoroughly enjoyable success. We had planned a talk from The West Lakes Squirrels initiative for July but due to ongoing Covid restrictions this will now be at 7.30 on 10th August in the Yew Tree Hall. Members will meet on 13th July, probably for an afternoon village walk, perhaps viewing a garden or two, with cake. Details to be confirmed, by email. Stay Linked!

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PRIVATE • BUSINESS • EVENTS

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

June saw a different pattern of services for us, we swapped Sundays to enable Lorton to celebrate Climate Sunday in view of their work on Eco church resulting in their recent gold award. We have now reverted to our usual pattern. Though disappointing we are not able to resume services at Buttermere quite yet due to the limitations imposed by size and the difficulty in distancing. However, we do hope to celebrate the feast day of St. James on 25th July and shall confirm that nearer the time.

Minor repairs have taken place in both churches; Loweswater's bell Sally has been replaced and the external wall repaired and Buttermere's windows repaired. Loweswater now has a contactless donation unit installed which we hope will facilitate easier donation from visitors with debit cards. Buttermere is to have the same but this won't arrive until September.

As many will know my mother, Anne Style, died on 28th May after a serious illness nursed at home. She grew up in Norfolk, a county she remained very fond of all her life, coming to the Lakes during her school years. Our family moved to Loweswater in 1960 and following the birth of our youngest brother Michael she resumed her medical career setting up family planning services in West Cumbria and working in community medicine. She was very active in church life as warden at Loweswater for many years and in village life in WI, 77 club among others. We will, of course, miss her very much

In the spirit of the church's environment week and with a message of hope the following poem by Wendell Berry poet, farmer and environmentalist seems fitting.

The Wild Geese

Horseback on Sunday morning,
harvest over, we taste persimmon
and wild grape, sharp sweet
of summer's end. In time's maze
over fall fields, we name names
that rest on graves. We open
a persimmon seed to find the tree
that stands in promise,
pale, in the seed's marrow.
Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them on their way, clear,
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye
clear. What we need is here.

Eleanor Ella

From St. Bartholomew's Registers

Funeral

10th June

Anne Marion Style

What a busy time of year it is within the natural world! Everywhere we look, there are things of interest – a host of old friends with which to reacquaint, and always something unusual or even rare. One great pleasure is to be found in wild flowers. Among those in full bloom just now is what is most commonly referred to as Bird's Foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). I say "most commonly" because while virtually all wild flowers have a number of common or local names, Bird's Foot Trefoil surely scoops the prize with over 70! A vast array of examples of the human imagination, from Boxing Gloves and Rosey Morn to Kitty Two Shoes and King's Finger Grass, plus the old Cumbrian names of Buttered Eggs, Cat Puddish and Sheep Foot. The flowers are typical of the Papilionaceae or butterfly-like flowers, and are of a particularly rich golden yellow, with occasional red areas. It is very common and widespread up to 730m. It is quite variable and there are at least four different races. Another striking member of the same family is Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*) the flowers of which are a rather beautiful pale violet. It too is in full bloom just now. No doubt we are all too well aware of the two species of plantain – the Broad Leaved (*Plantago major*) and the Ribwort (*P. lanceolata*), but perhaps not so well acquainted with the coastal one, Sea Plantain (*P. maritima*). In the latter, the flowering stalks have occasional teeth, while both stalks and flower heads themselves are longer and thinner than in the other two species.

Common Valarian (*Valeriana officinalis*) is in full bloom too, not to be confused with Red Valarian (*Kentranthus ruber*) – one of the oldest medicinal plants used as a sedative. Also in full bloom is Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), the large umbeliferous flower heads of which normally abound with a wide range of insects. However, due to the late spring the appearance of insects in general has been much delayed and as a result at the time of writing Hogweed is almost entirely devoid thereof. This inconsiderate performance of the insects is also responsible for the fact that the moth trap in the garden has so far been completely wasting its time, glowing brightly and sending out its tempting perfume – all to no

avail. However, the more recent warmer weather has had the desired effect in some quarters. The common lizard, being a cold-blooded reptile, is usually tempted out to sun itself, this being the only means of raising its temperature. As a result, a recent walk along the board-walk at Drumburgh Moss Nature Reserve provided the sighting of six. Typically, and despite slow and gentle walking, each one was gone in a flash, leaving no chance for photography! On the subject of animals, a little progress has been made in the garden. As has been mentioned before, a little study of animal tracks and traces can be most helpful as a guide to just exactly what is around, especially after dark. It has been obvious for some time that one or more hedgehogs are on the premises, although none have been seen. Once again, the trail camera was brought in to play and sure enough the accompanying picture confirms that our prickly friend is indeed around. He/she has now been pictured a number of times so is either in residence or is frequently passing through. Although a suitably positioned hog house has long been provided, there is no sign yet of tenancy.

Rarities are always of interest and it is worthy of note that an unusual bird is or has been recently in the area. There has been a sighting of an uncommon starling, variously known as the Rosey, Roseate or Rose Coloured Starling. Not actually classed as rare, but certainly very uncommon here and more often associated with the east coast and especially the north east coast of Scotland. It has a black hood, wings and tail, with a dusky pink back and breast.

Reverting to the subject of insects, as you probably know, the Butterfly Conservation Organisation carries out a Big Butterfly Count each year and the fortunes of individual species between years is extraordinary. For example, while between 2019 and 2020, at one extreme the number of Holly Blues increased by 48%, the number of Painted Ladies fell by 99%. The overall picture of 19 species recorded was a reduction of 34%. What next, I wonder? Good hunting!
Alan Gane.

Penny's Piece

While we are still trying to do our bit to help our butterflies and bees, there are some insects which do not seem to be in any danger of falling numbers and one of those is ants. The garden path is alive with them, which is fine. I just wish they would shimmy up the rose bushes and have at the masses of aphids that have suddenly appeared. I have nothing against ants, provided they stay outside. As someone said on Reddit: Dear ant, if there was anything worth eating in my kitchen, I'd be eating it. My uncle on the other hand had an unfortunate incident with ants as a toddler and has never forgotten. Having popped over to visit and joined us for a lolly in the garden, I lead the group back towards the yard, my uncle at the rear of the train. There seemed to a strange tap-dance sound from the rear of the line. When I went back to see what was happening, there was my uncle- old enough to know better- trying to stamp on as many ants as possible. I kind of understand, as I am sure a tup, jumping a gate and landing on me in a pushchair and taking my thumbnail off, is one of the main reasons why I've never liked sheep. That and the fact they are clearly telepathic as their ability to do the opposite of what you want them to is uncanny. There are currently a plethora of farming related programmes on tv: Our Yorkshire Farm, This Farming Life and good old Countryfile to name but a few. Recently we discovered a new series on Amazon Prime.

Clarkson's Farm. Yes, that is Jeremy Clarkson, he formerly of Top Gear. At the back end of 2019 the man running his 1000-acre farm in the Cotswolds said he was retiring, so Clarkson is doing it himself. To give him credit, from the outset he admits he hasn't got a clue what he is doing. This becomes clear when he goes to buy a tractor and gets the most enormous Lamborghini. I doubt it would fit through the narrows at Lorton and definitely won't fit through most gateways round here. It barely fit through his gateways. It didn't have the right hitches etc on the back and all the instructions were in German. Help came from a practical young farmer called Kaleb who so far has been refreshing in his ability to shout at Clarkson and tell him exactly how useless he is. When Jeremy failed to follow instructions about how to drill the seed, poor Kaleb was apoplectic, mainly because the disaster would be seen by the whole community as it was right next to the main road. I can't wait for the next episode when he buys some sheep! Like everyone else, I am doing the staycation this year. Off to Scotland so I need to get some serious midge repellent. I have already bought yet another air mattress, so I will be on 3 like the princess and the pea. I need all the help I can get as I don't have the padding for sleeping on the ground for more than a couple of nights. Enjoy your summer. Stay safe. Penny.

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>



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LORTON NOTES

Oh well, it was good to hope. And the prospect of all restrictions being abolished on June 21 did provide material for the June Notes. We are now told that freedom day is July 19 and there does appear to be a greater degree of certainty about this date. I must admit, I find it all very frustrating as I believe that the vaccination level and the prevalence of covid in our neighbourhood are such that the threat is very low and locally all restrictions could safely be lifted. We are governed by the restrictions which the government feels are necessary in those parts of the country where the threat is greatest. I think it's a pity local variations cannot be applied.

When restrictions are finally lifted I hope that folk are eager to return to how they behaved before this pandemic struck. Clearly, the virus will still be around and no vaccine offers one hundred percent protection, but it must be accepted as one

of the dangers of living, such as road accidents. I do hope we shall welcome back to St. Cuthbert's those we haven't seen for a year or more.

I am wondering whether we can hope for larger congregations during the holiday period. In past years we have welcomed those who holidayed nearby, but some of our regulars, including myself, took holidays abroad. As going abroad is still far from straightforward the number of regulars might not fall. We shall see.

As I mentioned last month, we do have a predominance of green altar frontals at this time of year, but come along on 25 to witness a red frontal as we celebrate St. James, who was done to death by Herod.

Roger Peck



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Many readers of The Link will have been very sorry to hear of Anne's passing less than a month before her ninety sixth birthday. She and her husband, David, came to live in Loweswater in the early 1960s and their five children grew up here. For many of us it will be strange to think of the valley without her.

Born and brought up in Norfolk, though at school in Ambleside, Anne came of a line of doctors and clergyman, and this was reflected in her own profession and deep attachment to the Church. As a doctor in West Cumbria, when claims of the family allowed, she worked in Family Planning; and as a member of the St Bartholomew's congregation she was a churchwarden, along with Joe Milburn, in whom the parish could have total confidence. Additionally, along with a small team of happy volunteers, she kept The Link going for many years. They met each month in Anne's house to put it together, encouraged by the excellent soup and cheese she always provided. She also frequently hosted small parish groups meeting for study or meditation.

One or two people have kindly furnished me with what Pat Williams has called "fragments of memory". Pat herself recalls "going a couple of times with Anne to Iona, walking along the shore, counting the various birds around us, appreciating the simplicity and stillness of this thin place". She also recalls going with Anne on a short study course at Ely Cathedral, meeting Esther de Waal, and talking about Celtic prayers. And she speaks of Anne's "amazing calmness and strength" after the tragic death of two grandsons. Michael Braithwaite and Margaret Jenkinson both testify to the immense support that Anne was to them in their Loweswater ministries, and Margaret recalls how Anne's home was always open house - "you never knew how many people - and dogs - you would find there". My daughter, Rowena, was never turned away when she wanted to use the photocopier at Anne's house and coffee and chat would almost always follow, when Anne would show how interested she was in the younger generation. I myself recall how dear and helpful Anne was to my mother in law in her long widowhood.

She was a very special person, a great reader, rich in knowledge and interests, friendly and sociable to a marked degree. She had a deep attachment to her native Norfolk and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, especially the tiny Isle of Muck, where there were family connections and she loved to take an annual family holiday. Above all, she had a deep Christian faith and spirituality. As a Fransiscan Companion she followed a rule of life, which included providing a fortnight's hospitality to one of the brothers every year. Twice a week she joined Margaret Jenkinson in church to say the daily Office.

To be in church on Sunday for Holy Communion was essential to her, even when at the end it meant using a wheel chair. She needed no prayer book for the services or hymn book for many of the hymns, and when she read Lessons in church, as she loved to do, she did so with the utmost care. It is sad that so many people were prevented by Covid from attending her funeral service. She was entirely responsible for its content, and to those fortunate enough to be present she spoke through it to help us with our own faith and life.

To Anne's large and wonderful family, whom she loved, whose rock she was, who loved her in return and cared for her so well when she needed them, we send our deepest condolences. And we give thanks for the memories of Anne which will remain fresh and precious for a very long time to come.

R.H.W. (Bob Watkins)

LORTON VALE GARDENING CLUB

Hurrah - the Gardening Club is back in business!

I know that everyone has been enjoying their own gardens, but it will be lovely to meet up with fellow Gardening Club members - we've missed you! Members will be notified by email, but here's a reminder....

First is the social on 7th July (details in an email from Fiona Lambrick) - don't forget the 6 o'clock start. Bring your picnic, chair, glass and spare plants. Wine and soft drinks provided. If it's pouring with rain and blowing a gale, I should stay at home! On July 22nd we go to Gayle Sike in Wasdale, and on 24th August, it's Hazel Cottage. Both of these gardens we've been to before, but not for quite a while. It's going to be interesting to see how they have developed since we were last there. On 17th September, it's the coach trip to Harrogate Flower Show, which this year is at Newby Hall, near Ripon. This is fully booked and to confirm your place, you need to send a cheque for £33 made out to Lorton Vale Gardening Club to our Treasurer, Sheila Mills, at Scales Farm, High Lorton, CA13 9UA, or you can pay by bank transfer. If you would like to go on the waiting list, email Fiona Lambrick at fionalambrick@btinternet.com. Happy summer outings!

Loweswater Ladies July/August 2021

Dear Loweswater Ladies,

At long last I think we should be able to have our meeting on the 8th September. Hopefully Covid restrictions will be either lifted or less than they are now by September.

I am suggesting that we have one of our sit-down suppers in the big hall where there is more space. If everyone could bring a dish of either savoury or sweet for the buffet, we could enjoy a lovely evening of chatter and catching-up. It would be really great to be able to meet everyone again.

So put the date on the calendar for Wednesday, September 8th at 7pm.

Regards, Alison Greer.

KEEP FIT

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07918882175

To book a place

Val Bell

KEEP FIT

I am pleased to announce that our Keep Fit sessions have started up again at Loweswater Village Hall. Please bring your own mats and weights. Hand sanitisers will be available at the entrance and social distancing measures will be in place.

If you are interested please contact me to book a place
Any questions please contact me on 07918882175. Hope to see you there. Val

Anne Style 1925- 2021)

She looked a bit reprimanding, a bit suspicious, when I first caught sight of Anne. She was going in and out of the church door, sideways, looking over her shoulder each time, as if about to come and tell us off, if we did not desist doing something clearly undesirable, if not naughty. It was 1986 and we had just moved into Grasmoor House in Loweswater. Margaret and I had taken Flora, our youngest, aged 14, to the churchyard as she had to do a drawing of a church for some art project. She sat on the wall beside the little gate, her sketch book in hand, concentrating really hard, for most of the day. Me and Margaret went off round the church yard, exclaiming at all the grave stones, shouting to each other reading out the names, thinking about their lives, leaving Flora to finish her project. Anne looked as if she might be a church warden, someone with some authority, who was clearly not pleased with us making a noise and Flora sitting on the church wall.

Strange how first impressions can be so wrong. Over the next thirty odd years we got to know her as one of the warmest, kindest, most lovely women I have ever met, always interested in other people, always amused, never ever criticising or scolding. I think at the time she was still living in a cottage at Mockerkin. It was another year before she moved into Loweswater proper at Muncaster House - right next to us, our neighbour across the field. When we first moved in, the house was being done up, having been bought by Michael and Sheila Thomson. They had decided to move out of Scale Hill, then still being run as a proper hotel, giving them a break from living over the shop. Then they moved back and Anne bought the house. I think Anne said it had in fact been bought for the family by her son Christopher, a London solicitor, later a QC, as if she were embarrassed to live in such a grand, handsome house all on her own.

Anne was a retired family planning and community doctor, and had worked for some time at West Cumberland hospital at Hensinghame - her no nonsense attitude, able and willing to discuss or listen to people's personal problems, had clearly helped her in her work.

We got to know all her four children- three of whom lived locally. Eleanor was still married to our Cockermouth GP, when we first arrived, then later married to the Vicar of Loweswater, David Ella. Then Clair who was married to an Admiral – with the cleanest, most polished shoes I have ever seen. Then another son Peter who was a carpenter and archaeologist and Michael, boss of a media firm in Manchester. There were loads of grandchildren, the house always bursting with family and visitors. Anne herself had been long widowed. Her husband had died in a car crash.

At Christmas time a strange, avuncular, other-worldly gentleman used to stay with every year. He turned out to be a Franciscan monk, Brother Nathaniel, to whom she provided a holiday each year as he had no family and nowhere else to go.

Our neighbour on the other side, Joan White, widow of the one time and greatly loved Loweswater vicar, Geoffrey White, always seemed a teeny bit jealous of Anne's popularity in the Valley. "Oh she always has visitors, always loads of cars outside, no point popping in.." One of the reasons for all the cars was that Anne was a focal point for many clubs and church activities in the Valley. For many years, the Link was produced in her front room- almost taking over the house with all the old fashioned printing and stencilling machines.

She had loads of grandchildren, and we followed their progress, triumphs and disasters, as she followed ours. Anne was particularly fascinated by one of our granddaughters, Ruby, who for a time was very naughty. She got expelled from school for swearing at the teachers, having a bottle of vodka under her desk, just the usual sixth form stuff- which Anne found hysterical and she could not hear enough of Ruby's exploits. When Ruby visited, she always had to pop over the field to see Anne. For years Anne sent Ruby birthday cards.

The wedding of one of her many talented, attractive grandchildren Alice took place in a huge marquee, erected in the large field opposite. She had just started as a teacher, after leaving Cambridge, and was getting married to a handsome young flaxen haired man, Chris, also a local teacher. He looked like someone out of Chariots of Fire.

We were not invited, curses, as it was all family, but I managed to walk past several times and stuck my snotty nose through the fence - to see the groom and best man and almost all the guests staggering across the field from the direction of Melbreak, all sweating and knackered. One of the events at the wedding had been a fell race for all the guests.

I thought it was so wonderful, so original, to have a fell race at a wedding.

After we sold up, five years ago, when my wife died, Anne always reported on how her grave stone was in the church. And I always went to see her when I visited Loweswater.

I never heard her moan as she got less active. When she could no longer walk up the stairs, and her daughters insisted on a stair lift, she thought it was such fun, a hoot, and wanted to show it off, go on have a go.

I don't think I ever heard her say a bad word about anyone or ever complained about her lot. She was so alert, inquisitive, outgoing. I wanted her to do her memoirs, as she had some fascinating family albums, but I think she ever did write them.

All communities, rural and urban, all churches and villages and streets, need an Anne Style - someone with a heart, empathy, intelligence and a commitment to other people.

Hunter Davies

Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st June 2021

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Obituary.

John Robson Tyson, - of 'Oakhill' High Lorton, - 1941 – 2021.

Born on the 25th February 1941 at Rising Sun Cottages High Lorton, to John (Jack), and Frances Tyson. Doctor Abraham travelled to Lorton through thick snow on this morning to help deliver John.

His father Jack was from a Keswick and Caldbeck farming family, his mother Frances was from a farming family from Allerby near Crosby. They rented various cottages or rooms in Lorton, before settling and renting number 1 Tenters cottage, and later buying number 1 and number 2 cottages.

John grew up in the village and attended Lorton School, with friends such as William Hall from Scales, and Raymond Marston from Gilbrea Farm where he helped out. John also worked with the Wallace family at Shatton Hall Farm.

There was always an abundance of brown trout to be caught with fishing rod and worms from the dub behind Tenters cottage number 1 in those days, it was literally fish from river to frying pan within minutes, with salt, vinegar and bread and butter for tea.

School homework was done by gas lamp until electricity was connected up the Tenters Lane some years later.

John met Anne (1943 – 2012) at Cockermouth Grammar School, who enjoyed playing sports of all kinds. Both very good tennis players, along with Anne excelling at Athletics and Netball. They both represented their County later on in tennis mixed doubles.

Leaving Grammar School, John joined Loughborough College, to study Woodwork and Mathematics, along with Teacher Training. John worked in the North East for a couple of years as a Maths Teacher, but decided that profession wasn't for him. He moved home to Lorton and started working for Matthew Brown Brewery in Workington, before joining the big Whitehaven chemical surfactants company Albright and Wilson - (Marchon), as Sales Manager.

A career in the chemical surfactants industry progressed, travelling extensively throughout Europe, whilst farming part time. In 1972 an offer came about to work in Holland, where the family moved to for 5 years, before returning to Blindcrake for a short while, and then moving to Oakhill in the summer of 1981.

Part- time farming and working full time continued, spending sometimes several weeks at a time in Europe. John was fluent in around 4 or 5 different European languages, and it was quite a sight and sound seeing him when we got up in the early morning, sitting in the living room at Oakhill in his pyjamas, on the telephone speaking Dutch or German finalising a business deal for work.

The farming business grew, with the purchase of Boon Beck Farm land in 1990. This including some surrounding fields in Lorton and Boon Beck Farm enclosed fell.

Around 1000 fell ewes were grazed on a combination of Swinside open common (Buttermere Detached common), Boon Beck Farm Fell, Hobcarton Gill, and Hobcarton End, along with 20 – 30 suckler cows in the village.

John led a colourful and full life, he always attended the Shepherd's meets, and Cockermouth auction in his white socks up to his knees, and leather shepherd's boots. Boxing day was always a highlight of the year, usually ending up in the Wheatsheaf pub in Lorton, or the Royal Oak in Braithwaite, participating in hunting songs, or reciting a piece of poetry he had written.

Anne sadly passed away in 2012, but John continued to travel to York to stay and visit friends, along with visiting Jan his daughter in Framlingham Suffolk.

He had a keen interest in modern classic cars, and always had a collection parked up the drive way at Oakhill, alongside his agricultural machinery.

John passed away on the 4th June 2021 peacefully at Oakhill, and is survived by his daughter Jan, his sons, Mark, Karl and Rob, and seven grandchildren.

Mark.J.Tyson, June 2021.

ECO CHURCH/ECO COMMUNITY UPDATE

Our Climate Sunday Service in June proved to be very popular and I believe will become an annual event. We ended the service with the blessing and a hymn outdoors enjoying the beauty of the churchyard - speaking of which our wild flower meadow and bog garden are both thriving. The retiring collection from the service raised £35.00 for Cumbria Action for Sustainability.

With the delay to COVID restrictions we feel we need to delay the idea of a Parish walk until September - suggested date is Saturday the 18th. The idea is to walk the distance from Lorton to Glasgow (125 miles) in support of COP26. The route is yet to be finalised but will be a low level walk around Lorton and the surrounding area of about 10 miles. So even my low level of mental arithmetic means we need a minimum of 12 or 13 people. If you are interested please contact Rosemary using the details found elsewhere in The Link.

The other main activity over the last week or so has been to calculate the carbon footprint of the church. With a relatively small usage the footprint is low, but we are still able to offset it with certain recommended charities. The summary is given on the next page, but if you would like to contribute to the offsetting then please let Rosemary know which charity and how much. The choices are:

<https://www.climatestewards.org/projects/uganda-biosand-water-filters/>

<https://www.climatestewards.org/projects/peru-improved-cookstoves/>

<https://www.climatestewards.org/projects/nepal-smokeless-metal-stoves/>

<https://www.climatestewards.org/projects/uganda-trees/>

<https://www.climatestewards.org/projects/kenya-trees/>

<https://www.climatestewards.org/projects/mexico-trees/>

<https://www.climatestewards.org/projects/ghana-school-clubs/>



St Cuthberts's Carbon Footprint Summary

For the period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

Date: 18/06/21

Category	Emissions	Offset Cost
Energy	3.03 tCO ₂	£60.56
Travel	845 kgCO ₂	£16.90
Food	256 kgCO ₂	£5.12
Expenditure	707 kgCO ₂	£14.14
Waste	104 kgCO ₂	£2.08
Total	4.94 tCO₂	£98.80

Offsetting your organisation's carbon footprint is an optional "next step" that will help your organisation become net zero in its carbon emissions.

YEW TREE HALL A.G.M.

Registered charity No. 223947

The Hall
15/07/21
7.30pm

All Welcome

Melbreak Swifts update – eyes on the skies!

We're delighted with the response to the project so far! Thanks to the enthusiasm and quick response of local residents we've distributed 24 swift boxes to 13 sites across the Melbreak communities of Buttermere, Loweswater, and Lorton and a site at Dovenby! Since Tanya and Edmund Hoare's 'Our Disappearing Swifts – what can we do to help?' talk in late April this year, Melbreak Swifts has been galvanised into action by a very kind donation of £500, by an anonymous donor. This has allowed us to buy materials to make boxes and purchase 5 swift call devices (which apparently increase the take up of swifts at nest sites by 3 times).

Jackson Hope from Loweswater and Dave Moore from High Lorton, kindly donated their time and use of machinery for free, allowing us to place 3 swift boxes at the Yew Tree Hall in Lorton (see pics below). Swifts like to nest in small colonies, so as swifts had nested here previously, we hope to increase numbers here.





As I write swifts are still in search of nest sites, so its not too late to place boxes, however, its more likely that with the help of a swift call device, swifts will take up residence of boxes in future years.

So looking ahead we're working with Rosemary Riley and the Eco-Church project to see if we can place bespoke swift boxes in the belfry at St. Cuthbert's Church, Lorton this autumn ready for next year. If funds allow we'd also like to install a camera so that we can live stream activities, allowing us to share an insight into the lives of the incredible birds with the local community.

As swifts like to nest high up, often in inaccessible places, we'd like to hire equipment to access these sites, for next year. If you are interested in placing nest boxes and need help, or wish to purchase a swift box or would simply like to be involved with the project, please get in touch.

I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to Glenis Postlethwaite and family for their swift (!) production line of boxes. I'd also like to thank everyone who has kindly donated, or has taken swift boxes, or have simply kept their 'eyes on the skies' to report swifts sightings. Here's hoping swifts have a successful breeding year, so that they can continue their centuries old tradition of returning to the skies of Lorton Vale every summer.

Thanks folks! Tanya St. Pierre, High Lorton

Melbreak Swifts is a Melbreak Communities Project

For more information visit our webpage:

<https://melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com/activities/melbreak-swifts/> or contact

Tanya: 07816 475486 tanyaestp@gmail.com

AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors are an interesting sub-species of the genus diplomat. After experience of two of the species during our first overseas posting, Julian decided that they came in two versions, tall thin sardonic and short fat jovial – I'm not sure that this proved always to be the case, but it's not far off. Usefully, for the purposes of this article, our four overseas postings (defining the Irish Sea as not a sea in this context, which may be a political statement) each required different qualities in its head of mission. (Rosemary has pointed out that I need to admit that the ambassador in the second two below, though not either of the first two, was actually me.)

Japan is a top job. Unlike some other ambassadorial posts at that level – France, Germany, the US – it's not a place which most British politicians think they know something about. So the incumbent needs to have a good deal of rather specialised knowledge, usually including proficiency in the language (though one whom we served under spoke not a word but had unrivalled access to top Japanese by virtue of being a scratch golfer). He, or she, must speak with authority on matters of high international importance, political and economic, both locally and in reporting to London. The Residence entertains a constant flow of high-level visitors, and the senior (male) Residence flunkeys are impressively garbed in sweeping black traditional robes, which enhances the effect. Much of the detailed office-work can safely be left to the numerous and well-qualified juniors among the UK-based diplomatic staff; as one of them, I wrote many analyses of aspects of the local scene for the ambassador of the day to sign off as a 'despatch' after adding the odd stylistic quirk or authoritative generalisation. (Formal despatches from ambassadors in that period, distinct from the common run of daily reporting, were still treated with some reverence in Whitehall, often printed and circulated to a wide and influential readership.)

Cyprus is different in almost every way. The head of mission is called High Commissioner not Ambassador as Cyprus is in the Commonwealth. Politics is all-important, because of the inter-communal tension between Greeks and Turks and the history of conflict; economic issues, even trade, hardly figure. There is a major British interest of two kinds – the presence of two British 'sovereign base areas' (SBAs) where the British flag flies and the majority population is British servicemen, and Britain's status as one of Cyprus's 'guarantor powers' since its independence in 1960, with Greece and Turkey. The High Commissioner therefore has regular and important dealings with the heads of the two warring communities, with the UN Special Representative, and with the senior officers in the SBAs. His staff is pretty small, though consular questions are also important, and most of the high-level burdens fall on him ('he' taken as denoting person of any gender). Not a top post in any sense, but a sensitive and sometimes a highly-visible one in Whitehall terms.

Israel is quite similar, but if anything more sensitive and more visible. An additional dimension to the ambassador's job is the importance of the Jewish community in the UK, embracing many who are influential politicians, financiers, businessmen, artists, you name it; they tend to expect, and get, personal attention when they have a concern. But they do recognise that he or she may not always have time spare from involvement in local or Middle Eastern political business. And this can be of the highest importance and at the top level, for example when a message needs to be got swiftly from one government to the other in the middle of hostilities affecting Israel such as the Gulf Wars. But even in Israel conflict is not always live, and there is the usual range of social activity to cultivate those who matter locally, in all spheres – politics, bureaucracy, military, commercial, artistic. In Israel this is perhaps especially fascinating because of the high intellectual level and the combative approach of most of one's interlocutors. Arguments are constant, and often enjoyed by both parties.

Norway is more conventional and perhaps more typical of Embassy work. There are formal occasions when one wears a black tie (dinner jacket) or even white-tie-and-tails. Happily the formality is not extreme, nothing of the Paris sort where you have to live up to high fashion expectations, but there is still a good deal of speechifying. There is trade promotion, with high-level business missions to be dined and introduced to the right people. The oil and gas sector is important because of the North Sea, and fisheries. There is plenty of travel, as Norway is one of the few countries where we still have honorary consulates in all corners of the country who need occasional visiting; and even an occasional trip to far-flung Norwegian territories such as Svalbard (Spitzbergen) and Jan Mayen in mid-Atlantic. Defence matters are important, and Norway offers usefully challenging terrain for training British troops and NATO exercises in general. There are church connections, with an Anglican presence in communion with the local Lutherans (we even had an Embassy chaplain, by long tradition). In all of these, and also happily in local pastimes such as cross-country skiing and outdoor activity generally, the Ambassador and his other half are expected to participate.

Every embassy is different. In most, as in Norway, just being a British presence, available and hospitable, is what matters. But there are excitements, and hardships, too. We were lucky to have many more of the former than the latter

Mark Elliott

Delhi to Kathmandu by bicycle with a sketchpad

After Badrinath we headed for the town of Almora, it was a tough climb to get there, but really worth it. Almora was a lovely town on a ridge with fantastic views of the surrounding countryside. Also it was the festival of Dusserha and there was a real carnival atmosphere going on, crowds of people towing huge papermache ogre like statues, people flying kites, people on huge swings and for the vegans reading this look away now, animal sacrifices! There was lots of music, people walking along playing instruments, dancing and singing. It was an all male event, the women were watching from the windows of the surrounding houses.

Some of the procession saw us and invited us to dance along with them, it was really good fun but eventually we decided to stop and turned to walk off but the crowd were having none of that and dragged us back into the melee, we then realised that everyone was intoxicated with something and the atmosphere was getting very tense, after a few attempts we managed to extricate our selves and viewed the proceedings from a safe distance. The festivities went on into the night and when it was dark they burnt all the papermache effigies. It was a real lesson not to get involved in large events like this in India as we didn't know what was going on.



JULY

- 8 Thu Lorton History Society Lecture 'Bastardy in Cumbria Before 18434' by Dr Alan Crosby on Zoom at 7.30 pm
- 15 Thu Villages of Yorkshire's Heritage Coastline, Arts Society Cumbria on Zoom, 11 am contact: theartsocietycumbria@gmail.com
- 15 Thu YTH AGM, 7.30p.m., YTH

SEPT

- 10 Thu Loweswater Ladies sit down supper, 7p.m LVH
- 18 Sat Lorton Parish Walk

Lorton &

Derwent Fells Local History Society

Brackenthwaite Buttermere Embleton Loweswater Mockerkin Pardshaw Wythop

www.derwentfells.com

Bastardy in Cumbria before 1834:

explorations in social and economic history

by Dr Alan Crosby

using Zoom on Thursday 8 July 2021, at 7.30pm

Dr Crosby is one of Britain's best-known local historians and since 2001 he has been editor of *The Local Historian*.

His talk will examine the moral, social and financial issues surrounding bastardy (illegitimacy) generally before the New Poor Law was introduced in 1834. He then uses examples drawn particularly from West Cumbria to look at how the authorities tried to deal with the question, the abundant documentation which was produced, and the significance of the local cultural context of illegitimacy. How it was perceived and represented by the wider community?

Society Members are invited to 'attend' the above Talk from the comfort of their own homes, delivered using 'Zoom'.

There is no need to register for this talk, because a link will be emailed to all members for whom we have an email address, a few days before the talk. New members are welcome, see www.derwentfells.com



From ***Swearing a Child*** by William Hogarth.

By a statute of 1732, an unmarried woman found pregnant was required to name the father under oath. So that he might be arrested and imprisoned awaiting the birth, unless he can indemnify the parish against the cost of child support.

The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

Church Services July & August 2021

July 2021

4th July	5th Sunday after Trinity		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater	CW
11th July	6th Sunday after Trinity		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton	CW
18th July	7th Sunday after Trinity		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater	CW
25th July	8th Sunday after Trinity		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton	CW

August 2021

1st August	9th Sunday after Trinity		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater	CW
8th August	10th Sunday after Trinity		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton	CW
15th August	The Blessed Virgin Mary		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater	CW
22nd August	12th Sunday after Trinity		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton	CW
29th August	13th Sunday after Trinity		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater	CW

Deadline for Sept is Fri 20th August all articles, photos, funny stories to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you