

FEBRUARY 2022



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

Letter from the Editor

Dear Link readers,

A very warm welcome to the 2022 February edition of The Link. I hope you all managed to see families and friends over the festive season and feel able to view 2022 with some optimism. I also hope that those who attended enjoyed the Light up Lorton event held just before Christmas. I understand that the bucket collection on the day made £153.00 for the Jigsaw Hospice charity and the Grand Christmas raffle in aid of church funds made a £404.00 profit. Many thanks for your support.

We do seem to have more events planned for the coming months including two coffee mornings - the first on the 5th February - as well as a full Film Night season.

If you took part in (or gave up on) the Brain of Benefice quiz the answers can be found on page 17 and included with this edition is the flyer to enrol in the 100 Club. Our Eco Church/Eco Community update this month covers the results from the Environmental Lifestyle Audit and the Lakeland limerick makes a welcome return this month.

Sadly we have 2 obituaries this month, one for Mike Kyle, a well known farmer from Buttermere and the other for Elizabeth Birkett who lived in Lorton for many years. Thanks to Roger Hiley and Frank Shipman for contributing these.

I would like to ask you all to send in your subscription for the 2022 Link ASAP - details can be found on page 23.

Rosemary
07885 360353

A BIG THANKS to all those who bought my Loweswatercam Calendar this year
I have been able to donate £650 to Mountain Rescue / Air Ambulance.
Check out the detail @ http://www.loweswatercam.co.uk/2022_Calendar_Results.htm

Roger Hiley

Our cover picture this month is of Sheep Safely Grazing in High Leys meadow in front of Grasmore. by Roger Hiley



Vicar's Letter

An agenda for change

A few weeks ago, the media reported the death of the Bahamian-American actor, film director, and diplomat Sidney Poitier at the venerable age of 94. Poitier was one of the last major stars from the Golden Age of Hollywood cinema. Maybe you remember him in films such as *To Sir, with Love*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, and *In the Heat of the Night*. Recently they are being screened again in his honour. Poitier won multiple awards during his career, including a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Poitier was a talented actor but his more important legacy is the part he played in advancing racial equality. For this Queen Elizabeth granted him a knighthood and President Barack Obama bestowed on him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour in the United States. Before the Civil Rights Movement, African Americans were routinely subject to racial segregation, discrimination, and disenfranchisement. There were few African Americans in mainstream cinema, and they mostly appeared in supporting roles that were easy to cut out in certain parts of the country. Poitier broke the mould. He was the first actor to star in mainstream Hollywood movies that depicted a Black man in a non-stereotypical fashion. He was the first Black actor to win an Academy Award, paving

the way for others. *Vanity Fair* even hailed him as the 'Martin Luther King Jr. of the movies'.

Unhappily, though, the advances made by Poitier and others have not succeeded in eradicating racial prejudice from our world. The international social movement Black Lives Matter was formed in the United States as recently as 2013 to combat racism and anti-Black violence, especially in the form of police brutality. Racism exists in many more subtle forms too, including within Churches of all denominations. Did you know that last year the Archbishops of the Church of England set up a Racial Justice Commission? The purpose of the Commission is 'to set out a compelling agenda for change, in careful gospel-driven discernment, balancing the needs of individuals, communities, and society, maximising opportunities, and ensuring fairness for all.' These are goals that every person of goodwill can get behind and every Christian should actively support.

Please pray for General Synod as it receives a first report from the Commission in just over two weeks' time and for the important work of the Commission as it unfolds over the next few years.

Jane Charman

Grasmoor Mission Community Leader

**LORTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
DECEMBER 2021 & JANUARY 2022**



Well, here we are again. A New Year and a new start. Or is it? We ended 2021 on a high note with our Christmas Party in the Yew Tree Hall. It looked as though we were returning to normal, we had all had our boosters and felt confident that the worst was behind us.

There were eleven members – Lateral Flow Tested and socially distanced. We drank Prosecco and ate delicious finger-food which members had provided, at beautifully decorated tables which also had a Secret Santa in every place setting. We shared crackers and jokes. Ann P sang and played, Judith provided a Bingo game which some “Bingo Virgins” found a challenge and others found hilarious, Kris read a poem, Pam gave a little piece about Cumbrian dialect and the High Lorton Carol Singers sang to us. The craic flowed and it was lovely to be together again without benefit of screens.

However, over Christmas Omicron took hold, several villagers succumbed, although thankfully not too badly and we decided to return to Zoom for our January meeting on the 11th. Barbara Robinson, who is managing the vaccine rollout at Castlegate surgery, was meant to be our speaker. However, because of pressure of work and a work related Zoom she unexpectedly had to do on that evening, we asked her to postpone her talk until February. We

therefore had a “Do it Ourselves” evening on screen.

Nine of us tuned in. Kris played a short video as a background to the singing of Jerusalem, Ann R read a poem by local poet Linda Hughes about New Year Resolutions, Gill read two poems by Pam Ayres – one about choosing masks, the other about dusting – Christine read from an 1874 guide book about a walk in Loweswater which showed nothing much has changed in the valley since then, Liz read a parody on Dr Seuss and Kris read a story, with the launch of the James Webb telescope as a starting point, by Kevin Hughes. Finally, we discussed some possible ideas for the Queen’s 70th Jubilee celebrations in June. Once again, we managed, despite the odds, to have an enjoyable evening, entertaining ourselves and sharing friendship and fun. We hope the next meeting will be in the Yew Tree Hall on February 8th at 7.15. We also hope that Barbara will be able to join us to give her talk, which promises to be timely and interesting. If we must, however, we will return to Zoom. All will be welcome in the Hall if available – LF Tested of course or if necessary on Zoom (ask a member for the link). Happy 2022 and stay Linked!

Lorton School Link

Each month pupils from years 4-6 will use this column to report on life at Lorton School.



“The half term leading up to Christmas was very busy at Lorton School!

We had lots of chances to be active! We were learning hockey in P.E. and some of us went to a hockey tournament at Cockermouth School, where we were happy to win some matches! We also did a Skip 2 B Fit challenge, where we had to do as many skips as we could in two minutes.

We did lots of fun Christmas activities too! Reception and Year One did a nativity play with a twist – it was about Humph the Camel – with years Two and Three helping singing. Our class sang Silent Night in German to our parents on the playground.

Our class was lucky enough to go to see a performance of Tom’s Midnight Garden at the Theatre by the Lake in Keswick. Reception and Years One, Two and Three watched an online pantomime in the Yew Tree Hall. This was topped off by a delicious Christmas lunch.

We also had an amazing FOLS Christmas Fair, set up by students and parents. It included things to buy, things to eat and drink and things to win. Thank you to everyone who came along to support us!

Evie Youngman, Year 6



**Cheryl's Cakes Is now making delicious
homecooked meals.**

We offer ;

Steak in Red Wine Sauce £12

Chicken in White Wine Sauce £10

Lasagna £10

Cottage Pie £10

All portions serve two people.

Creamy Mash can also be purchased with these generous, homecooked delicious meals for an additional cost of £2

Please contact Cheryl on 07432142744



Lorton School 10K. Fundraising Road Race

Saturday 12th March 2022 at 11.00am

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

**Details and entry forms via Facebook
Lorton School 10K 2022**



Hedgehogs

why we should worry - and what we can do

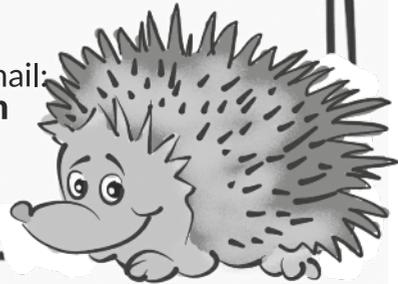
A talk via Zoom
by **Hugh Warwick**
Thursday 24th February at 7.00pm

Join The Melbreak Communities for a live zoom presentation by Hugh Warwick, the UK's leading expert in hedgehog ecology and behaviour.

Hugh has studied hedgehogs for over 30 years, and is spokesperson for the hedgehog Preservation Society, appearing regularly in the media talking about wildlife and the environment. Hugh lives in Oxford with his wife and two children.

Hugh is author of *A prickly Affair*, *The Beauty in the Beast*, *Hedgehog* and more recently *Linescapes*, a book about remapping and reconnecting Britain's fragmented wildlife.

For a link to join the meeting email:
carolynmarydavis@gmail.com



Penny's Piece

Well, I have got to the end of the Xmas cheese and thanks to the new fridge I can see that there are no unidentified blobs left at the back. Suppose I have to thank Storm Arwen for that. You see, the fact that a new fridge was needed in the first place was all Storm Arwen's fault. Our end, Mockerkin, Lamplugh and through to Branthwaite lost power on the Friday. Some got full power back on Saturday. We got half power, for the next 4 days. This meant only 150- 175 volts of power. Most lights worked- not the energy saving bulbs though. But anything producing heat didn't work or did but very slowly. The fridge freezer did not like this as it couldn't decide which part to divert the power to. The result was that when full power came back the freezer worked, the fridge did not. Luckily the best travelled fridge in Cumbria was called into use again. I think originally it came from the Grange, it has been up and down to Stoke twice and lived in two different addresses there and only came back up in October. Added to that the small freezer which my housemate from London left me for my final year in York, which came up here, has also been to Stoke twice and back and you have some well travelled and very useful 'white goods'. I feel I need to get them some location stickers like you see on desert landrovers and some people's luggage. Can't imagine a sticker for Stoke being very exciting though.

Having hosted Xmas, I am still trying to find where I stashed some my stuff in order to find/ muck out the spare room. Ordinarily the spare room is my office and place where stuff

gets dumped (some of the items were- 'oh thanks, that's lovely' presents from previous birthdays and Xmases that you hate and will never use but don't know what to do with them as the people who bought it are the sort to look for it when they come round. Any ideas?). This was no mean feat. Some things went in the bin, some in vacuum bags, some out into the byre! However, having bought them in 2007, I did finally put up the correct curtains in there. I found them at the bottom of a pile of 'just in case/ might be useful' crap that went in the bin. Now I need to find which vacuum bag the matching cushions went into.

Having finished a working week with sore feet and feeling the inside of my boot, it was apparent new boots were needed. Found a great pair in the sale that managed not to make my huge feet look too much like flippers so I bought them. They have zips on both sides and two sets of buckles on the outside. It wasn't until I walking down the corridor that I realised I sounded as though I was headed to the OK Corral. Then I sat down, crossed my ankles and was working with my colleague on some planning. I went to stand up and couldn't. The zips and buckles on the outside had hooked into each other, locking my legs together. It took two of us a minute or so get me free. Good job my legs are long so we were able to maintain distance. Watch out for inanimate objects ganging up on you. Penny.



Specialising in Conservation Ecology

Hay Meadow Restoration – Botanical Surveys and Monitoring – Soil Testing - Plug Plants and Planting – Green Hay Seeding – Hedgelaying – Hedge and Tree Planting
Habitat Management – Nestbox Schemes

Tel: 01768722208 Email: wildlakeland@gmail.com

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @WildLakeland

www.wildlakeland.com



DÉCOR & DESIGN

Kate Pritchard

Quality Decorating and Interior Design
Bespoke Painted Kitchens and Furniture

Tel: 07989 773708

decoranddesign.kp@gmail.com

Find us on 

PRECISION TREE SERVICES

Based in the Lake District

07730276279

- Certified & Insured
- Tree Felling
- Pruning
- Hedge Cutting
- On-site Firewood Processing



**John Fitzpatrick
PAINTER & DECORATOR**

- Over 30 years local experience
- Domestic and commercial work undertaken
- Internal and external jobs
- Competitive no obligation quotes available
- Friendly, reliable and professional service

Please contact for more information:

Tel: 07702 596638 / 01900 379652

johnfitzpatrickdecorating@yahoo.com

LORTON NOTES

I have been looking at my notes for last February and see that they started with "Here we go again". I can't help feeling that would not be an inappropriate start for these Notes. After months of steady progress against covid things have gone backwards since the emergence of the omicron variant. Attendance at the Carol Service was disappointing and it was thought advisable to cancel the Christingle Service. I do hope, however that covid does not rule our lives for evermore. It is not going to go away and it does definitely appear that the symptoms of omicron are in most cases less severe. I think this is an example of risk and reward. Life is to be lived and I intend living what little of it I have left.

As a consequence Ann and I are off to Tenerife on 7 January and these notes are

being written somewhat earlier than usual. Any important Church news will be as a postscript or found elsewhere. All the Sundays in February are in the Ordinary Time of Sundays before Lent, the short period between the celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany and the penitence of Lent. The moods change quickly.

I love living in the Lake District but I think all would agree it is not at its best in January, hence our escape to Tenerife. When we return we shall be welcomed by the snowdrops. What a difference they make and how well they bloom in Lorton Vale. They are my favourite flower, not because of the attractiveness of each individual bloom, but because of the void they would leave if we didn't have them.

Roger Peck.



Physiotherapy direct to your home,
holiday retreat or workplace.
Virtual appointments also available.

Contact Emma on 07595 672 188

www.fellsidephysiotherapy.co.uk

   @fellsidephysio


Fellside
PHYSIOTHERAPY

PRIVATE • BUSINESS • EVENTS

hosted by
THE YEW TREE HALL COMMITTEE

COFFEE MORNING

£3.00

SATURDAY 5th FEBRUARY
YEW TREE HALL
10.30AM to 12 NOON

'hopefully this marks
the return of regular
Coffee Mornings
at the Yew Tree Hall'

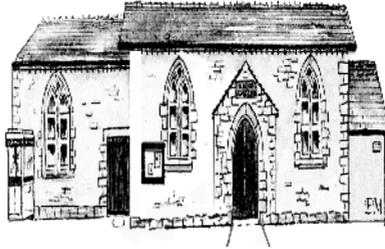


'EMERGING FROM THE GLOOM''



**(Please wear a mask entering
and leaving the hall. Thank you)**

Ullock Village Hall



In Association with *Arts out West*

Bulley & MacKenzie

Friday 25 February at 7.30pm

Scottish Acoustic Folk Duo, ***Adam Bulley & Chas Mackenzie*** have become one of the most highly rated duos in the country. Together they deliver an energetic array of acoustic music styles, weaving effortlessly between Bluegrass, Gypsy Jazz, Folk and Pop with harmony-led songs alongside driving and fiery instrumental virtuosity.

Tickets: Adult: £10, under 18: £5, Family of 4: £25

BYO Drinks

Please call 01946 862300 or 861458

Join: [facebook.com/ullockvh](https://www.facebook.com/ullockvh)



S MCADAM GARDEN SERVICE

Independent business offering a quality gardening service in and around Cockermouth, Lorton Vale and Keswick

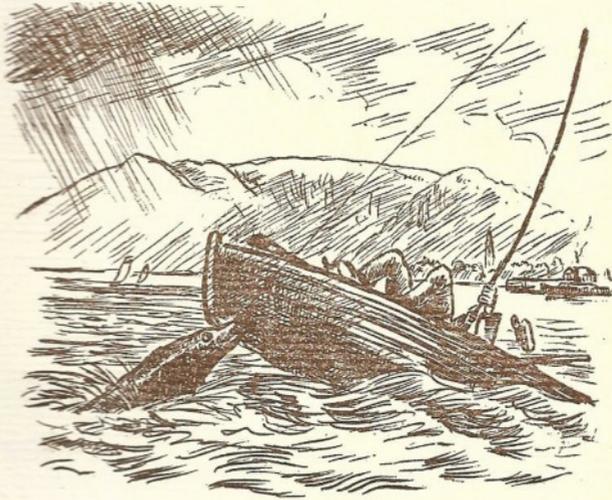
Grass Cutting – Lawn Care – Turf – Artificial Grass - Fencing – Landscaping – Hedge Cutting – Pruning - Planting

Tel/Whatsapp: 07864860720

Email: mcadamgardenservices@gmail.com

Facebook: S McAdam Garden Services

A LAKELAND LIMERICK



A cockney in KESWICK on hike
Took a boat and went fishing for pike,
As he said with a smile,
"I 'ooked such a whaile
I nearly fell into the Like."

Page Nineteen

Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st December 2021

1st prize of £25 No 92 Sue Ritchie
2nd prize of £10 No 72 Nancy Fearon
3rd prize of £5 No 97 Barbara Robinson

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st January 2022

1st prize of £25 No 50 Loes van Cappellen
2nd prize of £10 No 75 Kathryn Mitchell
3rd prize of £5 No 51 Christine Walmsley

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.



Lakes Wood Fuel

Suppliers of high quality firewood in handy nets, as well as larger quantities.

Hardwood • Softwood • Kindling
Briquettes • Smokeless coal • Charcoal



All wood has a moisture content below 20% ensuring quick and easy lighting, and maximum heat output.



Free delivery
on orders over £40
within the Keswick and
Cockermouth area.



 Order online: lakes-woodfuel.co.uk  info@lakes-woodfuel.co.uk

 Call Chris & Rachael Edmunds: **01900 85119**

LORTON VALE GARDENING CLUB



Alas, the Gardening Club winter party went the way of so many Lorton functions. We felt that we had to cancel, in view of the covid situation. As you know, Gardening Club parties are rowdy, jolly, busy affairs, and to make it covid safe, most of the fun would have had to be leached out.

We did manage to get our December compost meeting in though - Patrick Leonard, the master composter, tee shirt to prove it, gave us a lively talk and Q and A session. The Master Composter scheme is sponsored by the local councils - apparently, the green waste bin collection is costly and, well, wasteful. As a volunteer on the scheme, Patrick undertakes to do 30 hours per year, spreading the word, encouraging us to set up our own garden composting systems. Why? Only about half the waste collected in the council green bins can be recycled for compost - the rest goes to landfill. Recycling our own garden and kitchen waste is one of the best things we can do to mitigate climate change. It's a great soil improver, inhibiting weeds, and helping to retain moisture. And destroying peat bogs (releasing CO2) is a stupid, indulgent, short term thing to do. No one should be using peat compost in their gardens. Your compost heap will be working away all through this winter period, all those mini beasts doing their thing. Aim for a balance of green and brown, nitrogen and potassium, wet and dry. Make a lasagna of layers, each about 3 inches thick. To aerate the heap, try to turn it regularly. You can compost most things - even teabags are starting to be made plastic free, though you need to check. Yes, onion skins, yes, rhubarb, yes, egg shells, and yes, pee on your heap if your anatomy allows. Rake up leaves and water them, bag them or make a heap, although they do take a while to break down. Wood ash - brilliant - your currant bushes will love it, but put it on a little at a time. Rats? Use one of the green Johannas from www.greatgreensystems.com, sponsored by the local councils. These bins have tight fitting lids and rats can't get in. I must say that putting compost on the garden is one of the most satisfying of garden jobs - the feeling that you are nourishing your plants and setting them up for the future. And it's all free!

Covid permitting, our next talk will be on TUESDAY 15th FEB at 2.00 pm in the Yew Tree Hall, when Robert Jackson from Papcastle will speak on "Streptocarpus", or should that be "Streptocarpus"? Note that this is an afternoon meeting. Visitors welcome.



ANGELA PRICE
BASI PILATES INSTRUCTOR

☎ 07867 051 387
✉ angela@mipilates.co.uk
📘 [facebook.com/mipilatescumbria](https://www.facebook.com/mipilatescumbria)
www.mipilates.co.uk

Pilates mat work classes (taught in local village halls by a highly qualified Pilates instructor) tailored to suit all ages and abilities. Pvt 1:1 and 1:2 Pilates also available.

Strengthen • Tone • Stretch



join us for a

Coffee and Cakes

event at the

**Yew Tree Hall, Lorton
on Saturday 5th March**

(Subject to the Covid - 19 situation and relevant health regulations).

Further details in next month's Link
and on noticeboards.



The Melbreak Communities
Penny Poole Tel: 01900 85722

Brain of the Benefice 2021

Tools for Yule

22 correct entries and 1 booby. A few folk couldn't put down their **pHONES** rather than **pROBE** for their aprons! The Church Warden pulled Adam Baker from up at Rogerscale out of the hat first, second was Mark Elliot of High Lorton, third was Pauline Harkness of Great Broughton and the booby prize went to Sarah Champion from Bassenthwaite. For those who couldn't remember what some tools were for, their proper functions were:-

The neighbours **WHO OVER**look us, are poor and being a bit **diM OWE** Rather a lot to us. As I **reCALL I PERSON**ally am owed a bit for a **sMALL ET**ching she bought from me, **whiCH I SEL**dom remember and am fairly **relAX**ed about. Their roof has a **tHATCH ET**ernally slipping off. She is not very fond of her husband. He tends to do the cooking and is rather fat. She **sPOKE** Rather loudly saying "Tha**T APE MEASU**res at least 50 inches round the waist. At least his hair **iS TRIM MER**cifully, standing there all got **uP ROBE**d in my best apron. I tried to help, holding hi**S PAN NER**vously in my hands. He goes **aCROSS CUTS A W**odge of bacon which he **boILS TO NEX**t to nothing. It wa**S AW**ful. And ho**W HIS** Kitchen smells by the time he has done? Wa**S I EVE**r so glad to leave him to it!"

Her hus**BANDS A** Wily rascal pretending to run an ice-cream business. In fact it is a real **sHAM MER**ely a scam. With nowhere in particular to **dRIVE To** he and hi**S CREW DRIVE** Round in a ca**B LADE**n with ice cream which hides the real load of drugs. It was hard to find a ca**B ROOMY** enough to fit him. The ice-cream melts and **dRIPS AWAY** as the ra**SCAL PEL**ts along, the mo**TOR CH**urns away and the ca**B RUSH**es on with him b**LATHER**ing away until, not **gRASP**ing the wheel firmly enough, he **bRAKE**s suddenly to avoid a rabbit and the soft mess flowed over him down to hi**S TRAINERS** which are his usual **sHOES**. Never mind, he thought, "my sup**PLIER** Sent enough to replace this lot."

(ed. Perhaps I should have replaced this lot too! By the way I keep getting bitten by midges. Does anyone know what might sto**P ITCH FOR** Keeps? Anyway I do hope your Christmas is up to scratch!)

Loweswater Ladies December 2021/January 2022

Our December meeting felt very festive right from the start. The tables had been set out and beautifully decorated by Karen for our buffet supper. This set the scene for a most enjoyable Christmas gathering. The tables were soon laden with food as members added to the buffet as they arrived. Our guest for the evening, Jennifer West, got the evening underway with a wreath making demonstration. Jennifer made it all seem remarkably easy, tying bunches of conifers, baubles and bows to a wire frame to remarkable effect. I am sure many of the group will have been inspired to have a go at home, although I expect it proved to be harder than it looked on the night. The wonderful Christmas wreath Jennifer created was the raffle prize.

Presentations were made before the buffet to our outgoing Treasurer Pam Walker for her sterling service over the years and to Alison Greer who had unexpectedly announced that she was leaving the area in the New Year. Alison has presided over the group for more than 20 years and has been an excellent Chairperson. She will be greatly missed by all not only for her marvellous oversight of the group (running meetings of 20 + chattering women can sometimes be a bit like herding cats!) but also for the friendship and support she has given to so many of us over the years. We wish her well in her new home in Ilkley.

Pam's resignation, the sad death in December 2020 of our Vice Chair and Press Secretary Ann Hiley and Alison's departure have created vacancies within the group's organising team. The group confirmed that the positions of Treasurer and Press Secretary, would be filled by Lyn Furniss and myself respectively.

Our January meeting was cancelled because of concern over the rising numbers of Covid 19 infections in the county. This sadly deprived us of the opportunity of saying goodbye to Alison and of addressing the issue of her replacement.

We look forward to getting the new year under way in February, with a new team guiding the group through many more years of interesting talks, demonstrations and convivial company. New members are most welcome. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 9th February at 7.15pm in LVH. Annual subscriptions are now due.

Doreen Robertson

turbance, labor, or affectation; easily.
 quiet; repose; facility: *v.t.* to free **Easy Street** (strēt), a position of
 from pain, anxiety, or trouble: give financial comfort. [Colloq.]

rest
 sel
 trip
 black
 sem
 gives
 comm
 right
 st (ē
 when
 of tl
 paste
 ing fr
 a ch
 adv.
 st (ē
 part
 ster
 Chris
 the
 adj.
 sterl
 movi
 the d
 sterr
 ward
 ster
 ster
 Orth
 ster
 part
 which
 Cons
 ster
 he te
 nterr
 posse
 outh
 ation
 states
 ster
 eside
 Jni
 tir
 rse
 ive
 tw
 n t
 ast
 y.
 asi
 e fr
 bus

p.pr.
 as
 ode;
 take
 ch)],
 i to
 uous
 the
 .
p.p.
 ing],
 ersa-
 arge
 atu-
 the
 flow
 the
 Mo-
 dan
 , or
 were
 g to
 : va-
 lack
 dur-
 mies
 f, or
 the
 ion;
 u.]
 act
 lden
 icial
 ards
 two
 two
 ch.]
 he
 it

LORTON LITTLE LIBRARY



ST CUTHBERTS CHURCH NOW OPEN EVERY DAY

**Over 500 books !
 Come and find a book.
 Read it - Keep it
 Pass it on - Or return it**

Books to donate ? Call Polly 01900 85196





CUMBERLAND STOVE SERVICES

- Stove and Fireplace Installation
- Flue Lining
- Chimney Sweeping
- Stove Maintenance and Repair
- FREE NO OBLIGATION SURVEY AND ESTIMATE

Email: enquiries@cumberlandstoveservices.co.uk
 Tel: 01900 268737 Mob: 07702112406



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

Recent relaxations in Covid rules have provided encouragement in relation to normalising our church services. We continue to follow the Church of England guidelines.

We celebrated the traditional Carol service of 9 lessons and carols at St.Bartholomew's this year. We are grateful to Sue and her choir for the lovely Christmas music and their efforts throughout the year in difficult circumstances. We had a large congregation on Christmas morning with many visitors of all ages; a lovely service. An innovation this year has been to celebrate Holy Communion on Christmas Eve at Buttermere. A huge thank you to everyone who provided the flowers and decorated the churches so beautifully.

The Church Wardens of our 3 churches met with Revd. Jane Charman to discuss future patterns of services for this year. We had a constructive meeting the results of which will be published once the changes have

been ratified by Lorton PCC at their next meeting. One change to be implemented in February is that the fortnightly service at Buttermere will revert to the second and fourth Sundays, Holy Communion alternating with Evensong.

We were sad to learn of the death of Joan Milburn in December so soon after the death of Joe. They had moved to Holmewood following deteriorating health after having lived in Watching Howe for over 50 years. Joan was a keen singer and member of the Cockermouth Harmonics for many years. We extend our sympathies to all the family.

Eleanor Ella

From St.Bartholomew's Register

Burial

21st January - Patricia Joan Milburn

Poppy Appeal November 2021

Thank you very much to everyone who donated so generously to the British Legion Poppy Appeal last November. The Loweswater door to door collection raised £257.82.

Joan Warren

ECO CHURCH/ECO COMMUNITY UPDATE

As promised, this month we are giving you a summary of the results from the Environmental Lifestyle Audit questionnaire that was sent out in the December/January Link. The first thing to say is that only 4% (that's 13 out of 350) of you actually returned the survey which is a very disappointing result and doesn't say much about the commitment of the community to environmental issues. Having said that - it certainly made consolidating the results an easy process.

On the plus side almost all of the respondents said that they limited their waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, re-use, recycle, and over 50% of respondents have renewable home electricity, try to have a healthier diet and try to purchase ethically. A number of you try to reduce your car usage and also walk to local events. Almost half of respondents also participate in community events such as litter picking.

On the negative side the majority of respondents had not completed a personal carbon footprint audit. Using a website such as the World Wildlife Fund - <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk> - this is a really easy thing to do and can give you all sorts of ideas to decrease your impact on the environment. Once you've completed the survey click on 'view full results' to access the tips for improvement, then try and implement a few of them. Hopefully we can hold another Eco Church/Eco Community event in 2022 when we will encourage everyone to complete a carbon footprint audit.

Quite a few respondents found the presentations we've held in the past useful so we hope to have more of those during 2022, and quite a number of you made use of the recycling area so we will look at ways we can improve and expand that. Take a look at what one Church has achieved - from recycling Plastic pet food packets; Toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes; through to Pens, markers, highlighters, Tippex; Biscuit, cake and cracker wrappers Beauty/personal care packaging; and much more besides.



Slightly beyond us perhaps, but there is definitely more we can do. If anyone fancies becoming the Eco Church/Eco Community recycling champion please let us know.

We received quite a few general comments as part of the survey and they will be summarised next month.



FILM NIGHT

At Yew Tree Hall
Lorton

Spring Season

15 March- **The Father**

26 April - **The French Dispatch**

24 May - **The Reason I Jump**

21 June - **Mothering Sunday**

Licensed Bar

Doors open 7pm

Enquiries- Eleanor 07497 618364



LINK SUBSCRIPTIONS 2022 NOW DUE

If you wish to continue with the Link this year (10 issues) , please note that the rate for postal subscribers is still £12 pa. and £5 for the copies the distributors deliver.

Please use the envelope provided to send your subscription to the treasurer, David Walmsley, The Old Police House, High Lorton, Cockermouth. CA13 9UL; or give it to your distributor. Please write your name on the envelope and pay in cash or by cheque payable to 'The Benefice Link Account'

For electronic payments to our Cumberland BS account then the account name is The Benefice Link Account, sort code 16-52-21, account no. 54167346, please identify the payment with your surname.

Thank You.

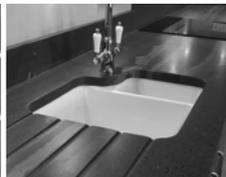
Lakeland Slate Co.

Working with world famous
'Westmorland Green Slate'

Suppliers of:

**Memorials • Worktops • Hearths
Nameplates • Homeware • Walling Stone
Quoins • Lintols • Sills**

**Unit 5, High Hill, Keswick • Shop, 9 Lake Road, Keswick
Tel: 017687 74695/75834 • Mob: 07950 642 298
www.lakelandslate.com info@lakelandslate.com**





Diary dates - everyone welcome...

24/2/22 - Live zoom on Hedgehogs see poster enc

5/3/22 - Melbreak Communities own Coffee and Cakes in the Yew Tree Hall - see poster enc

April - date to be confirmed - presentation on Bats and our new wildlife-friendly village street lights Yew Tree Hall

8/5/22 - 2pm Walk at Armaside Farm - rearing grass fed beef on herbal leys

Please check our website for more details

<https://melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com/>

and our facebook page



Loweswater 77 Club

A belated Happy New Year to all, and the good news is that at the time of writing it looks as though 2022 will be a more normal year for the Club. We had a successful Christmas party, and as The Link went to press preparations were well advanced for our Burns supper. But until further notice COVID precautions remain in place. Everyone at 77 Club events should be fully vaccinated and have tested negative within the previous 24 hours.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22 February at 7.30pm in Loweswater Village Hall. We will hear a talk from volunteers of West Lakes Squirrel Initiative on their work of protecting red squirrels in our area.

Dates for your diary. Thursday 24 March. Rob Lucas will talk on his ascent of K2. Tuesday April 26. Lunch at Hunday Manor. Keith Richardson to speak.

John Hudson

The Passing of Mike Kyle

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of yet another "character of the valley" with the death of Mike Kyle after a long illness. He passed away peacefully this week with Ann and his family by his side.

Mike was born in Whitehaven in 1936 and moved to Buttermere in 1958 when his family bought the Syke Farm. He kept a mixed farm but his great passions was always the Ayrshire dairy cattle. The herd is much reduced in recent years but their milk, once delivered throughout the valley, is now used to produce the famous Buttermere ice cream on sale at the farm cafe.

His hobby, away from work, was vintage Riley cars and I remember the pride he showed when he introduced me to one in the yard many years back, soon after I moved to the valley. The hobby has been passed on to his son Les and grandson Alistair who both also enjoy the wonderful nature of these old vehicles.

He died Monday 17th, and his funeral will be held in Lorton Church on the 7th February, the time yet to be confirmed. Rest in peace Mike.

Roger Hiley

DASHING HOUNDS
MOBILE DOG GROOMING



WE COME TO YOU!
Contact **Zoe** on **07436053993**

A campaign has been launched recently to restore the UK's temperate rainforests, the few remaining examples of which are to be found along the western side of the country, where at one time there were many more. This area has the most suitable conditions in the country, being relatively warm and wet.

Rainforests are typically densely wooded, thickly carpeted in greenery, consisting of a lush mixture of mosses, ferns, liverworts, lichens and occasionally epiphytes. Unlike parasitic plants, although epiphytes grow on trees, they rely on their hosts purely for support and not for nutrition. These woodlands are different to all others and are especially important from the point of view of biodiversity, so much so that the government has recently made a grant of £30 million towards their restoration.

From the point of view of the walker, my experience in both Devon and Cumbria has taught me that walking through rainforests, especially on hillsides, can be quite difficult. The ground is often strewn with slippery moss-covered rocks, and obscured by ferns - terrain in which it is very easy to slip or stumble.

Which reminds me that once again the Cumbria Mountain Rescue Teams have broken all records for the number of call-outs in a year, namely 680 in 2021. While no experienced fell-walker would deny that the activity has its dangers and that any walker may be unfortunate enough to have an accident, a great many of the call-outs are due to people being unprepared, either in terms of equipment or planning. Lack of suitable footwear, clothing or map, for example is far too common. I was once coming down Whiteside towards Crummock Water when a walker passed me at a fast pace. I caught up with him a few minutes later, standing still and looking rather worried. He said to me "that IS Derwentwater down there, isn't it?" which just goes to show how disorientated some folk can get! Having put him right, he began wearily retracing his steps up Whiteside!

However, to return to the subject of woodland, you may be surprised to know that the Woodland

Trust has recently reported that UK Woodland has more than doubled in extent in the last 100 years, but unfortunately only 7% is considered to be in good condition, and woodland wildlife is decreasing. Current threats include, loss for development, pollution, extensive browsing by deer and invasive non-native tree species. A series of recommendations has been drawn up for retaining woodland diversity, increasing scientific monitoring of woodland and protecting existing woods and trees.

Although it is still very early in the year, we are all beginning to look forward to Spring and Summer and hoping for some improvements on the conditions of last year. Last Spring was both cold and wet – in fact very cold and very wet. There was twice the average rainfall in May and the average temperature was down by 2 degrees centigrade. From the point of view of wildlife, such a combination can be disastrous in many ways. Both emergence from hibernation and breeding were severely affected and numbers of many species were greatly reduced as a result. For example, amphibians often failed to spawn in the Spring, and in some cases spawned in late Summer instead, which meant facing the hazards of Winter before reaching maturity. Similarly, many broods of birds suffered from lack of food as the caterpillars on which the young depend failed to develop at the appropriate period, a failure of coincidence which is often brought about by global warming these days too. We have had two unusual bird sightings recently. First, two grey herons having quite a fierce argument, attacking each other with those very sharp bills, something we have never seen before. Second, a very smart quartet of redshanks, standing smartly to attention at the water's edge, showing off to great effect those brilliant red legs from which they get their name! Happy New Year and good hunting.

Alan Gane.

DIARY DATES

FEB

- 5 Sat Coffee Morning, 10.30, YTH
- 8 Tue WI meeting, 7.15, YTH
- 9 Wed Loweswater Ladies, 7.15pm in LVH
- 15 Tue Lorton Vale Gardening Club talk, 2p.m, YTH
- 22 Tue 77 Club Talk from West Cumbria Squirrel Initiative 7.30pm LVH
- 24 Thu Hedgehog talk by Hugh Warwick Zoom 7pm
- 25 Fri AOW show Bulley & MacKenzie at 7.30pm

MAR

- 1 Tue Buttermere Parish Council meeting 19.30 Old School Room
- 2 Wed Lorton Parish Council meeting 19.30 YTH
- 3 Thu Loweswater Parish council meeting 19.30 LVH
- 5 Sat Coffee & Cakes, 10.30, YTH
- 12 Sat Lorton School 10k run, 11.00
- 15 Tue Film Night, 7p.m, YTH

Please note that Indoor Bowling takes place every Monday in YTH from 7-9p.m, with Table Tennis in the same venue every Wednesday from 7-9p.m apart from when there is a Parish Council Meeting, when Table Tennis will be on the Tuesday. There are Keep Fit sessions in LVH every Monday 9.30-10.30a.m and every Friday 5.30-6.30p.m. These will not be listed every month in Diary Dates but can be found on the Melbreak Communities diary page - <https://melbreakcommunities.wordpress.com/diary-of-events/local-events/>

I am **Elizabeth Birkett's** son in law.

Elizabeth sadly passed away last Thursday at the age of 97.

She lived for many years in Mountain View, High Lorton and was an irregular attendee at St. Cuthberts. Villagers may remember her from her regular walks around the village.

She has been away from the village for the last few years being cared for by her daughter Elizabeth in Buckinghamshire but her interest in Lorton remained to the end.

Some details:-

Elizabeth Birkett

Lived Mountain View for many years.

Used to be Rising Sun pub many years ago

Born 23-12 - 1924

Died 6 - 1 - 2022

Thank you, Best wishes, Frank Shipman

The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

Church Services February 2022

6th February	4th Sunday before Lent		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater	CW
13th February	3rd Sunday before Lent		
10.30am	Matins	Lorton	BCP
3.00pm	Holy Communion	Buttermere	CW
20th February	2nd Sunday before Lent		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater	CW
27th February	Sunday next before Lent		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton	CW
3.00pm	Evensong	Buttermere	BCP

NSPCC

The carol singing went ahead in Loweswater, Lorton and Buttermere in very kind weather! Thanks to all the singers, the listeners and those who brought drinks and bites outside to sustain everyone!

The magnificent sum of £1,132 was sent to NSPCC headquarters, plus £490 from the sale of jams and pickles. A huge thank you to you all for enabling us to support such a worthy charity.

Like many of you I'm sure, I have been busy making marmalade and I now have some ready for sale – do let me know if I can tempt any of you with a pot!

Best wishes for 2022

Ann Hayton

For those of you who not receive the Grasmoor Mission Community Information Sheet by email - it can now be found here - www.grasmoormc.church/communications
If anyone would like the Information Sheet sent directly to their inbox please email Charlotte Bampton on gmccomms@grasmoormc.church with your request

Deadline for March is Friday 18th February, all articles, photos, funny stories to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you