

APRIL 2022



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

Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

With the clocks going forward at the end of March, with lambs appearing in our fields and following a period of balmy weather it really does feel as though 'Spring is sprung'. I have seedlings in the greenhouse and my daffodils are in full bloom.

We have a wide range of articles this month as well as our regular contributors. The Lorton W.I celebrated their centenary last month and have included memories from a member about their early years. There is a strong environmental theme this month with news from the Eco Church/Eco Community project about the Grasmoor Mission Community Spring Gathering Day with the theme of attaining Net Zero. There is a poster about a reading group specialising in climate change, a reminder about the talk about environmentally friendly street lighting in Lorton and a public meeting about a green energy scheme. There is also a piece about a new poetry trail, a poster for a farm walk and a notice publicising the Dean Scarecrow Trail. We also have a couple of thank you notices - one from Christian Aid and the other about the most recent coffee and cakes and the money raised for the Ukraine Appeal. The Lent Lunch held in the YTH Hall in March also donated the takings to the Ukraine Appeal.

Hanneke van Schelven from Low Lorton has suggested the setting up of a support group to explore how the Lorton Community can offer support to refugees from Ukraine. See her article on page 20 to understand why she was prompted to do this. There will be an Open Meeting to consider the range of options and resources available in Lorton on the 9th April at 12:30 after Coffee and Cakes at Yew Tree Hall. See the poster on page 21.

Sadly we have news of 5 deaths of past and present Lorton residents. A reader of the Link alerted us to the death of Michael Waller who lived for many years at Whinfell Hall - you can find a short piece about him on page 27. Debbie George has notified us of the interment of her mother's ashes later this month - see page 18. Mike Suckling died towards the end of March and Roger Peck talks about his numerous roles in the village in his Lorton Notes - a full obituary will appear in the May Link. Mary Graham from Rogerscale died recently and her funeral was held at Loweswater Church - see the St Bartholomew's and St James's Notes for more about this. Marion Burton passed away on 1st March at Poole in Dorset aged 92 and a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving is being held at St Cuthbert's on Saturday 2nd April at 2p.m.

Rosemary
07885 360353

P.S You will read in Penny's piece about a duvet dispute - take my advice and revert to good old sheets and blankets!

Our cover picture this month is taken by the Editor's niece, Kate Hallam. Kate came to stay for a few days last month and took this lovely view of Loweswater from the little bench on the Terrace

VICAR'S LETTER



Vicar's Letter

He is risen indeed!

In my previous ministry in the diocese of Salisbury I and my family would go every year to the cathedral for the Easter Day Dawn Eucharist at 5 am. It was a very dramatic and memorable occasion. We would gather in darkness outside the West door of the Cathedral, a huge bonfire would be kindled, the bishop would light the Easter candle from it, and we would all light our individual candles from the big candle. Then we would troop into the cathedral still in darkness, and during the singing of the Exsultet or Easter hymn of praise the organ would thunder, bells would ring, all the lights would be turned on and people would greet each other with these words: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Both my daughters were confirmed at this service as teenagers. By then they had grasped the meaning of this unusual annual event, but my fondest memory is of the first time we went to the service when they were very little children. How surprised they were to be taken out of their cosy beds in what seemed to them like the middle of the night, dressed in their warmest clothes and bundled into the car. 'Why are we doing this?' I remember one of them asking. And heard for probably the first time the gospel words of explanation: 'Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene

came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away ...'

Our world can be a very dark place. The memories of Covid will be with us for a long time and this year we are further saddened by news of the ongoing war and humanitarian crisis unfolding in Ukraine. Where can we look for meaning, purpose and consolation in our lives? 'I am the light of the world', says Jesus. 'Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' On Easter Day we will be giving thanks for our Lord's victory over sin and death and all the powers of darkness. May this Easter festival, when it comes, be a source of joy and blessing to you and yours, however you will be spending it.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill us with faith and hope,
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Jane Charman
Grasmoor Mission Community Leader

LORTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
MARCH 2022



100 years ago, in March 1922, Lorton W.I. was formed with a total of 40 members, including some from Loweswater and Buttermere who came by cycle. Our Motto was 'United We Stand'. On 9th March 2022 Lorton W.I. celebrated our 100th Birthday at a lunch at the Manor House restaurant in Cockermouth. 19 people were present, including guests from Cumbria-Cumberland Federation – Chairman Ilene Forsyth, and Penny Coulthard, a Trustee. Also, 6 attendees were past members who had left, 7 members sent apologies for absence, leaving 10 members attending (plus a visitor). Ann P had assembled a collection from the Archives including Record Books from 1922 onwards. At that first meeting, the competition was for an article made with materials costing no more than a shilling (5p) and a cup of tea cost 1 old penny, which was dropped once subs were collected. There were also photos of events with faces from the past which would be recognised by older members.

After grace, spoken by Kris, Federation Chairman Ilene congratulated us, then told us of a Federation Council meeting in past years where heated discussion of the word "Chairman" carried on for one and a half hours! Times have changed, and her advice was not to worry too much about details; as long as rules weren't broken, meetings could be tweaked to suit individual groups.

President Ann Roberts read out two greetings cards, one from the Federation and another from absent member Anne Baird. Agnes then led us in a robust rendition of Jerusalem, after which we settled to enjoy our lunch.

The meal provided by The Manor House was excellent. It was beautifully cooked and served by friendly, helpful staff. The Birthday cake (made by Village Baker Cheryl) was cut by President Ann and 'Happy Birthday to Us' was sung. After the meal there was chat and photos were taken, with help from the restaurant staff. We had time to examine the Archive collection before we dispersed after a thoroughly enjoyable celebration.

The Archive will be in our possession for another few weeks. If anyone would like to borrow it for a longer perusal, please contact Ann P.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th April. Rosemary Riley will be talking to us about the Lorton Eco Church. We will be visiting the Church and going back to the Yew Tree Hall for a presentation followed by supper. Carolyn will email us with information nearer the time. Ask a member if you are interested in attending this event. All would be welcome. Stay Linked!

On the following page there is an extract from an account of our early years by the late Maud Vickers, a long-serving stalwart of Lorton W.I.



The Lorton Women's Institute is one of the oldest in the Cumbria-Cumberland Federation.

The Lorton W.I. dates from 1922, when twelve members formed a committee, with President Mrs Burrows (Lorton Park), Vice President Mrs Stanley-Dodgson (Armaside), Treasurer Mrs Mitchell (Oakhill) and secretary Miss Moffat (Corner House). A total of 40 members joined, including some from Loweswater and Buttermere, who came by cycle and later in Miss Burns' car. This arrangement lasted until 1937, when Loweswater formed their own W.I.

The aim of the W.I. was to improve conditions for women in rural life. In the early years talks and demonstrations included hatching and rearing chickens, slipper-making (from rabbit fur), spinning and darning.

1924 seems to have been a memorable year, when Lorton won second prize, dressed as North American Indians in a pageant at Greystoke Castle. In September, Nurse Lawson gave a demonstration on bandaging and Ernest Conkey proved a good patient. Owing to an outbreak of smallpox a county meeting due to be held in Cockermouth had to be moved to Carlisle.

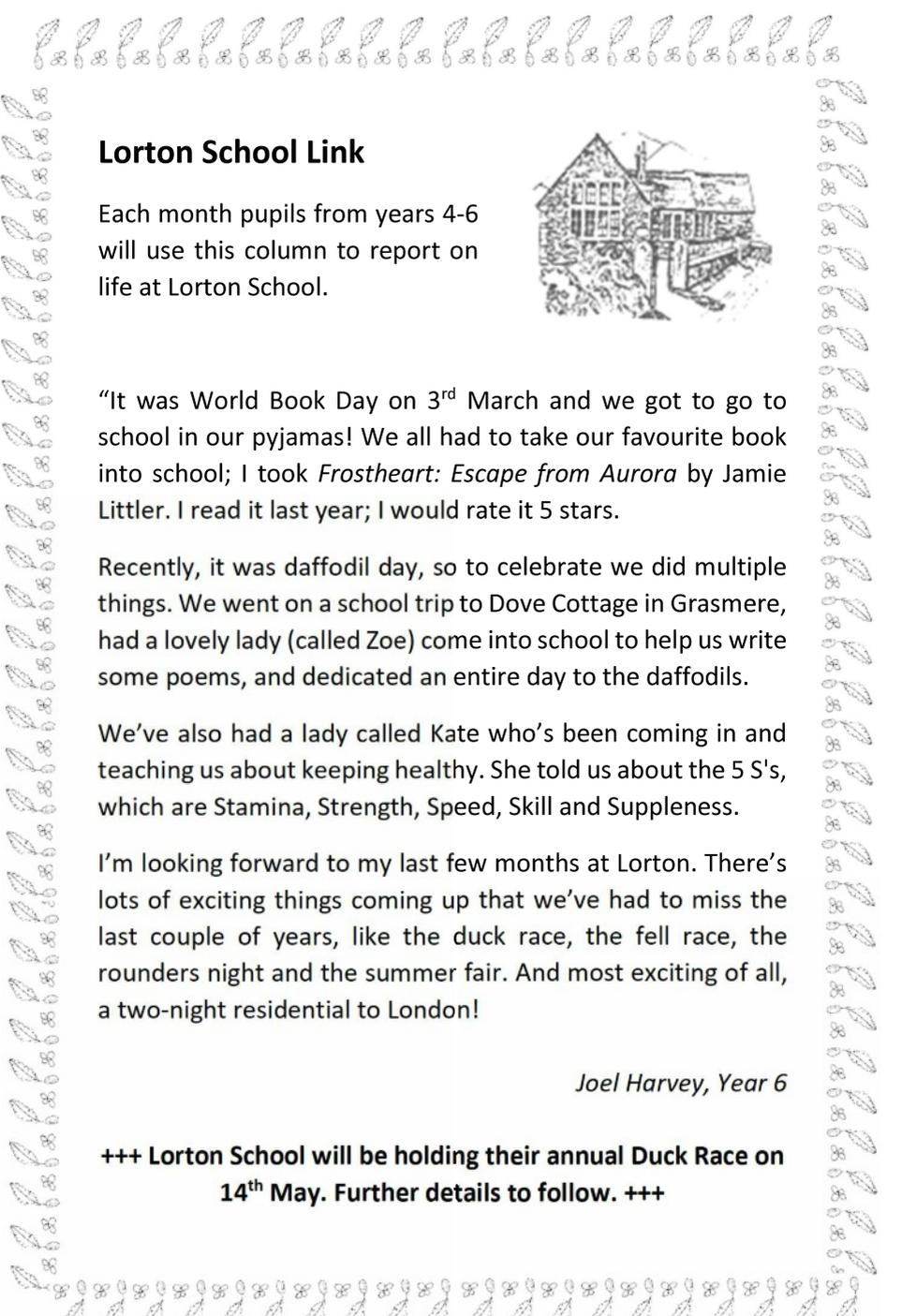
January 1931 was crisis month when the W.I. was in danger of collapsing as no one was prepared to be president. However, Mrs Burrows saved the day by saying she would try.

Wartime was busy with everyone working under petrol and lighting restrictions. A sewing party was organised to make garments for evacuees, soldiers, hospitals, etc. Khaki wool for forces socks and scarves, and white wool for children's hospital garments was bought. Within a month 150 garments had been given to evacuees and 98 sent to the Cockermouth depot.

W.I.s were invited to set up jam kitchens, which Lorton did in Lorton Hall; 4 cwt of sugar was applied for. A collection of sphagnum moss went ahead, dried in the vicarage loft and sent for field dressings. Other herbs were required, including foxgloves, nettles and rosehips. A request was received for rabbit skins for Russia."

Times have changed – most women now drive and many work outside the home; there are many clubs and activities in the village and Cockermouth; after a hard day at work women might prefer to stay in and relax by the television or go to an exercise class and people are reluctant to take on official duties in organisations such as the W.I. Maybe the W.I. in Lorton has run its course. But it would be a shame if the public service, friendship and fun enjoyed here were to come to an end in our 100th year.

Gill Scrivens



Lorton School Link

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



“It was World Book Day on 3rd March and we got to go to school in our pyjamas! We all had to take our favourite book into school; I took *Frostheart: Escape from Aurora* by Jamie Littler. I read it last year; I would rate it 5 stars.

Recently, it was daffodil day, so to celebrate we did multiple things. We went on a school trip to Dove Cottage in Grasmere, had a lovely lady (called Zoe) come into school to help us write some poems, and dedicated an entire day to the daffodils.

We’ve also had a lady called Kate who’s been coming in and teaching us about keeping healthy. She told us about the 5 S’s, which are Stamina, Strength, Speed, Skill and Suppleness.

I’m looking forward to my last few months at Lorton. There’s lots of exciting things coming up that we’ve had to miss the last couple of years, like the duck race, the fell race, the rounders night and the summer fair. And most exciting of all, a two-night residential to London!

Joel Harvey, Year 6

+++ Lorton School will be holding their annual Duck Race on 14th May. Further details to follow. +++

The Melbreak Communities
DARK SKIES
Initiative

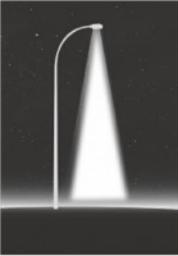


“Like a moth
to a light”



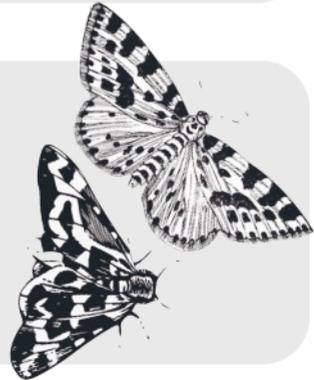
Tuesday 19th April
Yew Tree Hall at 7.30pm

Refreshments: A glass of wine and nibbles.



Steve Irlam will talk about the new environmentally friendly street lights in Lorton and their benefits in reducing light pollution, and improving habitats for wildlife.

Peter Macqueen, our local moth enthusiast, will speak about the life of moths, looking at the range of local moths and how reduced light pollution can help them.



Penny's Piece

Tomorrow will be 2 years since school closed for the first lockdown and (fingers very much crossed) my second negative lateral flow. Yep, nearly through 2 years and Covid got me- and around a fifth of school. Not a fun week off but I know it could have been much worse. Thankfully the sun at the end of the week has helped and being able to open all the windows and doors all day just makes you feel better.

Whilst awaiting the new series of Clarkson's Farm, I have discovered another little gem on the newly reinstated BBC 3: Fast and Farmerish. Basically, trying to do things very quickly on massive tractors. The straight forward drag race was a little predictable but the reverse bowling was great. Take 2 front tractor wheels bolted together on a short bar and use a frame on the back of the tractor to bowl it across the field onto a mown target. The field was a proper bumpy affair and one of the guys managed a magnificent curl into the 'house' off a hill. I would pay to see that, really clever. I can also think of several people within our readership who have the requisite tractor and would be pretty handy. Anyone fancy a go? We need someone with drone skills to film it from above too.

The Paralympic athletes wowed again. I have never understood why skiing is a good idea, so skiing when you can't even see where you're going seems crazy. From the younger competitors like Norwegian Jesper Pederson, to the outgoing Canadian champion Brian McKeever and the entire Austrian family, the Aigners, they all blew me away. Amazing. And that is without the fact that Ukraine came

second on the medal table in an impossible time.

We have solved the duvet issue. No, not by getting a single duvet each. All we have done is turned it sideways. This has meant the foot of duvet that usually hangs off the bottom now adds to width and therefore the weight hanging down the side. So, after a couple of months, there have been only a couple of draughty nights. I highly recommend giving it a go. It has also aided in avoiding the crushed feet feeling the duvet gave the right way round. Of course, now all we need to do is stop grumbling about who is getting the buttons/ poppers/ zip on their side. You can gather that it is me doing the grumbling as I get the fasteners. The justification is that when you stand anywhere in the room generally, you can't see the fasteners as my side is nearer the wall. Foiled again.

I love it when words get fumbled in amusing ways. Like my friend asking what a 'suffle' was on a menu- it was a soufflé. Giles and Mary on Gogglebox recently discussed a friend who didn't say mangetout but man-get-out, which is genius. So next time you are in Sainsbury's (other supermarkets are available) you have two options: either, smile when you see them on the shelf and say 'man-get-out' to yourself or have some fun and ask a member of staff where the man-get-out are. Do they have any more man-get-out? Have it written this way on your list. The whole thing will work even better if several people do it in one day. Sorry supermarket staff. Have fun everyone. Penny



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LORTON NOTES

I am experiencing a mild thrill as I settle down to write the April Notes. April is the most promising month of the year; winter is surely behind us, daffodils are in bloom, the white blackthorn flowers and the first foliage are appearing in the hedgerows. This year we also celebrate Easter, the climax of the Church's year. Our first service is on Palm Sunday which celebrates Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem prior to the events which lead to his crucifixion. We are also holding two more services in Holy Week, one on Monday and one on Maundy Thursday. I feel that the full joy of Easter is enhanced by experiencing the more sombre mood of these services, the one on Maundy Thursday which commemorates the Last Supper, being most poignant and my favourite service of the year.

The service on Easter Day will be at Loweswater, but we shall be decorating the church on Saturday 16 at 10.00am. St. Cuthbert's must be resplendent for the Church's most important day of the year

and the weather is not likely to be warm enough to spoil the decorations before our service a week later.

Most will be aware that Mike Suckling died in the middle of March. He was a true servant of the churches in the Benefice. He was treasurer at St. Cuthbert's for many years but also took on many other tasks. He did much printing, among other things the service booklets we use every week and the pew sheets, the latest of which we have only just started to use. The monthly list of services was also his work. He also crafted items such as bird feeders which he and Lois sold on what was always a very profitable stall at the Christmas Fair. And Christmases will never be the same again. No Brain of the Benefice to drive us scatty. We shall miss him. Our thoughts are with Lois at this time.

Roger Peck

DASHING HOUNDS
MOBILE DOG GROOMING



WE COME TO YOU!

Contact **Zoe** on **07436053993**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - May 15th to 21st 2022. Christian Aid Week was set up 60 years ago, to support work with refugees in Europe following the Second World War. Intense conflict in Ukraine is threatening the lives and livelihoods of civilians across the country. 2.3 million people have fled their homes to escape conflict in Ukraine. At least 516 civilians have been killed and 1,424 injured.

Our response - We're working with 2 partner organisations in the ACT Alliance (a global faith-based coalition), to offer assistance to Ukraine refugees fleeing deadly violence: Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

So far, HIA has distributed 28 tonnes of food supplies and other lifesaving essentials to people on the Ukrainian borders. It has also established a refugee help point.

Christian Aid was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after the Second World War. Back then, we worked with partner churches to alleviate suffering by raising the equivalent of £3 million plus in today's money.

We supported, equipped and enabled partner churches in mainland Europe to provide what people needed. Nearly 80 years later, we are doing the same.

We believe in life before death". Let's act again now, to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home. If you pay income tax, may I ask you to consider making your donation gift aided to enable the charity to reclaim; for every £10 you give, they can claim an extra £2.50, making your gifts worth more to the communities Christian Aid supports. As some of our collectors have retired in our Valley and Mockerkin, if you are able to help in collecting it would be much appreciated.

THANK YOU - Jan Collins-Webb - Lorton Vale Organiser



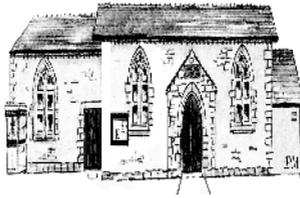
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Ullock Village Hall



In association with **Arts out West**

Gus Glynn

Saturday 23rd April 2022

7.30pm

Tickets £10, Children £5, Family of 4 £25

B.Y.O drinks

Another evening of great entertainment at Ullock village hall, join classically trained finger-style guitarist **Irish singer-songwriter Gus Glynn** on a journey through the classic songs of Carole King, Mark Knofler, Lou Reed and others. Enjoy an evening from traditional Folk and Blues to modern acoustic classics.



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William Vickers cuts the cake at the 80th anniversary of the Loweswater (Farmers) Discussion Group at the Kirkstile last Monday.



The group started in 1942 to discuss possible farming improvements as part of the wartime "Dig for Britain" initiative. It has continued holding fortnightly winter meetings ever since but, understandably, the subject matter of talks and presentations had widened considerably over that time. William is only the fourth Chairman of the group and we look forward to the next big anniversary, and perhaps another of Marion's fine cakes in years to come.

Roger Hiley

LORTON VALE GARDENING CLUB

As the Link goes to print, we are looking forward to the talk by Joan Robinson, called “A Subversive Plot” - very intriguing! This is the last of the winter talks and the newsletter, plus information on the programme of summer garden visits, should be ready for distribution. Sadly, we’ve decided not to run a July day coach trip this year. In theory we were going to the new RHS garden, Bridgewater, but I had failed to notice that the garden holiday to North Wales, which was advertised through the club, also included a visit to Bridgewater. Sorry! With numbers in doubt and coach prices escalating wildly, we’ve decided to leave it for this year.

Don’t forget the coffee, cakes and seed swap at the Yew Tree Hall, 10.30 on Sat 9th April. Daffodils, hellebores, camellias, magnolias....have fun in your garden!



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Loweswater Parish Communities Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Thursday 2nd June 2022

11:30 Planting of tree, The Grange

12:30 Celebratory lunch, Village Hall

All are welcome to join us in our celebration of Her Majesty's landmark. Lunch will be on the basis of bringing food (mains or dessert) and drink for sharing. Please contact Lyn Furniss, who has kindly agreed to coordinate alloyslyn@btinternet.com
0190085147



Lorton Vale
Gardening Club



COFFEE

MORNING

£3

AND SEED / SEEDLING SWAP



YEW TREE HALL

Saturday 9th April
10.30pm-12 noon

Swaps are a fun way to share
any extra seeds you may have

Bring along your seeds and
seedlings. Please label as
well as possible eg- name,
annual or perennial, size,
sun/shade, colour.
Nothing to swap just make
a donation of £1 per item.

SEED
AND SEEDLING
SWAP



Planning is going well for the GMC Gathering Day. We have a key note speaker arranged to talk about what communities can do to help achieve net zero and in the afternoon we will review what communities are already doing and have practical discussion groups looking at how Eco Church/Eco Community can help us achieve net zero.



**Grasmoor
Mission Community**

SPRING GATHERING DAY

Saturday 14th May 2022
Christ Church , Cockermouth

**TOWARDS
NET
ZERO**



*All welcome so please
keep the day free*

Loweswater Ladies March 2022

Our March meeting saw us at the Kirkstile Inn for our annual dinner. As usual this was a very well attended event. The food was excellent and the room was buzzing with conversation as friends caught up with each other. For many this was their first big social gathering for some months. Our thanks go to Harriet and Lyn for getting the evening organised at such short notice. This year's programme cards were handed out to members and these show the re-established tea and raffle rotas. We are gradually getting speakers in place for the remainder of the year and the summer outing in July will be to Dalemain House and Gardens.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 13th April at 7.15pm in LVH**. This will take the form of a games and puzzle evening. This should provide some fun, a bit of exercise for what Herule Poirot calls "the little grey cells" and plenty of opportunity to socialise.

Doreen Robertson

Stella George Coming Home

Finally coming home.....Stella George will be laid to rest along-side her beloved husband Ron George on April 24th, 2022 at St. Cuthbert's church in Lorton. Stella and Ron lived at White Ash Barn from 1980-2000, both choosing Lorton as their final resting place, in the valley they both loved.

The pandemic delayed Stella's final trip home from Canada and this Spring when the lambs are in the fields she so loved, she will finally return to where the pink blossoms adorn the entrance to St. Cuthberts. Due to the raising covid numbers, once again, we will sadly have to forsake a 'remembrance' service.

In lieu, her daughter, Debbie George would very much like to meet together with Stella's friends, individually or in a group to share tea and cakes and speak of happy days sharing stories of treasured times.

Please do get in touch if you would like to be included by contacting Debbie debbieannegeorge@gmail.com or Ann Peck annrogerpeck@yahoo.co.uk or 0190085236, who has also kindly offered to provide further details until Debbie George arrives in Lorton on April 20, 2022.

Debbie George



You are invited to come along to an
Informal Farm Walk
at Armaside Farm



Sunday 8th of May - 2pm
meet at the farm

Come along and say hello to Herbert our Hereford bull, see some lambs and newborn calves.

We can explain why we are managing the land using herbal ley crops and paddock grazing.

No booking required.
Remember to wear suitable footwear.
STRICTLY NO DOGS.

WE ARE 1.5 MILES FROM LORTON
TOWARDS COCKERMOUTH



What do you call a flock of sheep tumbling down a fell?



A lambslide.

**Refugees Support
Open meeting
9 April 22 at 12:30
Yew Tree Hall**

In the past weeks every day when I watched the news I felt so sad and powerless, I decided I had to do something about that. How could I support the people of Ukraine? It would be hard on my own. Would a village be suitable for refugees? Then I read in my Dutch newspaper about this village in the Netherlands called Broek in Waterland . They all got together and now have a small community of Ukrainian refugees living amongst them. Of course not everybody could offer accommodation, although one farmer put 5 caravans on his land. There were other jobs to do. Different people coordinated clothing, schooling, support with filling in paperwork, simcards/phones, registration with GP, English as a second language, transport including how to ride a bike (it is the Netherlands after all), activities for the children, sport, mental health and work. They created a meeting place for the refugees at the clubhouse of the local football club.

A week later I watched a short video on the BBC:
Ukraine war: North Moreton opens its arms to refugees (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-60810169>), a village in Oxfordshire of 350 residents who are hoping to take in up to 60 Ukrainian refugees.

Of course we may not be as ambitious as this but I thought it is worth exploring whether we in Lorton could put our creative heads together and see what we can do. Vince (Mercer) and I have set up an **Open Meeting on 9 April 2022 at 12:30 at Yew Tree Hall**. It will be straight after the Coffee and Cakes organised by the Gardening Club.

I realise it is possibly not the best time to meet for everybody. However if you like to be involved please get in touch, preferably before the meeting. And thank you so much to the people who have already offered their ideas and support!

Contact details:

Hanneke van Schelven

hvanschelven@icloud.com or Nextdoor-Neighbourhood

07971759158

Refugees Support
OPEN MEETING

*"To explore what we in Lorton
could do to support refugees"*

Saturday 9th April, 2022

12.30 pm

at

YEW TREE HALL

**LORTON STANDS
WITH**

UKRAINE



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

Spring seems really established now after a week of lovely weather, longer days and by the time this is read the clocks will have gone forward. As the snowdrops disappear the crocuses and daffodils have taken over, a cheering sight of great splashes of yellow. No where looks more beautiful than Loweswater churchyard with its sea of narcissi and crocuses.

We have a full programme of Holy Week services in the Benefice. Loweswater has candlelight Compline at 7pm on Tuesday 12th, Good Friday 3 hours devotional 12 - 3 and we celebrate Holy Communion on Easter Day at 10.30 followed by an Easter egg hunt for children. So please bring all the family. Buttermere has candlelight Compline at 7pm on Wednesday 13th and Festive Evensong at 6pm on Easter Day. Full service details are as usual on the back page of the Link. We will be decorating Loweswater church on Saturday afternoon Easter Eve as there is a wedding taking place in the

morning and St.James's any time on Saturday.

St.Bartholomew's is holding a Lent lunch on Wednesday 31st March from 12pm in the village hall. All proceeds in aid of the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

A large congregation said farewell to Mary Graham of Rogerscale at her funeral in St.Bartholomew's earlier this month. Mary was a "true local" born in Loweswater and lived all her life in the valley. Following her marriage to Colin they farmed at Rogerscale where she bought up her family. We send our sympathies to Catherine and Gordon and her extended family.

We wish everyone a joyous Easter.

From St.Bartholomew's church Registers:
Funeral and burial
March 10th Mary Graham

Eleanor Ella

Green Energy in the Valley – Discover the proposed Mill Beck Hydro Scheme

Public Meeting Thursday 21st April at 7.00pm

The Yew Tree Hall, Lorton

Melbreak Renewable Energy CIC has commissioned a feasibility study to generate electricity from hydro power in Buttermere. Work is now underway on a detailed design and to apply for licences from the Environment Agency and for planning permission.

The team will explain the location and details of the plan, spell out how you can help to make this scheme possible and answer questions.

Refreshments will be provided.

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The Club has held two meetings since our last report in the *Link*. On 22 February we heard a talk from volunteers from West Lakes Squirrel Initiative on their work to protect and conserve the red squirrels in our area. Many of us have cause to be very thankful to the organisation, for as a result of their efforts we still see red squirrels in our gardens. On 24 March we enjoyed a presentation from Rob Lucas on his recent ascent of K2. Rob's family have owned a cottage in Loweswater for 47 years, and it was when visiting as a boy that Rob acquired his enthusiasm for mountain climbing. His mountaineering skills have developed to the extent that he is now one of the very few Britons (less than 20) who have climbed K2, which is generally reckoned to be the toughest mountain on earth to conquer. His talk was illustrated with wonderful images, and it was an evening few will forget.

The next meeting of the Club will be on Tuesday 26 April when we will hold a lunch party at Hunday Manor Hotel, 12.30 for 1.00. Lunch will be followed by a talk from local author Keith Richardson. The cost is £20, and non-members are welcome to participate. If you did not sign up at the last meeting, please phone me by 19 April on 01946 861555 to book your place and make your menu choices. **Please bring a prize for the raffle.**

John Hudson



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FILM NIGHT

At Yew Tree Hall
Lorton

Tues 26th April

After Love

Bafta winner Joanna Scanlan stars in this drama of a widow who discovers her late husband's secret family .

Doors and Bar 7pm Film starts 7.30 pm

Film Hub North



National
Media
Museum



Cumbria
County Council



Cine North is a strategic partner of Film Hub North, part of the BFI Film Audience Network and BFI Neighbourhood Cinema, both funded by the National Lottery

Enquiries- Eleanor 07497 618364

How do you feel when you walk through the woods? What do you see?

Poet Melissa Davies is working with The Melbreak Communities and the National Trust on a poetry trail that celebrates local voices. We need you to answer the question 'How do you feel when you walk through the woods?' and Melissa will weave your words together into a poem about woods, trees and the people living close to them.

The real magic will happen this summer when the poem appears in Lanthwaite Woods in the form of a poetry trail for locals and visitors to explore as they walk.

Look out for more details about when the poetry trail will be in place but for now, please send your responses to email@melissadavies.co.uk before 3rd May. We'd really like to include as many people as possible in the project, you don't have to be a poet or even have any experience of writing; simply living here, close to the woods is enough.

Whether you answer with one word or a whole paragraph, everybody's thoughts are welcome.



Memories of Michael Waller

Michael Waller lived at Whinfell Hall for a number of years back up to 2007. He was a Professor at Keele University specialising in Russian Studies and wrote a number of academic books as well as a biography of John Wilson Robinson, a Lakeland climbing pioneer, who had also lived at Whinfell Hall. Michael subsequently gave a talk on this topic to the local history society.

Michael and his wife knew Bev and Elly Rowlands well and Elly has shared some memories of him. "Michael was witty and funny, and a good cook. One of his specialities was an annual Christmas card, hand drawn, often with a current theme, although one of my favourites was Joseph throwing open the stable door and announcing joyfully "it's a girl!". He was a potter too. He had a kiln in what is now Whinfell Barn, and always made a pot as prize for the Brain of the Benefice Christmas competition. A lot of us have pots made by him, and I acquired a whole lot of very sweet miniature pots that he was using to test glazes."

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who helped at **The Melbreak Communities' 'Coffee and Cakes'** event at the Yew Tree Hall in Lorton on 5th March: publicising the event, making and serving coffee, baking and serving cakes and clearing up afterwards!

We sent all the proceeds - £352
- to the Disasters Emergency
Committee's Ukraine
Humanitarian Appeal.

Penny Poole



The Melbreak Communities

Dean Arts and Scarecrow festival Friday April 29th to Monday 2nd May 2022.

After a two-year postponement of the festival due to Covid, we are delighted to announce that it is going ahead this year.

Attractions include:

- scarecrows displayed outside people's homes across three villages,
- Art exhibition in Ullock,
- Refreshments including light lunches, teas with homemade cakes etc served in both Dean and Ullock Village Halls.
- A large Circus tent in Dean with performances taking place over the weekend.
- Musical events including Becky White, Christopher Lamb, Ukela band, Oswald Singers and Setheria Band and Sing Owt
- Maypole dancing.
- Logan Paul Murphy live performance with music through the decades from the 50's ticket only.
- Climbing wall

And much more. There is something for all ages and most events are free, collections are taken.

To look at a programme go to www.kirkstilecommunitycentredean.

This will be available from April 2022 or Email

sybilworsley@btinternet.com or look at our Facebook page.

Please come and visit and make our festival the biggest and best yet.

Walkers Way No 212

Most of us, I am sure, find ourselves eagerly awaiting the first signs of Spring, that ever-welcome time of year which heralds longer, warmer, brighter days, with far more colour and activity in the countryside, and when life in general takes on a more cheerful hue. Snowdrops, catkins, daffodils, bluebells all appear in their turn. Similarly, those of us with ponds find ourselves on the lookout for frogspawn among other things. Spawn appeared here on the 10th February and within a week there was a substantial quantity; the young tadpoles have now uncurled and are wriggling, but still within the “jelly”. The adult common frog (*Rana temporaria*) spends the Winter in a comatose state, in a hole in a clump of moss, under some sort of wood pile, or even completely submerged in the mud at the bottom of a pond or ditch. In the latter case, it remains virtually motionless with a feeble heartbeat, the little oxygen that it requires to sustain life being absorbed through the skin (cutaneous respiration). Needless to say, it gradually combusts its reserves of fatty tissues, on which it survives until emergence in Spring, when mating soon occurs, spawn is produced and tadpoles result, some of which are likely to develop into adults. The frog is probably the best known of all pond life, but there are in fact a very great many interesting forms, from microbes to amphibians which are likely to be found in that particular habitat, and of course many plant species too. For example, duckweed (*Lemnaceae* spp.), that tiny plant seen floating on the ponds surface. There are a number of species of duckweed, the smallest of which (*Lemna minor*) is in fact the smallest flowering plant we have in this country; there are five species growing in the UK, three of which are to be found in Cumbria. Flowering occurs very early – often in February, and those plants which are in flower may be identified by their decidedly yellow/green. It is interesting to note in passing that duckweed is one of those plants which responds far better to a trace of organic manure, than to an inorganic one, due to the presence of an auxinone in that material. Buddleia is another such plant and in a recent experiment it was found that cuttings treated with an inorganic material produced seven leaflets, whilst those treated with auxinone produced eighteen.

The mention of frogs hibernating reminded me to keep a look out for butterflies and moths too, yes, at this time of year and even earlier. Whilst some overwinter as eggs and some as larvae, others do overwinter as adults in a state of dormancy in sheltered spots. With its rust tinted and scalloped wings the Herald moth is one of these, and is usually to be found in such places as sheds or barns. Similarly, Comma and Brimstone butterflies will hide in thick vegetation, and the Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral often prefer our homes.

But to return to amphibian life in our ponds, we also have three different species of newts, the Common, Smooth and Crested respectively, which are broadly similar to lizards and were indeed at one time known as water lizards. All newts are truly aquatic at some time of their lives, however, whilst lizards are never aquatic and have heaths, moors and sunny banks as their preferred habitats. Newts have soft, moist skins like frogs, whereas lizards have dry scaly skins, like snakes. Again, newts have broad flattened tails for swimming, whereas lizards’ tails are round and tapering. Another difference is that newts lay single eggs, which they attach to the undersides of the leaves of aquatic plants, which they usually curl up as a means of protection. Lizards on the other hand produce developed young. Newts are inclined to be placid animals, calm and quite easily approached, whilst lizards are far more nervous, and need a slow and cautious approach if it is to be successful, or they will dash away into cover. Even a gentle footfall is required as they are very susceptible to vibration. One or other species of newt is likely to be found in most waterways throughout the breeding season, from February to June, and at other times, in damp situations, such as under stones or logs. Lizards on the other hand are likely to be seen in dry situations and basking in the sun; I have found them in Whinlatter, Lanthwaite, Ennerdale and Eskdale. (Warning :- in folklore duckweed suggests the presence of “Jenny Greenteeth” – a pond boggart or elf!)

Alan Gane

'For this reading group we are able to borrow from County Library a wide variety of book sets around 'Climate' related themes, both serious and more entertaining. We plan to meet once a month in the evening starting after Easter and discuss and learn from each other.

Please contact Debbie beech.lane35@yahoo.co.uk or 01900 85317 if you are interested in joining us.

PUZZLED OVER THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

READING ZERO FOR CARBON MELBREAK COMMUNITIES



Join one of our **FREE** climate reading groups to read, learn & discuss the climate emergency with others in your area throughout Cumbria.

- Make friends. Make sense. Make change.
- Groups meet in libraries, cafes, pubs, homes* or online.
- Book bundles distributed to groups by Cumbria Libraries.



*where COVID regulations allow

Interested in finding or starting
your local climate reading group?

email: timothy.cottingham@cumbria.gov.uk

phone: 07557 600 606

DIARY DATES

APR

- 9 Sat Lorton Vale Gardening Club. **Coffee Morning** YTH at 10.30am
- 9 Sat Lorton Ukraine Refugee Support open meeting, YTH, 12.30p.m
- 12 Tue W.I talk - Eco Church/Eco Community, St Cuthberts at 6p.m and the YTH
- 13 Wed Loweswater Ladies, 7.15pm LVH
- 19 Tue 'Like a Moth to a Light' talk, YTH 7.30pm organised by The Melbreak Communities
- 23 Sat Arts out West show Gus Glynn 7.30pm Ullock village hall
- 24 Sun Newlands and Goldscope Mines, historical walk with Mark Hatton, LDFLHS members only. FULLY BOOKED
- 26 Tue 77 Club Lunch Hunday Manor 12.30 Speaker: Keith Richardson. Non-members welcome
- 26 Tue April Film Night YTH After Love 7pm bar 7.30pm film starts
- 28 Thu "Lakeland Churches", illustrated talk & AGM, Arts Society Cumbria, 11 am Hundith Hill Hotel

MAY

- 4 Wed Lorton parish council meeting 19.30 YTH
- 5 Thu Loweswater parish council meeting 19.30 Loweswater village hall
- 8 Sun Informal Farm Walk at Armaside Farm. Meet at the farm 2.00pm
- 11 Wed Loweswater Ladies, 7.15pm LVH
- 12 Thu Cumbria and the Jacobites, Dr Bill Shannon, LDFLHS, 7.30 pm YTH and via Zoom
- 13 Fri Garden Night at Ullock village hall
- 14 Sat GMC Spring Gathering, Christ Church, Cockermouth
- 21 Sat Green Energy in the valley - Public Meeting YTH, 7.00pm
- 31 Tue Buttermere parish council meeting 19.30 Old School Room

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/>

Church Services April 2022

3 rd April	5th Sunday of Lent		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater	CW
10 th April	Palm Sunday		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton	CW
6.00pm	Holy Communion	Buttermere	CW
HOLY WEEK			
11 th April	Monday		
7.00p.m	Candlelight Compline	Lorton	CW
12 th April	Tuesday		
7.00p.m	Candlelight Compline	Loweswater	CW
13 th April	Wednesday		
7.00p.m	Candlelight Compline	Buttermere	CW
14 th April	Maundy Thursday		
7.00p.m	Holy Communion	Lorton	CW
15 th April	Good Friday		
12 noon – 3pm	The Three Hours	Loweswater	
2.00p.m	Devotional Service	Loweswater	
17 th April	EASTER DAY		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater	CW
6.00pm	Festal Evensong	Buttermere	BCP
24 th April	2nd Sunday of Easter		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton	CW

Don't forget to use the **Little Lending Library** to be found in St Cuthbert's Church, Lorton. It has a great selection of books, I've been borrowing up to 3 per week! Ed

If anyone would like the Information Sheet sent directly to their inbox please email Sue Lake on gmcoffice@grasmoormc.church with your request.

Deadline for May is Friday 22nd April, all articles, photos, funny stories to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you