

FEBRUARY 2023



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

Letter from the Editor

Dear Link Readers

Happy New Year to all our readers. Having suffered a cold snap just before Christmas we are enduring another as I write this, which makes me feel Christmassy all over again. True to my word the decorations did go up on the 1st December and although I didn't manage the 4 trees I did get the train running - here it is in situ



I also installed a new illumination - I did tell you to keep your eye's peeled as you went through Rogerscale - who spotted the Christmas Daschund?



This is a 32 page bumper edition with all sorts of interesting articles. These include a thought-provoking piece about the future of Holme Wood which is under threat from both Ramorum disease and ash dieback, a real threat that will radically alter our Lake District landscapes. John Macfarlane has sent a quote from LDNPA, "The outbreak *Chalara Fraxinea* – more commonly known as ash dieback – represents a major challenge to the management of our woodlands in the Lake District National Park. We have important ash woodlands as well as significant numbers of individual ash trees in our farmed landscapes"

Additionally there are details of a consultation with United Utilities about the future of the Crummock Water weir, a talk about Winter and Wildlife adventures in Norway, news about a new refill scheme at Lorton Village Shop and an update about the Lorton Support Group for Ukranian refugees in the area. All the usual suspects are here too - the soup social, film night, coffee and cakes, Eco Church etc, etc. Don't forget it is Mothering Sunday on 19th March - there are 2 events in the Valley to choose from.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to the reminder for Link subscription renewals on page 22. Once again we have managed to maintain the subscription prices at the same level, but for this to continue in future years it is really important that you pay your subscriptions promptly.

Rosemary
07885 360353

Linking in with the article about Holme Wood on pages 28/29 our cover picture is of Holme Wood bothy in the snow taken by John Macfarlane. The bothy has been many things over the years; charcoal burner hut, fishery store, boat launch site and more recently a National Trust 'self-catering camping bothy'. John and his grandchildren who have slept there, are convinced that The Borrowers live under the sleeping area floor boards, and come out at night! Beware!



VICAR'S LETTER

Feasting and Fasting

What is a pancake? In search of an answer to that question I visited the BBC Food Website, source of many a delicious recipe that I've used in the past. But the answer was not a simple one. Pancakes, it seems, come in many guises. They can be large or small, fluffy or flat, sweet or savoury. You can get English, American and Scotch pancakes, you can get crêpes, galettes, blinis, pikelets, drop scones and crempogs. There are seven pages of pancake recipes on the website, each with slightly different ingredients. There are even recipes for making pancakes without using eggs, milk or flour, which is quite a culinary feat. Don't get me started on toppings ...

Pancakes have been around for a long time. They are mentioned in 15th century recipe scrolls in the UK, but their history goes back much further. Tradition has it that Pope Gelasius I handed out crêpes to pilgrims in 5th century Rome. The French 'jour des crêpes' is on Candlemas to commemorate this event. For us, though, Shrove Tuesday is the traditional day to enjoy a pancake or three, as a way of using up the fatty and sweet ingredients in the house in preparation for the austerities of Lent. Because Easter is a 'moveable feast', Shrove Tuesday also falls on a different day every year. This year we'll be keeping it on Tuesday 21 February followed by Ash Wednesday on Wednesday 22 February when you are invited to Lorton Church for a service of holy communion and

imposition of ashes at 7 pm to mark the beginning of Lent.

Feasting and fasting are equally important in the Christian life. We know that Jesus did both. The gospels tell how he attended a wedding at Cana in Galilee where he also performed his first miracle, changing water into wine. Some of his parables use the image of a dinner party or feast to describe all the good things that have been prepared for us in heaven. As a devout Jew, Jesus also fasted as part of his religious observance. The season of Lent has its origin in his fasting in the wilderness for forty days before his earthly ministry began, waiting for God to speak to him about what he should say and do. We too are encouraged both to feast and to fast – to feast before Lent begins, to fast during it, and then to feast again when the great celebration of Easter arrives. It's not too early to begin thinking about how we might do that and you can also find helpful resources on the Grasmoor Mission Community website www.grasmoormc.church.

May God bless you during this month of February and in your feasting and fasting this coming Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Jane Charman
Grasmoor Mission Community Leader

Bits and Bobs

'Between the Lines' Eco and Climate Book Club for the Melbreak Communities.

This friendly group is for anyone with a concern about the climate and biodiversity emergency and wants to learn more about positive ways to help our planet. Discussion and sharing of ideas are prompted by the books we choose along with exploring positive solutions to live in more earth friendly ways.

We meet every 2 months and our next meeting is on Wednesday February 15th at 7pm.

Email Debbie Watson beech.lane35@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to join us or if you want to know more.

Mockerkin Educational Foundation invites applications for financial grants in line with its aims in "promoting the education (including social and physical training) of persons under the age of 25 years who are resident in Loweswater Parishhave been resident for not less than 2 years and are in need of financial assistance."

Applications, with a short explanation, can be submitted by email to graeme.sparke@talk21.com or by letter to Graeme Sparke, Mockerkin Educational Foundation, Tarn View, Mockerkin, Cockermouth, CA130ST.

Volunteering with Linking Lives

Do you have a little time to spare? Would you like to make a positive difference in the community?

Loneliness and isolation is one of the greatest challenges that many people face, especially as they grow older, and puts them at greater risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, depression and dementia. It is linked to a 26% chance of early death and experts say it should be regarded as a public health problem in the same way as smoking and obesity.

Cockermouth Linking Lives was launched as a Churches Together in Cockermouth and surrounding area project in October 2019. We now have over 70 Link Friends who receive a visit or phone call for up to an hour each week. Referrals come from GPs, Social Services, friends and families and even some self-referrals.

We are always in need of volunteers to match with our Link Friends. We have referrals from over 26 villages and hamlets around Cockermouth so you would not need to travel far. DBS checks are free of charge and full induction and regular relevant training is provided. If you have a friendly disposition, enjoy chatting and listening and would like to help, then please get in touch for a conversation with Sue Gorman, our Coordinator, on 07957 515140 or contact us by email to Cockermouth@linkinglives.uk. We will be delighted to hear from you.



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19th March 2023
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Walkers Way No 217

Over the years I have had a good number of relatively unusual sightings, for example, on one of the many occasions when I was out before dawn, I walked up the track which threads its way, diagonally up through Holme Wood. At this time of day, the trick is to walk slowly, quietly, and with no jerky movements, and you can come across wildlife of one kind or another basking peacefully in the early morning sun and not expecting anybody to be about. As I approached the top, where the ground slopes steeply down to the lake, I could hardly believe my eyes. Curled up tightly on the bank beside the track in all its bright red glory was a fox, bathed in a brilliant shaft of light, fast asleep, gently heaving and totally unaware that a human being, of all things, was within a few feet. I must say, I was a little "chuffed" that my fieldcraft had allowed me to get so close to what must surely be, one of the most alert animals in the English countryside.

On another occasion in Holme Wood, also in the early hours, I concealed myself in some undergrowth, and sat back to watch the surrounding area. This time, however, it was for me to be taken by surprise. After half an hour or so, during which I had seen virtually nothing, I was shaken out of my skin by the bellowing of a deer very, very close by! It had approached from behind me, unseen and unheard. A case of the biter bit!

As for the garden, well as usual it is pretty quiet at this time of the year, in part, perhaps because a sparrowhawk has been around lately. Blackbirds, sparrows, chaffinches, robins, blue tits of course, all appear after short periods and for brief visits and unusually, we have lately had a group of long tailed tits and a nuthatch – but then all of a sudden it happened! It had been so still in the garden, almost no activity at all – when they soared over the treetops and landed in full view on the lawn, as fine a pair of jays as one

could wish to see, a mere three or four paces from the window. Not seen all that often and even then far more usually as a single bird rather than a pair, and despite being a member of the crow family, sufficiently beautiful to have been referred to in the past, as "Britain's Bird of Paradise". Its body colour, a pinkish fawn, with a white patch beneath the tail. Its wings black with some thin white bars and a distinct pale blue patch on the leading edge. The head is normally rounded and with a strong black bill, but the crown does have some strong feathers, which can be raised as a crest when agitation dictates. Well known for collecting acorns in its throat pouch, which it carries in considerable numbers prior to burying; many of these it will retrieve for food in winter, but at the same time many are not retrieved and therefore remain "planted", only to germinate, helping the regeneration of oak woodlands. This particular pair hungrily devoured a helping of fat pellets which was on offer, only to take off again and disappear over the trees. A much appreciated five minute encounter in an otherwise largely birdless morning.

The other day I was reading a little of Henry David R Thoreau, the famous American author, when I caught sight of a quotation of Walden (1858), which took me back some years. The quotation was as follows "I once had a sparrow alight upon my shoulder for a moment when I was hoeing in a village garden, and I felt that I was more distinguished by that circumstance than I should have been by any epaulette I could have worn". Walden may have been over a century and a half ago, but I know just how he felt having had a robin alight on my hand and stay for a minute or two when I was feeding the birds in the garden. It is an unforgettable experience.

Alan Gane

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Penny's Piece

Ok. 'Fess up. Who's still got festive fromage in the fridge? If you think you haven't, go and have a rummage at the back of the shelf. There'll be a small chunk of something unidentifiable lurking next that half a lemon and half a tin of sardines that were opened in the hope of relief from the sugar and mincemeat. I still haven't had my Xmas pudding. The best one we ever had was one Easter. I think that could be repeated this year.

Has anyone had any benefit from the winter coat fund? This is not a fund like the fuel allowance but a sometimes-pleasing event where you discover something nice in the pocket of the coat you get out for the colder weather. If you are lucky, it could be money. In my case it was the third library card (I never can keep track them.) and a sticky mess from an old, unwrapped boiled sweet. Another coat had a pair of gloves (not the missing one) and a cinema ticket pre covid. For those of you with coats with inside pockets, remember to check those too. I also found an emergency £20 in a going out bag (in case I changed my mind on driving or need fuel). The only issue with that was, it is an old £20. Shows how long it's been since I went out-out. Worth having a hunt through seldom used bags, coats and suits. You could find you are better off than you thought.

According to my colleague we are seeing 4 minutes more daylight each day. Which is nice if the enormous black clouds disappear long enough for you to be aware of any daylight, never mind an extra 4 minutes. We have had the usual entertainment of the novelty drains on Fangs Brow getting going again. Down the first one, out of the next,

cross the road, down and up again. Brilliant. That of course means we are likely to be plunged back into minus temperatures while the road is at its wettest.

In the cold snap at the start of December I lost my water for a week when it froze somewhere down the yard. I'm sure my arms are an inch longer after lugging buckets about to flush the loo and keep the hot tank topped up. The annoying thing was that just as the sun got within about 4 inches of the pipeline on the yard, it disappeared behind Burnbank, meaning the barn and sheds thawed out before me. Next time, I will remember to leave a tap running. I've done that in the past and not frozen up, just forgot that tip this time.

As a member of the RSPB, I like visiting some of the reserves around the county. This time of year, is good for geese so we went to Campfield Marsh near Bowness on Solway. Great plan and we did stay dry. The problem was the wind. All the birds were on ponds where we had to face the wind and the sun. It's hard to see when your eyes are watering because of the wind and it's impossible to identify breeds with the sun behind the birds. Basically, we saw some kinds of ducks and geese. Useful. Anyone could say that. We clearly saw 2 pairs of bullfinches which was nice as they are impressive. Keep your eyes peeled and see you next month.

Penny



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LORTON NOTES

Last Christmas our Carol Service was poorly attended and the Christingle Service was cancelled - both due to a new variant of Covid. I'm glad to be able to report that both these services took place over the 2022 Christmas period and were very popular - how lovely that this Christmas was more 'normal'. So that's 'old' normal, not 'new' normal.

In a new departure for St Cuthbert's we held a joint Christmas Fair with Friends of Lorton School with the school itself hosting the fair. We had stalls and entertainment both inside and out (luckily the weather was fine but cold) with coffee and cakes served in the Pavilion. Overall we felt the fair was a huge success and was certainly very popular with all the visitors. As this was an experiment we agreed that the takings of some stalls would be shared and that others would be exclusive. For St Cuthbert's the fair raised £1,274.98, excluding the calendars and Christmas cards. These have so far raised around £700.00 but money is still trickling in. There are a handful of both calendars and cards left if anyone wants one.

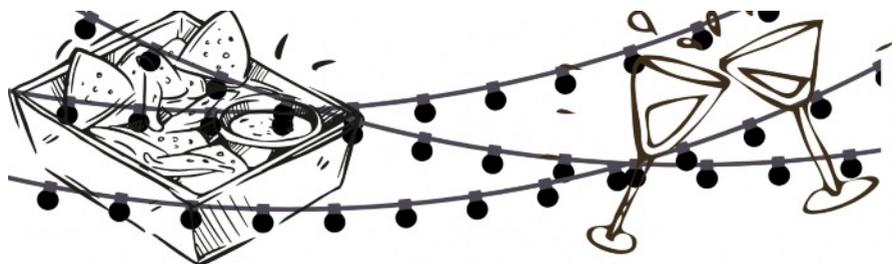
We now start to look forward to the build up to Lent and Easter. Ash Wednesday this year falls on the 22nd February and is preceded by Shrove Tuesday. This is also known as Pancake Day and is one last chance for a big party before Lent which

begins the next day. Long ago, Christians traditionally used up all the eggs and fat they had in store by making pancakes and feasting on them. This was because when Lent came, they would eat less food, or even fast to help them focus on God and not on the things they wanted. As usual the Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service will be at Lorton at 7p.m. - I hope many of you will attend.

Of course, thinking about Easter also makes us think of Spring and I already have some snowdrops and narcissi shoots poking through - although this latest cold snap does make Spring seem rather a long way off, lets hope it warms up soon. Our local red squirrels have certainly been glad of the plentiful supply of hazelnuts we keep topped up in the feeder.



Rosemary Riley



**FILM NIGHT AT YEW TREE HALL
SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY**



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LORTON VALE GARDENING CLUB



In spite of icy roads, we enjoyed our winter party on the 19th Jan. All the usual features - lovely food, good company, infuriating games!

Well, we are into February, which I always think marks a big change towards spring. The light is at last definitely lengthening as the sun creeps back northwards. As it moves along the Hopehill ridge, it will suddenly make a 15 minute jump in sunrise time. The best one is when it drops off Hopehill summit towards Ladyside Pike. Thoughts turn towards garden planning for the coming season and those lovely pictures on seed packets. Do you want to provide fresh organic veg for your family? Now is the time to begin. Broad beans can go in this early, and I'm certainly going to try to get more seeds sown in good time this year. Last year, my cosmos only started flowering in September, and I was lucky that they kept going till November. Even if you've only got room for pots, you can still grow both veg and flowers and get that delightful glow of satisfaction! Our next talk is Ian Jack from the Lowther Estate, on Feb 23rd at 1.30, in the Yew Tree Hall. He's calling his talk "From seed to saw" which doesn't sound like veg, but we shall see. The subscription is a very modest £10 a year and we would be very pleased to have new members, particularly among younger people from the community. If you fancy a go at growing your own, contact Fiona on 85710 fionalambrick@btinternet.com, or any committee member. Enjoy the snowdrops!

The Yew Tree Hall ***Past, Present & Future***

**A village meeting followed by a question & answer
session to be held at the YTH on**

**Monday 27th February - two sessions
2pm or 7pm**

The Yew Tree Hall Committee



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ECO Church/Eco Community

Some time ago we were asked to share some pictures of our Eco Church work for possible inclusion as a banner for a 'Garden Gazebo' at a General Synod a few months ago. Unfortunately our pictures weren't selected - but it is great to know that the reach of Eco Church/Eco Community is spreading. Here is the final design - please note we do not have permission to promote it further or use it for posters and other publicity material.

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Land Creating sacred spaces which help restore nature and cut carbon	Lifestyle Reducing waste and recycling at home, speaking up together for climate justice	How can we restore and protect creation from the local to the global?

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Design Credit: Sophie Booth. Copyright A Rocha UK

In other news more of the Grasmoor Mission Community churches have achieved their Bronze Award - namely St Bridget's Bridekirk, St Luke's Clifton, URC Cockermouth, St James' Buttermere and Lorton Street Methodist, Cockermouth. What a bumper couple of months - well done to all these churches.

Crummock Water, weir removal, over the past few months the parish councils at Buttermere, Loweswater and Lorton have jointly been actively engaged with UU about their proposals for Crummock Water and the removal of the weir once water extraction from Crummock ceases. The “scoping” exercise stage has now completed and a joint submission with additional questions raised, was submitted. You will see in this Link that UU are now running 3 further public drop in sessions, in February, to progress the project and further explain the next stage of the scheme. The three parish councils encourage all local residents in the circulation area of The Link, to take the opportunity to visit one of the drop-in sessions and establish how the proposals will affect their immediate neighbourhood and the general environment.

Mike Milner buttermereparishclerk@gmail.com



Our long-term plans for Crummock Water, Chapelhouse Reservoir, Overwater and Ennerdale Water

Drop-in session



With the completion of the new West Cumbria pipeline, these water bodies will no longer be used as sources of drinking water supply once the new water network is fully operational. We're carrying out surveys, investigations and detailed design to help develop the most appropriate long-term plans for each of the sites.

Our project team are holding a series of drop-in sessions to provide further information, answer your questions and gain feedback on our proposals. You're welcome to pop in anytime from 1pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Tuesday 21 February between 1pm - 7pm
The Kirkgate Centre, Kirkgate, Cockermouth, CA13 9PJ

Wednesday 22 February between 1pm-7pm
The Wave Centre, Irish Street, Maryport, CA15 8AD

Thursday 23 February between 1pm-6pm
The Carnegie Theatre & Arts Centre, Finkle Street, Workington, CA14 2BD

As our plans develop, we'll arrange further drop-in sessions and provide updates at

unitedutilities.com/Crummock



0000000000

Loweswater Ladies December 2022/January 2023

In December we met with partners and friends for our Christmas meal at the Hunday Manor Hotel on Monday 5 December. This was a jolly evening and proved to be the start of a busy week of celebrations for many in the group. As active members of the community some present were also out celebrating on the Tuesday at the Locals Night at the Kirkstile Inn, on Wednesday at Les Girls walking group lunch and again on Saturday at the 77 Club Christmas Party. What a week!

We started the first meeting of the New Year with a short Annual General Meeting. The treasurer reported that our finances are in good shape and consequently the annual subscription could remain at £12 for 2023. Copies of the accounts were circulated at the meeting and are available, on request, to any member not in attendance. The only other agenda item was from our President, Harriet who has sadly tendered her resignation. Harriet was thanked for her excellent stewardship of the group over the last year. The committee are particularly grateful for her support and clear thinking during their first full year in office. Harriet will remain an active member of the group. Expressions of interest in taking over the role of president are invited. In the short term the other committee members will hold the fort.

The main event of the January meeting was a keep fit session run by Val. This was a much-needed activity for many of us after all that feasting over the festive period. This proved to be both challenging and lots of fun. Val had given a lot of thought to laying on appropriate and beneficial exercises for us all that could be replicated in our own homes. We are indebted to Val for a fantastic start to our activities for 2023. Thanks are also due to Judy who provided assistance and encouragement during the session and to our supper hostesses Anne F, Angela and Carolyn.

Our next meeting will be our Birthday Meal at the Kirkstile Inn on Wednesday 8 February, arrive 6 for 6.30pm. As always numbers are restricted so book your place and choose your menu options with Lyn before the 3rd of February. Lyn will continue to collect subs next month and programme cards will be issue on the night.

Doreen Robertson

NSPCC

The Carol singing was another great success. I have sent £956.26 to head office - a remarkable total, considering the very cold weather which delayed the nights the singers could go out. Many thanks to all the Carolers, listeners, hosts, and the generous donations that were given. Best wishes for 2023.

Ann Hayton

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

The last few days have provided a welcome respite from the heavy rain of early January. The days are lengthening and as always the arrival of snowdrops brighten the mood.

Though Christmas seems a long time ago now we had well attended services and the return of our popular informal Carol service at Buttermere. Our thanks to Sue and her choir for providing the lovely music and also to all who decorated our churches so beautifully.

February sees the start of Lent and as usual the Ash Wednesday service takes place in Lorton on 22nd. We are discussing dates for Lent lunches , these will be published in next month's Link.

By the time the Link is published the service of induction for Andrea and Pete Ward will have taken place. We extend a warm welcome to them as they move into the vicarage. Wonderful to have the vicarage occupied again.

We were sad to learn of the death of Janet Coles this month after a long illness. Janet and Roger moved to Woodend after Roger's retirement. After many years there ill health necessitated a move to a nursing home. We extend our sympathies to her family.

Our fund raising this year starts with David and Barbara's wine tasting on Friday 3rd February. This year the theme is opposites.. intriguing.

Eleanor Ella



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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a woman performing a Pilates exercise on a mat. She is lying on her back with her knees bent and feet flat on the floor, holding a small ball between her feet. Her arms are extended upwards, and she is looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Loweswater Village Hall



Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Sunday March 19th, 2.00 to 4.00

Treat Mum on Mother's Day

Make Mother's Day extra special this year with
Afternoon Tea at Loweswater Village Hall

Bring your own
Prosecco

Adults £14
Under 11s £7

Advanced Booking
Only



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To book your table, please contact Lyn Furniss
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loweswatervillagehall.co.uk

Thanks to Yew Tree Hall Trustees

It was the end of an era last August when Bob Baird and Simon Riley stepped down from their roles on the Yew Tree Hall Committee. Derek Poate has stepped down as Chair but will continue to serve as a Trustee. The three of them have served in their roles for over a decade and played a pivotal role in placing the hall at the heart of our community. We offer them our sincere thanks.

History buffs will be interested to know that the hall was purchased from Jennings Brewery in 1919 for £150. The large central warming flue was removed as well as a second malting floor in the main hall. Derek, Bob and Simon join a long line of Lorton residents who have made sure our historic building is well maintained and modernised since the original idea of adapting it from its industrial use was first discussed. It provides a focus for physical, cultural and educational development in the village as well as bringing a lot of friendship, fun and laughter to our lives.

If you are interested in getting involved as a helper, trustee or you have a great idea for a club or event we would like to hear from you. Please contact Clare Round (Secretary) on 07956 500927 or James Lusher (Chair) on 07808 581141.

The Yew Tree Hall Committee

P.S The picture below is of a dance in the Hall from the 1950s



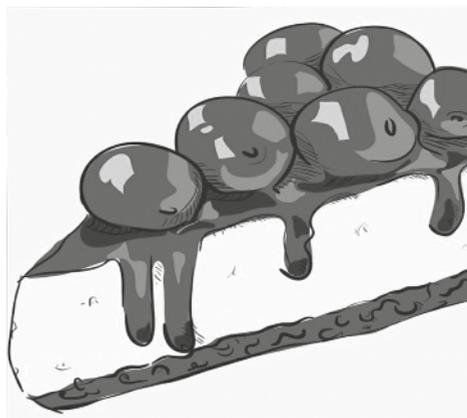


SAT
11
FEBRUARY
10.30-12.00

Coffee and Cakes

hosted by The Melbreak Communities

at the **Yew Tree Hall**



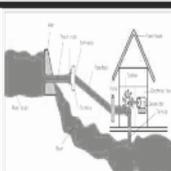
**Everyone welcome. Please
come along and support
your local community**

The Melbreak Communities are actively involved in numerous environmental projects and community activities. These include hydro scheme, dark skies, coffee mornings, eco church, eco book club, wildflower sowing, zoom presentations, make/mend workshops. and much more.

SOME OF THE MANY PROJECTS PROMOTED BY THE MELBREAK COMMUNITIES



**Coffee
& Cake**



**Community
Hydro**



**Melbreak
Wildlife**



**Dark
Skies**



**Melbreak
Makers**



Loweswater with Buttermere PCC
100 Challenge Club

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st December 2022

1st prize of £25 No 7 Richard Kahane
2nd prize of £10 No 46 Edna Vickers
3rd prize of £5 No 37 Christine England

The prizewinners for the draw held on 1st January 2023

1st prize of £25 No 27 Marjorie Hopkins
2nd prize of £10 No 95 Sheila Thompson
3rd prize of £5 No 92 Bethan Kerslake

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all our supporters.

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Loweswater 77 Club

The Club Christmas Party was, as usual, a great success. After tucking into a magnificent spread, we were entertained by the Cockermouth Ukulele Band. This was the third time they have performed for us, and we enjoyed their performance as much as ever. Their enthusiasm is infectious, and they have as much fun performing as much as we do listening to them. Maybe it won't be long before we invite them back again. The January event was a traditional Burns Supper, which took place after the Link went to press. - there will a report in the next Issue.

The next event will be on February 9 at 7.30pm in Loweswater Village Hall. We will hear an illustrated talk from Rosamund and John Macfarlane called *Wildlife and Winter Adventures in Norway* (see poster on facing page). Rosamund and John are well known for their fascinating presentations and their superb photography. This is a new talk and I'm sure it will be of the usual high standard. Non-members are welcome at a charge of £2.50. Prizes for the raffle will be gratefully received.

Date for your diary: The March event will be on 14 March when we will hear an illustrated talk from Mark Lee. Mark will talk about the successful cheese making business he has established at Torpenhow.

John Hudson. 01946 861555.

LINK SUBSCRIPTIONS 2023 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.

WINTER & WILDLIFE ADVENTURES in NORWAY

Illustrated talk by

John and Rosamund Macfarlane

Organised by the **77 CLUB**

Non-members **very welcome** (£2.50 incl. refreshments)

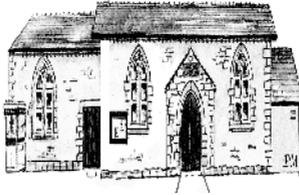
Thursday 9th February 2023. for 7.30pm
LOWESWATER VILLAGE HALL

Travelling by snow shoe, skidoo, dog and reindeer sleds, camping on frozen lakes, in deep snow, and lying on rafts floating in the Arctic Sea, we will describe encounters with musk ox, foxes, wolverines, wolves, lynx, bears, reindeer, eagles, king eiders and puffins, richly illustrated by photographs and videos.

Enjoy images of dramatic landscapes and the spectacular Northern Lights.



Ullock Village Hall



Friday 24 February 2023

7.30pm

Retired Cumbrian Farmer and well-known photographer

Maurice Steele

Will be giving one of his popular presentations

“Lockdown in Eskdale”

Tickets £5

Including Sweet and Savoury Nibbles

Tea and coffee

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

Many thanks for all those that purchased my Loweswatercam Calendar 2023, either direct with myself or via Arwen and Lee at the Lorton Shop.

I was able to donate £600 this year, shared between Cockermouth Rescue Team, Duddon and Furnace Team and the Great North Air Ambulance.

If you missed out, there may be a copy or two still available at the shop, sale price. Thank you everyone.

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Loweswater Village Hall News

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Gathering. It was enjoyed by all, young and old. We had a lovely afternoon of festive snacks, mulled wine and carols and hope to make it an annual event.

For Mother's Day we will be holding afternoon teas on the 19th March between 2 and 4pm. Booking for this event is essential. To reserve your table, see the poster in the Link.

Forthcoming events: Striding Edge- Roots Down Tour and Ceilidh on April 14th in conjunction with AOW. We will also be having a ploughman's supper during the interval. More to follow in next month's Link and look out for posters in your nearest noticeboard.

More events to be held throughout the year - full details to be found at loweswatervillagehall.co.uk

P. Leck



Lorton School 10K. Fundraising Road Race

Saturday 11th March 2023 at 11.00am

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

Details and entry forms via Facebook

Lorton School 10K 2023

An Update from the Lorton Support Group for Ukrainian Refugees.

Since our last update in the July/August 2022 issue of 'The Link' regarding the support for Ukrainian refugees in Lorton, one family in Lorton Vale has very generously opened its house to an Ukrainian grandmother and her 16 year old grandson. I think I can safely say we are all in awe of this family!

The grandson and grandmother arrived at the end of November 2022. The grandson has started to attend Cockermouth High School and tells us: 'School is getting a bit better every day'. He has also visited his Ukrainian girlfriend in Bournemouth over the Christmas period, using National Express Coach.

The grandmother has just started to join activities in the community, such as helping out with the toddler group at Lorton Primary School. She is right at the beginning of speaking English.

The Lorton Support Group, with about 10 residents of Lorton Vale, are trying to support the host family and guests in a variety of ways, such as providing the grandson with Wellington Boots, a bike, helmet and gloves, as well as providing art material to the grandmother and taking her to an art class. In addition a local resident is taking her for walks.

On 9th March 2022 lots of you offered time, practical support and/or different skills. Please let me know if you are still able and willing to support with the following:

- Transport to 'The English Cafe' in Workington, (Thursday morning, 9:30am) where the grandmother can meet up with other Ukrainian refugees
- Does anyone work in a charity shop and would they be willing to take the grandmother to help out?
- Befriending/English practice. Because the grandmother has little English, a joint activity is probably best.
- Temporary accommodation for when the host family have their own family visiting
- Any fishing related activities and/or equipment for the grandson

The Lorton Support Group has collected money to buy a 'Welcome' present for both grandmother and grandson. But then it occurred to us that more neighbours in Lorton Vale might like to contribute, so it would be a 'Welcome' present from Lorton Vale. There is, however, no expectation.

If you would like to contribute to the present, please could you drop your contribution (up to £10?) before 15 January at our house: Hobcarton, next to Low Lorton Bridge. If we are not in, there is a letterbox at the side of the house, opposite the garage. Please write your name on the envelope. Alternatively one of us could call in at your house and collect. Thank you!

Vince Mercer
Hanneke van Schelven

HOLME WOOD UPDATE

From: Rosamund and John Macfarlane, Watergate Barn, Loweswater

“If you go down to the woods today...”

Did William Wordsworth get it right? Two hundred years ago Holme Wood was planted to a plan devised by William Wordsworth (the poet) and John Marshall, (the industrialist who had bought much local land).

Wordsworth designed the lower parts of the wood to be picturesque, and a wide range of deciduous trees and Scots Pines were planted, many still standing. Marshall planted larch as a commercial crop on the higher slopes. Wordsworth hated larch! He wrote: *“As a tree it is less than any other pleasing ... (its spiritless unvaried yellow of autumn.”* Since then, larch has become a very common Lake District tree.

The epidemic. Sadly, this popularity for larch is now a real problem as the *Phytophthora ramorum* epidemic rips through Britain, requiring extensive felling, especially in the Lake District. This fungal-like organism causes the rapid death of a wide range of trees and shrubs, particularly larch, which acts as a host species. Each infected tree becomes an aerial launching pad for millions of wind-borne fungal spores.

Holme Wood is one of several local woods covered by a *Statutory Plant Health Notice* (SPHN) issued by the Forestry Commission which requires urgent felling of the larch. (National Trust Lakes has received over 40 SPHNs since summer 2020). For one confirmed infected larch tree, the SPHN mandatory requirement is for every other larch within 100m to be felled or killed standing. Larch comprises a large proportion of the wood (see light areas in the photo).

The wildlife. Holme Wood has always been a special haven for Red Squirrels (RSs), badgers and local birds including woodpeckers, owls and buzzards. It is a key breeding site for some trans-Saharan passerines including two Red Listed species - Wood Warbler and Pied Flycatcher; also, Redstart, Tree Pipit, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Willow Warbler (Amber Listed) and Chiffchaff. Much excellent conservation work has been put in by local ornithologists and *West Lakes Squirrel Initiative* (WLSI) volunteers over many years.

Early last year considerable discussions took place between local residents, National Trust (NT) management at Bowe Barn (Keswick) and the NT Regional Nature Advisor to mitigate the effect of felling on the wildlife and the environment of the wood and surrounding areas. After an environmental impact assessment, a plan was agreed to delay felling until summer 2022 to avoid the breeding seasons.

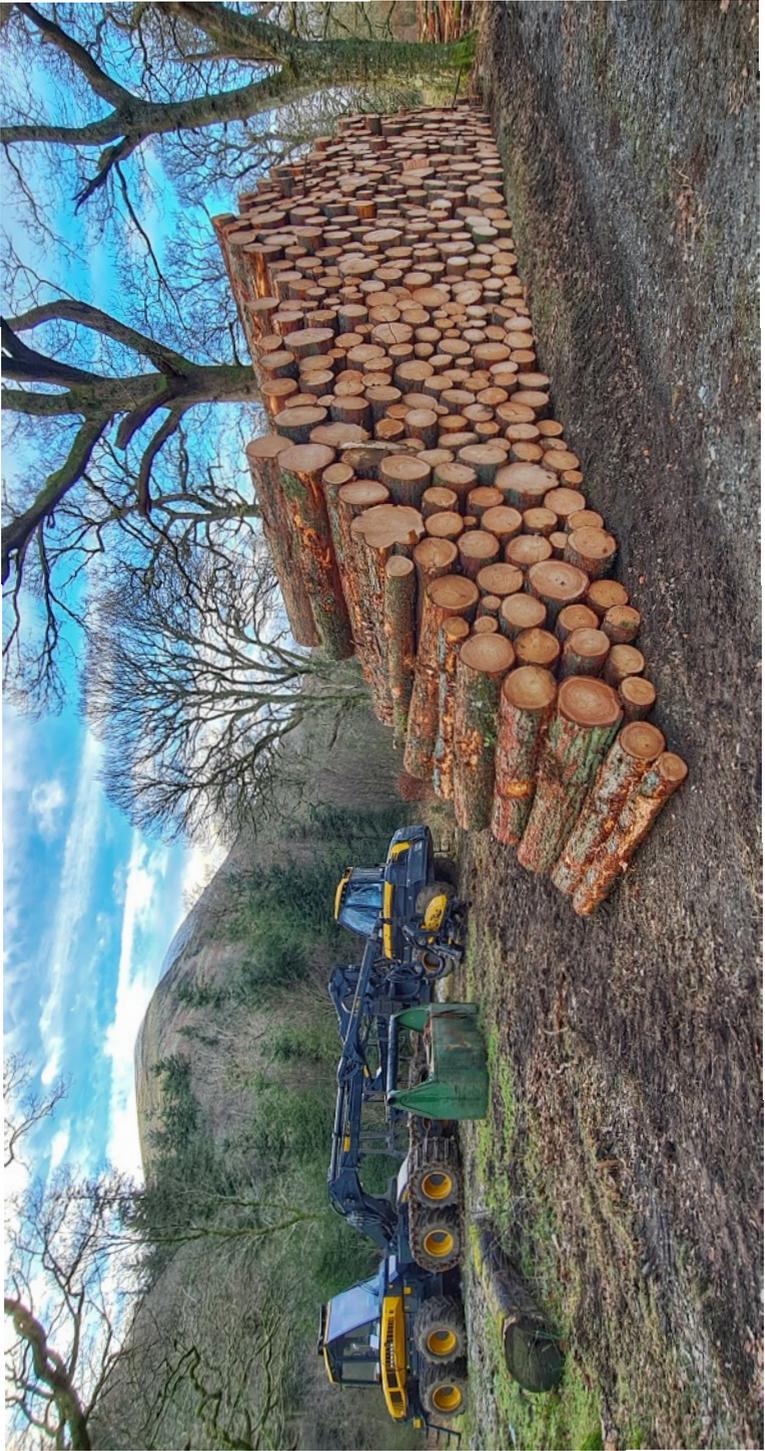
When we asked what was happening at the start of December 2022, we were very disappointed to find out just before Christmas that the NT had been let down by their contractor, and a new contractor had eventually been found who would start felling in January 2023 to comply with the SHPN legal deadline for the larch to be killed by March (before windborne fungal spores infect yet more trees in the valley). January is at the start of the Red Squirrel breeding season.

Making the best of a bad situation. After expressions of considerable concern by interested local people (*‘The Friends of Holme Wood’*), by WLSI and an airing at a very well attended Loweswater Parish Council, very helpful and constructive discussions, site visits and wood walks have taken place between the NT Head Forester, NT Nature Advisor, the Ranger team, Pete and Steve from WLSI, ourselves and others, on how to best manage the situation.

Mitigation matters. The new contractor will use Harvester and Forwarder machines, which will ensure the work is done cleanly and speedily to reduce encroachment on RS breeding season, and before the migrant birds arrive.

The NT will not fell all the larch in the wood at this time; quite a large area on the lower slopes will be killed by injection (and hence stop the spread of disease), but will be left ‘standing dead’ until at least the end of this year’s squirrel breeding season. Current dreys have been identified wherever possible using WLSI expertise, and no felling will occur within 25m. WLSI have installed new feeding stations elsewhere in the wood to support RSs.





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DIARY DATES

FEB

- 3 Fri Wine Tasting at LVH 7pm
- 8 Wed Loweswater Ladies, Birthday Meal at Kirkstile Inn, 6 for 6.30pm
- 9 Thu Loweswater 77 Club. Illustrated talk by John and Rosamund Macfarlane 'Winter & Wildlife Adventures in Norway'. LVH 7.30pm. Non-members welcome (£2.50).
- 11 Sat The Melbreak Communities' Coffee & Cakes YTH 10.30am to midday
- 13 Mon Loweswater Farmers Discussion Group - Kirkstile 8pm -
- 16 Thu Soup Social, YTH 12-2
- 21 Tue United Utilities Drop-in Session (1pm and 7pm) Kirkgate Centre
The Future of Crummock Water - removal of the weir and a drop in the lake level
- 24 Fri Talk by Maurice Steele - Ullock village hall 7.30pm
- 25 Sat Singalonga Mamma Mia, YTH, 7pm, Film starts 7.30
- 27 Mon Loweswater Farmers Discussion Group - Kirkstile 8pm

MAR

- 1 Wed Lorton Parish Council meeting 7.30pm YTH
- 8 Wed Loweswater Ladies, History of British Biscuits, 7.15pm LVH
- 9 Thu Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society Talk – 'Lake District Geology' to be given by Dr Ian Francis 7.30pm, YTH
- 11 Sat Lorton School 10K Run, Lorton School, 11am
- 14 Tue Loweswater 77 Club Talk by Mark Lee of The Torpenhow Cheese Company 7.30pm LVH
- 19 Sun Mother's Day Teas LVH 2-4pm see poster in Link

Please note that Table Tennis takes place in YTH every Wednesday from 7-9p.m. unless otherwise notified. There are Keep Fit sessions in LVH every Monday 9.00-10.00a.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/>

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The United Benefice of Lorton and Loweswater with Buttermere

Church Services February 2023

5 th February	1st Sunday before Lent	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater
12 th February	2nd Sunday before Lent	
10.30am	Morning Worship	Lorton
3.00pm	Holy Communion	Buttermere
19 th February	3rd Sunday before Lent	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Loweswater
22 nd February	Ash Wednesday	
7.00pm	Holy Communion	Lorton
26 th February	1st Sunday of Lent	
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lorton
3.00pm	Evensong	Buttermere

Service information for the Grasmoor Mission Community and news of other events is published weekly on a Friday in our Staying Connected news sheet. The sheet is available on the GMC website or if you would like it sent directly to your inbox please email Sue Lake on gmcoffice@grasmoomc.church with your request.

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,

Deadline for March is Friday 17th February, all articles, photos, funny stories to lortonvalelink@gmail.com by this date. Thank you